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EDITORIAL

We send a fraternal greeting to our readers around the world, asking them in the most cordial way to spread the magazine among their friends and relatives. By doing so, you will be contributing to strengthening the safety culture.

We begin this edition with an analysis of the situation in Afghanistan, not only with regard to security and public order, but also in relation to the pandemic that will hit this country more severely than others that are more prepared and They have better organization and infrastructure.

Next, Ulises León Kandiko exposes us some elements that have to do with geopolitics and intelligence, in particular with Medical Intelligence. Are there medical intelligence agencies in our countries?

We move on to the African region of the Sahel, where Guadi Calvo provides us with an analysis of the latest developments in security and anti-terrorism.

The following contribution is from Mauricio Javier Campos, who, in the second part of his analysis of the phenomenon of corruption in Argentina, presents some essential measures to correct course and redirect public administration along the path of righteousness and service to society and not private interests. We are sure that the ideas expressed there can be extrapolated to other Latin American countries.

Guadi Calvo then tells us about the Rohingyas and the continuing tragedy that this people suffers, in the face of the apathy and indifference of the powers, more concerned with seizing the natural resources present in other latitudes.

With regard to the above, Colonel (R/A) Pablo Escalante, presents us with a chronology of the latest events that have occurred in Venezuela, in relation to the capture of a group of mercenaries who infiltrated that country with the intention of attacking high personalities and carry out a series of violent acts that would lead to the change of government. When reading this material, one manages to see a common thread that allows one to infer intentions and relationships between different actors and events.

We go back to the Sahel hand in hand with Guadi Calvo, to learn about the fierce dispute between two terrorist groups that fight to maintain control of the territory, the population, their resources and their souls.

We close this edition with a brief review of the Colombian shipbuilding industry.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

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TRIARIUS

The United States of America is a military power with a global reach, not only because of its economic capacity, but also - and perhaps more importantly - because of its ability to stay at the technological forefront and also to learn from its experiences and incorporate those lessons learned into its future Actions. For example, when you acquire a new fighter for your air forces, that aircraft is superior to any other that exists, however, during the manufacturing and commissioning period, the one that will complement/replace it is already being developed within a few years, so that while its adversaries are analyzing the new plane and studying its possible vulnerabilities to try to defeat it, another plane that is even better is already making its way. With this story we want to exemplify the importance of preparing and thinking ahead, to obtain and maintain the advantage. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, most of us were surprised by it and were not prepared, we have been adapting and taking measures along the way. The invitation is to learn from what happened to us and prepare for the next event, even without having passed the current one. That's what smart people would do, that's what people who are going to survive this and what's to come will do.

On the cover, **Mongol Soldier**.
See more information at the end of the magazine.

TRIARIUS privileges freedom of expression, however, the responsibility for what is said in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

Afghanistan, between COVID-19 and war

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Afghan soldiers in military ceremony.

Afghanistan is the country where pandemics come to stay, as happens with the war that has not stopped since the seventies, and continues to be as active as ever, only changing names and sides, although the dead always continue being on the same side: The Afghan people.

Poliomyelitis is considered endemic in this country. In 2020, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), wild poliovirus 1 (WPV1) has had a significant increase, due to the impossibility of health agents covering the entire territory with their vaccination campaigns, now particularly in the southern provinces, given the escalation of the war.

Another of the alarms that does not stop ringing in Afghanistan is the constant increase in opium addicts, given the ease of obtaining it since Afghanistan is the world's largest producer, with between 92 and 95 percent of world production. According to the latest available statistics from 2015, there are approximately three million addicts, an extremely important number, considering that the total population of the country is about 37 million. Verifying in very high proportions between minors and women. To this number of addicts should be added the users of crystal or shisha (methamphetamine), which in recent years seems to

be displacing opium in the preferences of those affected.

With this superficial overview of the Afghan problem, without forgetting the high rates of poverty, about 80 percent of the population lives with 1.25 dollars a day, while unemployment means that the expected arrival of COVID-19 can produce havoc on the population. The long years of war have caused the economy to collapse, without industries, its imports are basically limited to opium, obviously illegal, and whose main beneficiary is the Taliban, or the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which finances its war with its dividends. The other exportable product is honey, thanks to the profusion of opium poppy or poppy plantations, for which the terrorist organization also pockets those profits.

A few weeks ago, different international health control organizations warned that, given the internal situation, Afghanistan is particularly vulnerable, since the financial and technical impossibility to face the pandemic is notorious. Despite the fact that the numbers are relatively low as of Sunday May 3, there were 2,704 confirmed cases and 85 deaths, although as in the vast majority of countries where the disease has spread, check-ups are not enough to have a figure. exact, although the great advantage of

Afghanistan may lie in the extreme youth of the population given that more than half is under 25 years of age, which allows us to assume that mortality rates will be lower than in other countries. For his part, Feroz Ferozuddin, the Afghan health minister, declared that: "No mass deaths have been detected."

It must be considered that Afghanistan has a border of almost a thousand kilometers with Iran, a country in which the first days of the pandemic began, it was hit extremely hard, producing to date almost 100,000 infected and about 6,500 dead, for forty years. , has been in different waves, the place of immediate access for the Afghan exile, currently reaching the almost three million refugees, many of them, without knowing their health status. Once the epidemic was declared, they managed to return to their country between January and April, about 240 thousand Afghans, who jumped the border guard controls, becoming in fact, each one of them, a potential source of contagion.

Faced with the imminence of the arrival of COVID-19, the Taliban has allowed the health agents of the Ministry of Health of the Central Government to access rural communities, mainly those in the south of the country, so that prophylaxis methods are taught. and information to these populations, in addition to carrying out some controls, but since communication between the men of Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada travels much slower than the pandemic, until the villages under the control of the mujahideen it is too late to warn about the disease.

In vast regions of the country, the doctors' report is practically the same: in terms of equipment, they lack absolutely everything, without laboratories, to carry out analyzes, without test kits, or a place to subject suspects to preventive isolation, or intern to the sick, without masks, or gloves for professionals and people in general, with little access to water, the situation seems particularly arranged to generate a major tragedy.

Among the many Afghan sufferings, the arrival of the coronavirus surprises them with a deep political crisis, which has stalled the central government, due to the dispute between the current president Ashraf Ghani and what could somehow be considered his second, although in terms This is not the case, the current Chief Executive Abdullah-Abdullah, who have faced each other in the presidential elections last September, whose results were only known in February, which enabled a multitude of crossed accusations, with the consequent paralysis of the executive , whose main consequence has been that the United States withheld some one billion dollars as permanent deposits, which means for the country, the

only "genuine" entry of foreign currency, vital for the functioning of a country and with an economy reduced to ashes.

The disputes between the country's political caste have increased after the agreement signed in Doha (Qatar) on February 29 (today in doubt) on the withdrawal of the United States, between that country and the Taliban in which it was opened the certain possibility of an end to hostilities and the arrival of peace in the Central Asian country (See: Afghanistan: Agreement or safe conduct for Trump?)

The choked peace

While the coronavirus spreads throughout the world, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has made a new call to the Taliban to temporarily abandon the war, to which the fundamentalists have refused, arguing that the agreement was signed with Washington and not with Kabul, since that the Ghani government did not participate in the agreement, nor in the previous negotiations that concluded in the signing of February 29, since the Taliban maintains that the Islamic Emirate is the "only legitimate party".

At the end of April, a report from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was made known, an increase in terrorist actions after what was signed in Doha,

Although the number of dead and wounded, in the first quarter was lower than that of 2019, there was an increase in the number of civilians killed by terrorists, some five hundred between dead and wounded, among the dead 150 minors, so everything is the quarter lowest in civilian victims since 2012. More than half of these victims have been caused by actions of the Taliban and the Willat Khorasan attached to the global Daesh, 32 percent to security forces (army and police) and 8 percent forces of the United States and Western allies, still present in the country.

Last Saturday, May 2, the US State Department warned the Taliban that they must stop the attacks inside Afghanistan and that, according to what was informally agreed in Doha, for the withdrawal of their troops, the takfirists should reduce their actions in eighty percent. What was not respected, because since it was signed there has been an increasingly important escalation of violence by the Taliban, of which the United States has already taken note, warning that if it is not stopped there will be reprisals.

While the mujahideen maintain that the attacks have decreased since the signing, despite the fact that Washington has not fulfilled its promise to pressure Ghani, so that he releases the 5,000 Taliban prisoners that he keeps in his jails, which, according to

information awarded to the Taliban, 46 cases of coronavirus have already been registered.

So, the fundamentalists have asked their "brothers" to have confidence in Allah and to follow the

health regulations as best they can, a recommendation that is good for all of us.

Image Source:

<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/internacional/20190730/mas-civiles-afganos-asesinados-por-el-gobierno-y-la-nato-que-los-talibanes-7575185>

Guadi Calvo

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COVID 19, political failure and tension with intelligence agencies

By Ulises León Kandiko (Argentina)



Donald Trump and Xi Jinping during the G20 summit in Osaka, held in June 2019

The topic of the day, no matter what geographical continent one is in, no matter what journalistic medium one sees or reads, nor does it matter the time zone or language, it is most likely that the topic being discussed is COVID19 or as I would say Mr. Trump the “Chinese Virus”. Everywhere and in the media we are informed or uninformed of how many new infections there are per day, and what is worse, how many deaths occur minute by minute, as if it were a tennis match in which the public (world population) see from left to right how that ball moves that no one seems to be able to stop.

As we say here in Argentina, now with Monday's newspaper it is easy to see what was not done and what was done, but badly. Typically, politicians in the region are quick to look for a scapegoat to blame for their lack of capacity or action. A first question that arises, and by the way I have many, is what happened that there was no early warning in this regard? It does not surprise me that there is no valid answer for Latin America where little or nothing can be expected from the Intelligence, which sadly mostly have been dedicated to putting together folders of the opponents of the current government and very tangentially some other activity more of a police tint than the Intelligence

activity itself, however in the rest of the world it is not so. It is true that they have had their great mistakes, without going too far let's not forget 9/11, but more than a simple "we did not see it coming" could be expected.

With this in mind, I return to my first question, what happened that there was no early warning for this pandemic? To delve into the subject and displaying my cinephile profile, I start with a classic:

.....6 months earlier, back in November 2019, Intelligence personnel from the United States of America (USA) warned that a contagion was spreading through the Chinese region of Wuhan, changing patterns of life and business and representing a threat to the population, this according to four informed sources on the subject.

These statements about the concerns that today have the whole world on edge, would have been detailed in an Intelligence Report (IDI) issued by the National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI) of the US Army. .

Said report would have been the result of the analysis of cable interceptions and others, together with satellite images; which would have given rise to alarm since this type of disease out of control would

represent a real and present threat to the US Armed Forces deployed in Asia, troops that depend on the work carried out by the NCMI. According to the report, "analysts concluded that it could be a catastrophic event."

As in any public body, regardless of where it is from, there are administrative and bureaucratic processes that only delay response and notification times. Hence, according to some media, apparently this intelligence would have appeared in one of the President's Daily Reports (PDB) of the USA only at the beginning of January of this year, that is to say that since the intelligence was known At least 45 days elapsed until it reached the final decision maker.

The NCMI report was made available to persons authorized to access Intelligence Community alerts. Following the release of the report, other Intelligence Community bulletins began to circulate through confidential channels throughout the government around Thanksgiving, as revealed by some of the sources from various outlets including ABC News, Project Syndicate, etc. Those analyzes indicated that China's leadership knew the epidemic was out of control, even as it kept crucial information from foreign governments and public health agencies.

"Medical intelligence takes into account all source information: imaging intelligence, human intelligence, signals intelligence, etc.", as Mick Mulroy (former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Defense) stated at the time. "Then there's analysis done by people who know those specific areas. So for something like this to come out, it's been reviewed by experts in the field. They're looking at what that data means and then they're looking at the potential for a crisis." international health".

A fact not to be unfair, is that to date neither the National Security Council of the White House nor the Director of National Intelligence of the USA have expressed themselves on this subject.

Without prejudice to what is stated here, it is no less true that the topic in its generalities has been treated on many different occasions in various bulletins issued by the Director of National Intelligence of the USA (DNI for its acronym in English) on the risks of a pandemic global. The first time was immediately after the inauguration of President Barack Obama in January 2009, when then DNI Dennis Blair declared: "The most pressing transnational health challenge facing the United States remains the potential for a serious pandemic, and the most likely cause of it would be a highly lethal flu virus." In 2010, after the 2009 H1N1 (swine flu) outbreak, Blair doubled down and highlighted the potential for a pandemic to disrupt the economy. As he said, a "lack of stable capacity for

animal disease surveillance and diagnosis makes it difficult for the US to identify, contain and alert local outbreaks before they spread."

Blair's successor, James Clapper, sent the same message in March 2013, but refining the US assessment of the threat to the point of farsightedness. Noting the growing danger posed by zoonotic viruses, he warned that "a new, easily transmissible respiratory pathogen that kills or disables more than one percent of those affected would be one of the most disruptive possibilities. Such an outbreak would cause a global pandemic."

In what turned out to be an accurate prophecy of COVID - 19, Clapper made it clear: "It's not a hypothetical threat." Trump got the same message in May 2017, when Coats highlighted a World Bank report that predicted a pandemic would cost the world around 5% of Gross Domestic Product. Warning that Coats reissued in 2019, when he stated: "The USA and the world remain vulnerable to a flu pandemic or a massive outbreak of a contagious disease, something that can cause immense death and disability rates, seriously affect the world economy , put pressure on international resources and increase calls for help.

On this occasion we could infer that the problem was not the lack of information, nor the lack of analysis on a subject, nor was it the inter-agency zeal, something of the fault was undoubtedly the bureaucracy, but what There is no doubt that it is due to the lack of consideration and taking the technical recommendations given by professionals from the world of security, defense and intelligence. It is no less true that politics everywhere tends to disrupt or ruin things, either because political leaders are in the middle of a fight for the electoral campaign or because they must deal with their internal crises or because they must face regional crises as it was Brexit, whatever the case may have been, they have put their individual interests above those of the citizenry by leaving aside the contributions that their Intelligence Agencies offered them.

There is no doubt that Intelligence provides the processed information necessary for decision makers to take the best courses of action. Going to battle without Intelligence is dooming to failure even before starting the operation that we are about to carry out. It certainly does not surprise me that countries such as Argentina did not have the necessary and quality Intelligence to prevent this (not because it does not have the capacity, but only because it has never done Strategic Intelligence), but as we have seen, the desires and interests of their own tend to cloud those who have to take the better decisions.

Certainly the "Chinese virus" has changed the geostrategic board, it changes the form of crime, Organized Crime, Cybercrime and Government Agencies among others, we will now see what awaits us for D-Day + 365 of COVID19, what measures are they will adopt since the truth is that this pandemic has already affected the way of living in the day to day of

all people. We hope to see how each of the actors who led the world to this situation is held accountable, and by that I mean all of them, not only those decision makers who, having Intelligence at hand, did not make the best decisions, but also the "friends" of the distant East that gave us the Chinese Virus.

Image Source:

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/internacional/20200327/48112268438/xi-jinping-colaboracion-trump-coronavirus.html>

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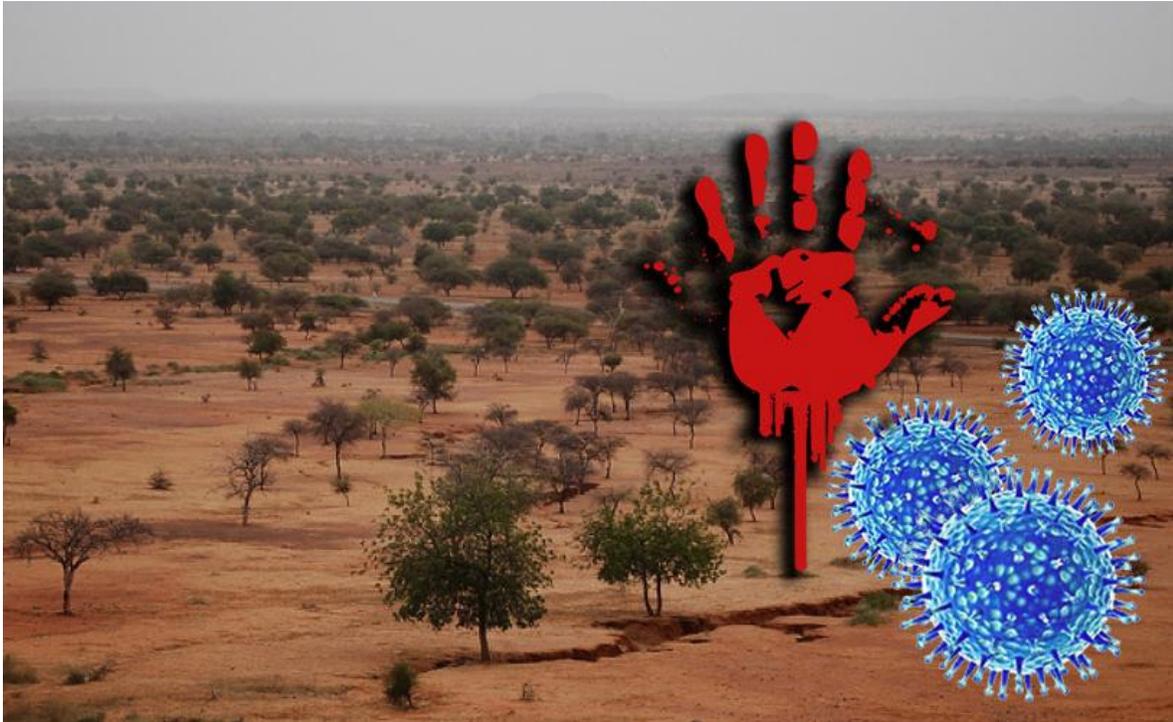
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Sahel: In the sand, the plague and the blood

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Still far from Covid-19 becoming a nightmare in the central Sahel zone (Mali, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso), since barely 149 people have died and 2,217 are infected, the terrorist organizations that operate practically in the entire area, await the devastating effects of the pandemic, as a true ally, to operate behind it, taking advantage of the weakness that these nations will undoubtedly have, which will have to allocate resources and efforts to contain it.

Meanwhile the mujahideen continue to strike, it was learned that last Sunday the third, a khatiba belonging to the Province of the Islamic State (Daesh) in West Africa or ISWAP, for its acronym in English, assaulted a Nigerien army camp at the gates of the Diffa, the largest city in the southwest of the country, with an approximate population of 50,000 inhabitants, in its urban area, reaching 200,000 in rural areas, just three kilometers from the border with Nigeria and almost 1,400 from Niamey, the capital of Niger. In the area there is also a camp with about 120,000 Nigerian refugees, who began to arrive there in 2015, displaced, like the 110,000 internally displaced Nigers, by the increasingly deadly operations of Boko Haram.

In addition to the attacks of that terrorist organization, for more than a year, those of the

ISWAP, not only in Nigerian territory, but also in the muddy border between that country, Chad and Niger, whose epicenter is the indecipherable archipelago of the lake, which provides excellent cover for terrorists. In Nigeria alone, the total number of people displaced by this war exceeds two and a half million.

In a propaganda video broadcast on social networks by ISWAP, a significant number of militiamen from that organization can be seen seizing weapons belonging to the army, while rifle and mortar shots were heard. The video also shows a convoy of military vehicles seized from the army leaving the attacked camp, in addition to seeing several bodies of soldiers and militants, without being able to distinguish between dead and wounded.

In the official statement of Tuesday the fifth, the Nigerien government reports that: "On May 3, 2020, around 5:45 p.m. M. Local time (4:45 pm GMT), elements of Boko Haram attacked the Niger-Nigeria border crossing in Diffa, in artillery vehicles", in the same document he acknowledges two fatalities and three wounded, in turn the terrorists say that there have been five soldiers killed in the attack. You know that about the first casualty in all wars...

It is notorious that Niamey insists on not wanting to distinguish Boko Haram from ISWAP, the faction

that split from that organization in 2016, despite the fact that both groups at the global level have remained faithful to Emir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and after his death in October 2019, to the newly anointed Abdullah Qardash.

The actions of ISWAP, led by Abu Musab al-Barnawi, son of Mohammed Yusuf, who founded Boko Haram in 2002 and was assassinated in 2009, broke with the mother organization, due to constant clashes with the current leader of Boko Haram and Yusuf's successor, the messianic Abubakr Shekau.

Its inactivity between 2017 and 2019 led many researchers to believe that ISWAP had disbanded, but at the beginning of last year, its actions have been increasing, reaching its peak, on March 20, with the attack on the army base. Chadian on the Bomoha peninsula, on the shores of Lake Chad, (See: Boko Haram, the powerful muscle of terrorism.) which caused the death of nearly a hundred troops, with which the deadliest blow received by that Chadian army in its history. Some versions would indicate that this action was in revenge for the murder of Ibrahim Fakoura, the regional emir of Boko Haram in Lake Chad, which had been confirmed on Thursday, March 19, by the Niger Defense Ministry, which reported that the The terrorist was located on one of the lake islands and executed by the forces deployed in the Diffa region between March 10 and 16, together with several of his lieutenants.

Regarding the attack on Sunday 3rd, the residents of Diffa reported that on the night of the attack, against the military camp, heavy weapons shots were clearly heard for nearly three hours, with the fighting beginning at 4:30 a.m. the dawn. According to these same witnesses, the attackers would have arrived from Nigeria, shortly before nightfall, when the fast, established for Ramadan, was broken, which effectively relaxed the military guards.

It is known that at this time of the year, when the Komadougou Yobé river is dry, the Nigerian mujahideen cross it to operate in Niger, kidnapping civilians to later collect ransom and attack army positions, to seize weapons, vehicles and elements Communication.

That region has frequently been the scene of armed actions by fundamentalists. In February 2015, there had been intense fighting between Boko Haram and the Nigerien army around the Doutchi bridge, located about ten kilometers south of the city of Diffa, which links Niger with Nigeria. In those combats, the regulars caused more than a hundred casualties to the Nigerian fundamentalists, while only four army personnel died. Near that bridge is the town of Damasak, and thirty kilometers from Diffa, in the

northeastern state of Borno (Nigeria), the cradle of Boko Haram, which was taken by insurgents in 2014 after heavy fighting with the Nigerian army. this same point was reconquered, weeks later, after long days of fighting between terrorists and battalions of the armies of Chad, Niger and Nigeria

According to the Nigerien Ministry of Defense, on Sunday the third, at one in the morning, a convoy of about ten mujahideen vehicles had been intercepted in the town of Tombon-Fulani, located 24 kilometers northeast of Bosso in the east of Niger, in a concerted operation between the local army and the Nigerian army, together with French and American special commandos stationed in the region, which would have "neutralized" some fifty terrorists, which did not prevent the attack on the Diffa military camp a few few hours later.

If the information about the fifty insurgents "neutralized" on Sunday is true, they would have to be added to another unlikely list of more than a thousand casualties caused to the terrorists, in this case by the Chadian army, after the Cholera de Bomoha operation commanded personally by President Idriss Déby, after the massacre of March 20. Operations in which the army, according to high-ranking sources from the Ministry of Defense, would have lost 52 men, although they claim to have managed to expel the Takfirist gang from the national territory, an assertion impossible to confirm.

A country under siege

Niger not only has extremely serious security issues in the lake region in the south of the country, but also faces attacks from Wahhabi gangs in the northwest, where insurgent forces arriving from northern Mali constantly filter through.

The north of Mali has been in a state of war since 2014 against the central government of Bamako, and has overwhelmed Niger, Chad and also Burkina Faso, countries in which more than 4,000 civilians were killed by actions of fundamentalists. , only in 2019. As an immediate consequence, after the fall of the government of Colonel Muhammad Gadaffi, in 2011, who served as a containment fence for terrorism, a dozen fundamentalist groups emerged in the Sahel, which have had different names and which today they are grouped into two large poles, the Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims) attached to global al-Qaeda and the franchise in the Sahel of Daesh or the Islamic State, known as the Islamic State in the Great Sahara, who dispute the territory inch by inch against the units of the armies of the region under the Joint Force G5

Sahel or Group Sahel Five, made up of units from Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, but also the Operation Barkhane, some four thousand French troops and an unknown number of green berets and CIA battalions, also accompanied by smaller crews from European Union countries such as Germany, Denmark, Spain, in addition to the United Kingdom, together with the Multinational Integrated

Mission of the United Nations Stabilization in Mali (MINUSMA) based in Bamako, made up of some 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 police.

Far from being able to break these groups that operate in the heart of the Sahel, awaiting the arrival of the shock wave of the coronavirus, their activity will multiply behind the Pandemic, until the plague and blood are confused in the sand.

Image Source: Triarius

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Homeland, corruption and crack II

By Mauricio Javier Campos (Argentina)

Analysis and diagnosis: conflicts to face

The following basic scheme of the existing situation in the last years of the Argentine democratic period is proposed, which includes: a structural corruption underpinned by conflicts of interest and the consequent capture of the State, the abuse of power in the acts of government, without a surrender of adequate accounts, the impunity fostered by an ambiguous and confused justice system, focused on “*lawfare*” operations, and the scant citizen information that makes it impossible to participate and act more exhaustively.



Source: graph prepared by the author.

Implementation of management mechanisms and proposals

With the ultimate goal of modernizing the State and obtaining the highest level of transparency, both within the government and citizen perception, and with the international community.

Main objectives: a) improve the legal framework of action of the intervening actors in order to rehabilitate a Rule of Law that has been seriously damaged in recent years, b) promote the dissemination and access of citizens to information through technological innovation and, c) the generation of new habits of democratic conduct.

General objectives: a) comply with the law, b) defend the republican and democratic values of government, c) stimulate honest behavior, d) take care of institutional legitimacy, e) inform society and be accountable, f) present the corresponding sworn statements, g) guarantee and promote transparency in the contracting of public works, acquisitions and service concessions, h) urge equal treatment of all people, i) encourage the reporting of crimes against the State, j) prioritize the public interest over the personal, k) take care of State assets avoiding making illegitimate use of them.

The following ideas are proposed, as a general plan of action:

- Sponsor diagnostic studies and the exchange of statistics in collaboration with other countries.
- Deepen through international cooperation with other entities, help for the analysis, treatment and transmission of information for the purpose of preventing and impeding money laundering and financing of terrorism.

It includes mutual legal assistance, the treatment of bank secrecy and the disclosure of financial information, as well as the contribution of instruments of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for the recovery of assets illegally obtained and transferred to other countries. Also, the consensual implementation of precautionary measures, such as embargoes, confiscations and seizures.

The norms stipulated by the UNCAC to regulate corrupt practices in their entirety, will serve as a legal precedent in case of possible deficiencies, for example, to request extraditions when there are no agreements in this regard between member States of the United Nations Organization.

Promote a coordinated fight with allied organizations (OAS, OECD, FATF, IDB and others), against tax havens.

- Prohibit the forgiveness of debts and money laundering, as well as pardons for crimes of corruption. These crimes will not have a statute of limitations. Disqualification in perpetuity to hold public office.
- Promote the domain extinction law for the recovery of assets obtained through illicit activities.
- Provide incentives for judicial complaints in cases of corruption, whether due to malicious action or omission, as well as penalizing those who report unfounded causes, avoiding "lawfare", illegal computer espionage of databases and the filtration of eavesdropping unauthorized phone calls.
- Supervise through an independent power or judicial system, with the autonomy of judges and prosecutors, outside the orbit of political operators and with access to positions by experience, probity and competition, avoiding patronage and influence peddling.

Provide all kinds of resources to the Courts and Public Prosecutor and Defense Ministries in order to streamline the processes of investigation, prosecution, sentencing and execution of the sentence.

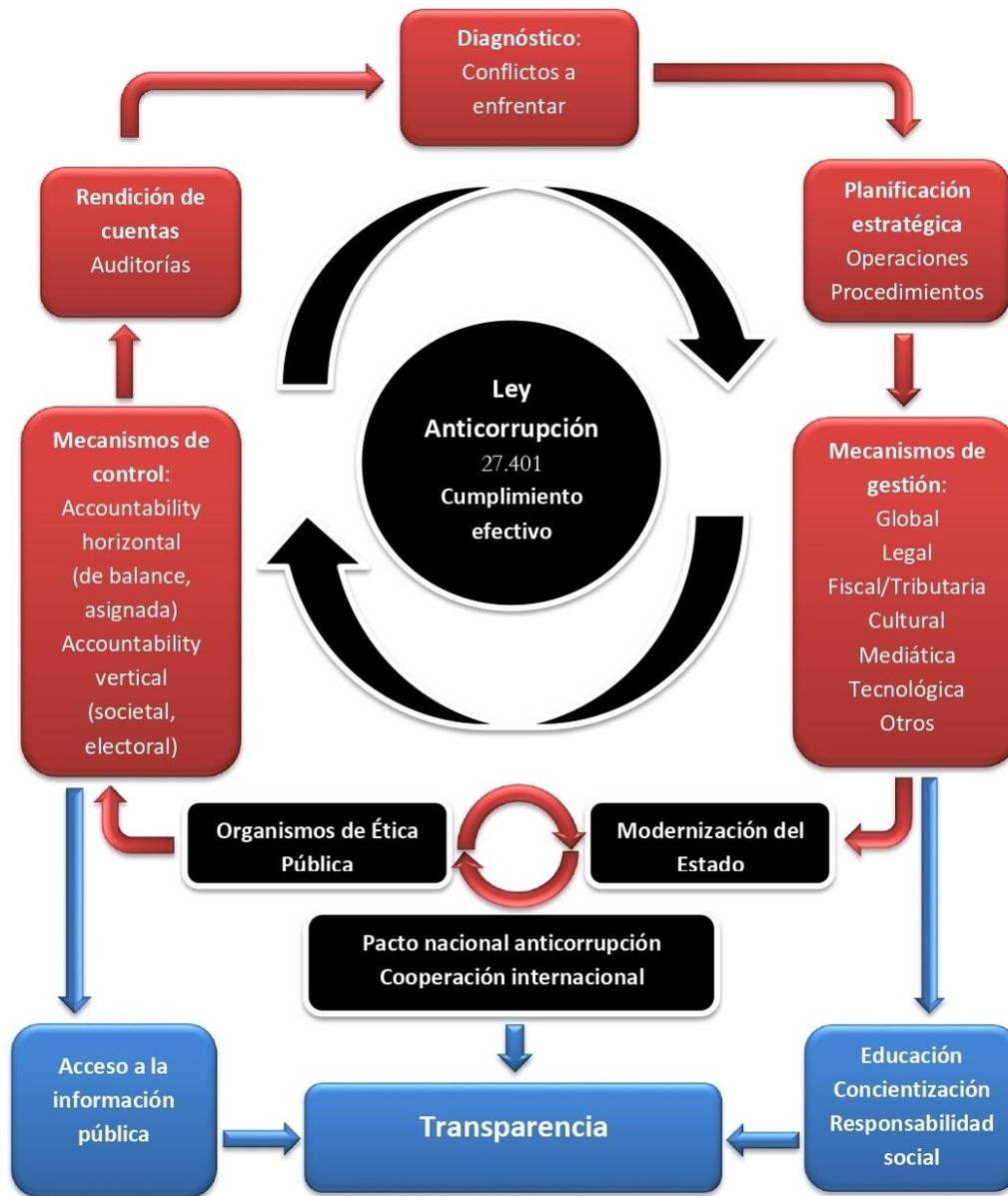
- Adapt and make more efficient the application of the law of repentance (or rewarded denunciation), as well as the witness protection program.
- Promote autonomy, depoliticization and professionalization of control and auditing agencies, with emphasis placed on the current Anti-Corruption Office.
- Strengthen the mechanisms for accountability, the adequate crossing of information and its dissemination among citizens. Improve regulatory frameworks.
- Optimize bureaucratic management, reinforcing values for the generation of institutional trust. Clean up the workplace of excess staff. Recruit based on merit and regularly require affidavits of assets. Instill the principle of probity, the expression of shared values and an ethic of public service. Verify disabilities, incompatibilities and conflicts of interest.

Incorporate new state-of-the-art technologies to streamline procedures and monitor all processes, as well as the already mentioned access to digitized public information on the Internet.

- In accordance with the modernization of the State and its link with private companies, promote competition in the public sector through bidding and contracting of works and services; eliminate unnecessary regulations, reduce red tape and excessive requirements, as well as monitor, prosecute and impose penalties and fines in order to reduce the incentives for bribery. Dissemination of specifications and conditions, as well as all resolutions, through digital platforms.
- Prioritize control over exploitation linked to natural resource reserves, one of the most coveted and vulnerable sectors for the coming decades.
- Correct the inefficiency in the distribution of public resources, prioritizing health, housing, the pension system and education with the aim of reducing social inequity, demoralization and the motivation to engage in corrupt practices. Supervise the execution of the budgets.
- Update and tighten the regulatory framework in order to avoid monopolies that act as pressure groups to the detriment of the public interest, resulting in the so-called "state capture".
- Increase the pressure of the tax and labor inspection against informal work, as well as oil the tax collection mechanisms in general.
- Establish a national pact of consensual policies, promoted by different sectors: government, unions, political parties, companies, *think tanks*, press and others, of a consultative nature, in order to make actions and measures transparent, contribute ideas, promote and support changes, improvements and express opinions with freedom and respect for the division of powers and the rule of law, becoming an instrument of cross-cutting "accountability".
- Freedom of the press is required with the ultimate goal of raising awareness among the population about bad practices and abuse of power. Likewise, it is advisable to put a legal cap (media law) on the installation of media monopolies from which disinformation strategies are implemented and public opinion is manipulated.
- Regulate government investments in advertising guidelines for the media, used as propaganda instruments to guarantee partisan interests, prioritizing them over public welfare.

- Oversee the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns, avoiding conflicts of interest with fraudulent contributions and the use of fictitious entities as fronts.
- With regard to education, it is opportune to cultivate and preach democratic values at all educational levels, beginning with childhood and the family (solving the current social precariousness and lack of opportunities and expectations) and, within educational establishments, the implementation of study plans on the subject, as well as the creation of workshops and spaces for analysis in other areas.
- Tend to the creation of new behavior habits and encourage the active participation of citizens in entities with regulatory capacity (NGOs and others), or simply enable more lines of communication to file complaints and increase interaction with the population, starting with the municipal governments.
- With regard to police agencies, a salary reform is desirable. Give greater incentives to avoid bribery and collusion with government officials, organized crime and crime. Provide equipment (uniforms, vests, weapons, vehicles and other supplies). Improvement of the legal framework for action. Improving the prison system. Rigorous selection, training and professionalization of personnel, taking into account that their context of action also extends to the care of sensitive areas such as border crossings and customs.
- Act against the extended networks of organized crime that involve various actors, including the violent "barras bravas" of soccer, their influence and their ramifications in different public bodies with decision-making power.

Below is the outlined proposal for public anti-corruption, where it heads the diagnosis and continues the resolution process and, in the end, the conjunction of some key factors: modernization of the State, a national pact of agreed policies between different sectors and ethics bodies, as well as international cooperation, result in transparency in the fight against bad practices, crime and transnational organized crime, added to adequate access to public information and a well-managed education and social awareness policy.



Source: graph prepared by the author.

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Rohingyas, facing the storm of COVID-19

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



In the largest refugee camp in the world, in Cox's Bazar, in eastern Bangladesh, near the border with Burma, where close to a million Rohingya expatriates are crowded -according to official figures 860,000-, the humanitarian organizations that work there , as Doctors Without Borders (MsF), are getting ready to face, with scarce resources, the pandemic that has brought the world's health system to its knees, and that is expected in Africa and precisely in Cox's Bazar, in the face of the abandonment of the great powers and international organizations, reaches its most hair-raising level.

With scarce resources, a handful of humanitarian organizations dream of avoiding the storm that hangs over the soulless Burmese ethnic group, of Muslim belief, against whom the government directed from the shadows by the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi and the Tatmadaw, the Burmese army, has been executing since 2015 a phenomenal ethnic cleansing in the province of Rakhine, forcing ninety percent of that population to flee their territories, almost one million 300 thousand people, mostly peasants, who had to flee to the neighboring country, while others took to the sea in search of friendlier shores. The number of those killed by the Tatmadaw and those lost at sea can never be known.

The health teams that work in the Cox's Bazar field have been giving basic instructions to the residents for the control and prevention of infections and the application of the protocols for the management of those infected with COVID-19. Although essential measures such as isolation are inapplicable, there are

small areas, without sanitation conditions, dirt floors, when not mud, without drinking water in which up to a dozen people live, it must also be taken into account that latrines, the distribution of food and fuel are common, so the long lines and grouping of people is constant, becoming true sources of infections, not just Covid-19. Nor do the doctors and nurses have elements for their protection, masks, gloves, gowns, which in the shadow of what happened in infinitely better prepared places such as Spain, Italy or the United Kingdom, the health teams will be -and they know it- among the first casualties.

Cox's Bazar, located between Bangladesh, which has already registered almost 15,000 infected and 228 dead, and Burma, with very few verifiable numbers, reports only 128 infected and six deaths, while the camp has not yet reported infected, but it is expected to be only a matter of days, weeks at most, for the disease to finally set in.

While this is happening, fear and mutual mistrust are spreading among the refugees and local residents, which could at any moment produce some kind of clash, while misinformation and malicious rumors travel faster than the virus, generating more and more differences between the two groups. It has been detected that those who may be having symptoms of the disease hide it for fear, not only of being confined away from their families and loved ones, but also in case the Rohingyas are literally killed. So in recent weeks, thanks to widespread prejudice among the residents, the medical assistance centers in the refugee camps have seen

few patients, since anyone who has to attend, for any reason other than COVID -19, fear being stigmatized, when pathologies such as post-traumatic psychiatric disorders are common among refugees, based on the experiences of the repression suffered in their country, in which they not only suffered abuse and torture, but also had to witness the death of relatives, friends and neighbors, along with the destruction of their homes and crops, in addition to HIV and other non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, for which strict monitoring is needed, now interrupted by the patients themselves so as not to be "stained" as having disease. coronavirus.

According to an MsF member, before the global pandemic broke out, the Kutupalong hospital, one of the many sectors into which the Cox's Bazar Camp is divided, saw between 80 and 100 patients daily, mainly to change bandages. of chronic wounds that require disinfection and dressing changes every two or three days, have stopped attending in large numbers, sometimes reaching as few as 30 patients a day. What will undoubtedly aggravate the picture of their injuries, causing new infections that could cause death.

In order to put an end to these preventions and given that communication via the internet is almost impossible due to the lack of access for the vast majority, and the inadvisability of crowds, it is the medical teams that must make visits to the homes of the refugees. , to clarify concepts, allay fears and for people to learn how to prevent contagion.

Like debris from the sea

Last Thursday the 8th it was confirmed that around 300 Rohingya, including children, were left by the Bangladeshi authorities in Bhasan Char (Floating Island), a "de facto detention" camp after having been adrift for weeks at sea. of Adaman and having been denied entry to different ports in several countries in the region, such as Thailand and Malaysia, with the consequent risk of dying due to lack of food, water, sunstroke or drowning after a shipwreck, in addition to the always latent possibility of fall into the hands of one of the gangs of human traffickers who travel the Bay of Bengal in search of victims, usually fishermen, to collect ransom from families, the "fee" is about

100,000 Bangladeshi takas per person, the equivalent of about \$1,150, a real fortune in those areas. Still unconfirmed, there is the possibility that this vessel was part of a group of other vessels that possibly, if they are lucky, continue afloat sailing without a certain course.

Dhaka had confirmed that same Thursday that the rescued boat was being towed to Bhasan Char, a sedimentary formation of about forty square kilometers, formed twenty years ago, about thirty kilometers from the mainland in front of the Meghna River estuary, at the that can only be accessed by boat after three hours of navigation. Since the construction of airstrips is impossible given the soil conditions, which suffers from constant flooding, particularly in the Monsoon season between June and September.

The silty condition of the land does not allow any type of agricultural exploitation that could generate ways of survival for those who settle in it. In addition, Bhasan Char's boundaries are extremely irregular as the sea tends to pierce certain edges while freeing up land elsewhere, constantly changing shape and size. Different studies have pointed out that the conditions on that island would make an emergency evacuation impracticable for the 100,000 Rohingya refugees whom the Bangladeshi government intends to settle there, in the event of a disaster. Given this situation, the leaders of the Rohingya community, together with numerous international human rights agencies, mobilized, and last December Dhaka had to stop the transfer, for which it had already built a series of concrete barracks, with a capacity for some 100 thousand people, who do not have basic services.

Abdul Momen, the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, had already announced that all those rescued at sea would be concentrated on that island, to avoid any risk of COVID-19 contagion in the camps. It was learned that many in this last contingent had fled Cox's Bazar to try to reach Malaysia, with the idea of procuring a better life. Despite how risky it is to go to sea in boats that are in terrible navigability conditions, at the same time that they are also aware that in the camps the possibilities for the future are practically nil, to which must now be added the possibility of dying against the storm of Covid-19.

Image Source: Triarius

Chronology of a contract war. OPERATION GIDEON

By Pablo Escalante (Venezuela)



In the early hours of May 3, the Venezuelan military detected two boats on the north coast, 20 minutes from Caracas, in which alleged mercenaries were traveling who, according to the authorities, intended to infiltrate Venezuelan territory. The Minister of the Interior and Justice of Venezuela, Néstor Reverol, assured that there was an attempted incursion by sea along the coast of the state of La Guaira, in the north of the Caribbean country.

"They tried to carry out an invasion by sea, a group of terrorist mercenaries, coming from Colombia, with the purpose of committing terrorist acts in the country, assassinating leaders of the revolutionary government and increasing the spiral of violence (...) and with it lead to a new coup attempt," the minister declared.

This incursion is not isolated or casual, it is part of a well-developed plan in the US with the help of Colombia and internal actors in Venezuela, whose visible leader is the self-proclaimed president Juan Guaidó. Which is the common factor in all the destabilizing plans in Venezuela.

A chain of events has been propitiated by this deputy who proclaimed himself in a public square in January 2019. It begins with a coup attempt, making an insurrectionary call on April 30, 2019, on a bridge near an air base in Caracas (La Carlota), with a handful of soldiers who deserted and with a troop that was taken to the site under duress, and who took out of jail the prosecuted opposition Leopoldo López, author of "La Salida", the main person responsible for the violent acts of 2014, which at that time sought to overthrow the legitimate government, which degenerated into innumerable acts of sabotage of public institutions and violence, which as a whole left 43 people murdered that year.

The new attempt of the self-proclaimed deputy Juan Guaidó, was deflated in a couple of hours, since it had no echo in civil society, nor within the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB), for which the few middle-class military leaders rank that accompanied him, took refuge in embassies, like the fugitive Leopoldo López, who they say is his mentor.

Timeline or timeline of 2020

February 4

The opposition Juan Guaidó appeared this Tuesday, during the State of the Union address delivered by the President of the United States, Donald Trump, at the Capitol in Washington DC.

"Here tonight is a very brave man who carries with him the hopes, dreams and aspirations of all Venezuelans. Joining us in attendance is the true and rightful President of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó. Mr. President, please Please take this message to your people," Trump said, addressing the 36-year-old opposition leader.

In a clear accolade, to the diminished opposition deputy, who has not achieved the objective entrusted to him by the White House, nor has he raised the critical mass necessary to overthrow the legitimate president of Venezuela.

February 21st

The self-proclaimed, makes a new call, this time he said that they will "march with force until freedom", considering that "it is the definitive moment to open the doors of democracy". In turn, he urged the students to accompany the students on February 27 to another demonstration called by that sector and called for another march on March 10 to all the unions and organizations in the country "in a unified command" to finalize a statement of conflict through street protest and other means. It had no convening power and very few went out to protest, which turned into another resounding failure, which filled even more with frustration the opponents of Nicolás Maduro and the TRUMP Administration.

March 24th

Colombian authorities seized an arsenal of 26 AR-15 assault rifles and accessories for military use that were being transported in a truck on the highway between the cities of Barranquilla and Santa Marta, in the north of the country, the Police reported Tuesday.

In the operation, the driver of the vehicle was captured, who according to the authorities was heading towards the department of La Guajira, bordering Venezuela.

"After verifying the identity of the occupant and the documents of the vehicle, an inspection was carried out that revealed six suitcases in the trunk and the rear seat, which contained 26 AR-15 5.56 caliber assault rifles. ", Police said in a statement.

At a press conference, the Vice Minister of Communications, Tourism and Culture of Venezuela, Jorge Rodríguez, explained the keys to this recently dismantled plan:

- It was organized by Colombia and the United States.
- It would be executed between March 23 and 25, during the social and collective quarantine decreed by the Venezuelan Executive to stop the expansion of the coronavirus.
- It was intended to arm paramilitary groups in Venezuela to commit terrorist actions.
- Assault groups would be introduced to assassinate President Nicolás Maduro.
- It was originally to be carried out on March 10, but was postponed due to alleged deficiencies in operational capacity and the failure of calls to protest by the opposition deputy Guaidó.
- The seized weapons are worth \$500,000.

Weapons seized

- 26 American-made 5.56 caliber assault rifles (AR-15), MOE.
- 36 rifle nocks.
- 28 two-eyed night vision goggles, AN/PVS7B.
- Nine one-eyed night vision goggles, AN/PVS14.
- Eight rifle silencers.
- 21 units of scope for SIGSAUER brand rifle.
- 24 units of scope for SPARG brand rifle.
- 4 unbranded night binoculars.
- 30 SIGTH MARK single point laser sights.
- 14 STEINER brand laser designators.
- Seven SNIPER brand laser designators.
- Two Motorola XPR3500 communications radios.
- 43 MOTOROLA brand batteries with their respective click
- 15 tactical military helmets brand HEDS earth color
- Three CRYE PRECISION brand bulletproof vests.

March 26th

In a message delivered at a press conference, William Barr, attorney general of the United States, announced the filing of charges in courts of his country against the president of Venezuela for the crimes of conspiracy for narco-terrorism, conspiracy to import cocaine, and possession of weapons and other destructive devices.

In addition to Maduro, charges were filed against other high-ranking leaders of Chavista Venezuela, including Diosdado Cabello, president of the National Constituent Assembly; Vladimir Padrino, Defense Minister; Maikel Moreno, president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Another old strategy, Noriega style in Panama, that the US government implements, with slander and false accusations without any evidence, against the Venezuelan president, members of the cabinet and the military high command, offering millionaire rewards of 15 million dollars, for whoever captures it or offers details for whoever facilitates it.

That same day, a video broadcast by former Venezuelan Army Major General Clíver Alcalá Cordones was released to public opinion in which he confessed that he organized from Colombia the plan denounced by the Venezuelan Government, which provided for a series of selective assassinations, including that of President Nicolás Maduro.

March 27th

The fugitive general of Venezuelan justice, Clíver Alcalá, appeared before agents of the National Intelligence Directorate, DNI, of Colombia, to mediate his voluntary surrender to US justice. Alcalá turned himself in in the city of Barranquilla and from there he was sent to the United States at 4:30 that Friday afternoon on a DEA plane, without handcuffs and affectionately fired by his guards, something very strange in this type of situations.

March 30th

In an OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN NATIONAL ARMED FORCE, it reports the following: on March 30, 2020, at 00:45 hours, the Coast Guard "Naiguatá" (GC-23), of the Bolivarian Navy, was on patrol sea of our territorial sea, northwest of La Tortuga Island; was approached (collided) by the passenger ship «Resolute», (122 meters long and 8,300 tons of displacement), under the Portuguese flag, at the time a maritime traffic control procedure was being carried out, which caused damage of great magnitude and caused the capsizing of the aforementioned coast guard.

The RCGS Resolute cruise ship, which attacked a Bolivarian Navy ship on Monday, March 30, while it was patrolling the northeast of La Tortuga Island, is equipped, as evidenced in the photographs published by the Operational Strategic Commander, with boats inflatables capable of moving up to seven commandos to carry out incursions in coastal areas.

The president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, explained that the ship's crew has denied access to the Curaçao authorities to the ship, an action that "confirms the hypothesis that this ship was being used to bring mercenaries to our shores and carry out attacks on military units or political targets".

April 1st

The President of the United States, Donald Trump, announced that he has authorized the "largest anti-drug operation in the West" with the deployment of an air-naval force, to prevent "dictatorial regimes from taking advantage of the crisis" of the Covid-19 pandemic. . During the speech, which took place at the White House, the president was accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence; Defense Secretary Mark Esper; Attorney General William Barr; and the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces.

It should be noted that Trump's intervention occurs after, on March 26, the US Department of Justice announced that accusations had been formalized against Maduro and 13 other characters, civilians and military, who hold or have held high positions in Venezuela. the government administration and in the Venezuelan public authorities for allegedly being linked to drug trafficking and having supported terrorist organizations.

May 1

Journalist JOSHUA GOODMAN of the Associated Press news agency, on ABC NEWS, publishes two days before the incursion of mercenaries along the northern coast of Venezuela, an article entitled "Former Green Beret led failed attempt to expel Maduro from Venezuela " in reference to General Clíver Alcalá, who 4 days earlier had surrendered to the DEA, after the seizure of weapons in Barranquilla.

GOODMAN indicates "Some 300 heavily armed volunteers planned to sneak into Venezuela and provoke a popular rebellion that would end in the arrest of President Nicolás Maduro"

This article details what Clíver Alcalá Cordones, a fugitive from Colombian justice General Clíver Alcalá Cordones, indicated days before in a video broadcast by the media, in which he explained that these weapons were part of a plan to attack Venezuela and kill President Maduro and other officials of the high government. The Venezuelan government explained that General Alcalá Cordones was in charge of the three training camps in Colombia, in which the 300 mercenaries divided into groups that would enter Venezuela were training.

The coordinates of the aforementioned camps were delivered to the Colombian authorities, but no response was ever received from them, to which the Venezuelan government blamed Iván Duque for being behind these plans in conjunction with Trump to attack Venezuela. He also indicated in the video the existence of a contract with a North American contracting company called SILVERCORP signed by JUAN GAIDÓ, JUAN JOSE RENDON, SERGIO VERGARA AND JORDAN GOUDREAU.

Operation Gideon

May 3

As reported by the Minister of the Interior and Justice of Venezuela, Major General Nestor Reverol, in the early hours of May 3, a group of terrorist mercenaries from Colombia attempted an incursion by sea along the coast of the state of La Guaira, with the purpose of committing terrorist acts in the country, assassinating leaders of the revolutionary government and increasing the spiral of violence (...) and thereby leading to a new coup attempt," the minister declared. The attempted invasion has failed: several of the "terrorists" were killed, while the others were captured in the early hours of May 3 and an arsenal of assault rifles was seized. The detainees tried to carry out the raid aboard several speedboats.

In total, more than 50 Venezuelan and 2 American mercenaries have been captured: Luke Denman and Airan Berry, from Group 10 of the United States Special Forces, and with several tours in Iraq during the years after the invasion and occupation.

At the same time, a video is made public where Captain Nieto Quintero, a graduate of the National Guard, and Jordan Goudreau, owner of the security company Silvercorp, based in Florida, and which provides military contractors, claim responsibility for the operation and affirm that The paramilitary action was agreed with the opposition leader Juan Guaidó, while they show a contract that confirms it.

May 5th

When approached by the press in the gardens of the White House, about the incursions into Venezuela, President Trump indicated: "I have just received information. It has nothing to do with our government, but I just received information about it and we will investigate it. We are concerned about it, but whatever it is, we will inform you, but it has nothing to do with our government."

May 8

The WASHINGTON POST, publishes on its website, the 41-page contract that Juan Guaidó signed with Silvercorp contemplated assassinating the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, and his Executive train, as well as Diosdado Cabello and officials of the military high command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB). The first phase of the contract would cost 50 million dollars.

The contract establishes that the tasks of the company SilverCorp USA are to assist the group of allies in the planning and execution of an operation to capture, detain and remove President Nicolás Maduro; of the Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez; of Diosdado Cabello, and other high-level government officials, overthrow of the current regime and installation of Juan Guaidó as President. The private security firm planned to receive \$212 million in the operation, according to a copy of the contract published by The Washington Post.

The Washington Post investigation indicates that Guaidó was aware of the operation and that the Venezuelan leader appears in a secretly recorded videoconference in which he expressed his approval to Goudreau.

"We are doing the right thing for the country," Guaidó is heard saying before adding "I am about to sign," according to the newspaper.

May 11

Two advisers to the Venezuelan opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, resigned from their positions in the so-called "interim government" chaired by him, amid the controversy over the so-called "Operation Gideon", which tried to remove Nicolás Maduro from power by force.

These are Sergio Vergara and Juan José Rendón, recently singled out for allegedly signing a contract with Jordan Goudreau, a former member of the US special forces, to carry out an armed incursion into Venezuela to bring about the fall of the Chavista ruler.

May 12

Russia strongly condemned the so-called "Operation Gideon", which was repelled by Maduro. "Regarding the investigation of the invasion of Venezuela by mercenaries who had the task of perpetrating terrorist acts, sabotage and overthrowing the legitimate president, our secret services maintain contacts," Lavrov said in a telematic conference.

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Sahel: A war for the grace of God

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Main jihadist groups in the G5 Sahel region



Map showing the main jihadist groups in the G5 Sahel region.

Different reports are warning that for several weeks in the framework of the war that Western military forces, mainly France, the United States and the United Kingdom, together with armies from the Sahel region, have been maintaining against different khatibas that respond to both Daesh and al-Qaeda. These two organizations are having armed clashes with each other.

In one of the latest editions of the weekly newsletter al-Naba, a semi-official Daesh organ, he denounces that al-Qaeda does not miss an opportunity to cunningly hit the "men of the caliphate". Defining these actions directly as "war" what the organization founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden has declared against his mujahideen, while they fight against the "Western Crusaders."

In the extensive territory that the Western powers are waging the war against terrorism in West Africa, which occupies large regions of Mali, Burkina Faso,

Chad, Niger and, with different characteristics, also occupies western Mauritania, northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon and southern Algeria, the intra-takfirist war has begun to cause casualties to both organizations.

Both the al-Qaeda signatory gang, formed in 2017 by half a dozen independent organizations known as Jamā'at nuṣrat al-islām wal-muslimīn, (Support Front for Islam and Muslims) or JNIM, and the Islamic State organization in the Great Sahara (ISGS) are now repeating in the heart of the Sahel, the same scenario that was already played out in Syria, and is currently also taking place in Afghanistan.

In 2012, in the midst of the war against the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, when a multitude of terrorist organizations and mercenaries encouraged and financed by the Gulf monarchies, with the consent of the United States, France and the United Kingdom, arrived in Syria,

which included an organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, al-Qaeda's branch in Iraq, prompting the immediate reaction of al-Nusra Front, the Syrian chapter of global al-Qaeda. There were not a few battles between the "sister" khatibas, which were mutually causing dozens of casualties, with a useless waste of resources, which were not used against the forces of President al-Assad, so the order of the successor of bin Laden, the emir of the organization, the Egyptian doctor, Aymán al-Zawahiri, was exhaustive: the Iraqis should return to their country. This edict provoked the insubordination of an emir known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who after proclaiming himself Caliph Ibrahim, would found Daesh in Mosul in June 2014. The organization that would write the bloodiest pages of Wahhabi terrorism.

Somehow this specter has been reproduced in Afghanistan, where since 2015-2016 numerous militiamen from the Caliphate have landed to form what is known as Daesh Khorasan, provoking the reaction of the Taliban, who together with their old allies of al-Qaeda, are disputing some areas in different Afghan provinces. Although the Taliban has never tolerated the presence of any foreign terrorist organization in Afghanistan, beyond al-Qaeda, since they are practically the same, since the Doha agreements signed last February 29 with the United States, the Taliban are obliged to prevent and combat any terrorist organization that intends to operate in their territories.

Also in Yemen both organizations have had their clashes the Daesh of the Willat (province) of Yemen, in a video published at the end of last April, accuses al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) together with al-Qaeda in the Maghreb Islamic (AQIM) to work with the apostates.

It is clear then that this phenomenon that is being reproduced today in the Sahel, which is why in different editorials of al-Naba accuses the JNIM of working with different armed blocs of all kinds, in the north of Mali, including those who oppose the "apostate" government (by the government based in Bamako) and those who are loyal to it, to reach an alliance powerful enough to arm a political base that allows its territorial expansion. Al-Qaeda is even accused of working with tribal movements, which Daesh classifies as "idolatrous", since they mix Islam with animist beliefs.

Hate without borders

In one of his latest editorials, he places the greatest responsibility on the two main emirs and

founders of JNIM, Iyad Ag Ghaly and Amadou Kouffa, whom he classifies as apostates and for engineering this war a long time ago.

For their part, the members of the JNIM treat the men of the Islamic State in the Great Sahara as kharijitas (extremists). The Malian Iyad Ag Ghal, former leader Ansar Dine, an organization that would join JNIM, upon taking over as leader of the latter group, not only made his bayat (loyalty oath) to the emir of AQMI (al-Qaeda for the Islamic Maghreb) the Algerian Abdelmalek Droukel and Aymán al-Zawahiri, but also to the Prince of the Believers or Amīr al-mu'minīn, an honorary title borne by the Taliban leader since 2016, the mullah, Hibatullah Akhundzada, which perfectly outlines the ideological differences that divide the two organizations Sahelian.

It was learned that at the beginning of the year there were defections of some brigades from the JNIN, which would have sworn allegiance to al-Baghdadi's successor, after his death, Emir Abu al-Qurashi. It was also reported that, in the center of the country, shortly after that defection a significant group belonging to the Fulani tribe historically loyal to al-Qaeda's Khatiba Macina also defected.

One of Daesh's main criticisms of the JNIM is that this organization has been willing to negotiate with Bamako, on the condition that the French forces of the Barkhane operation, some 5,000 troops, who have been operating in the north of the country since 2014, which is the main barrier to contain takfirist activity, leave Mali, coinciding with the Taliban's policies at the time of negotiations with the United States, with a view to pacifying the Central Asian country, which demanded the withdrawal of all troops North Americans. Leaving Mali for French forces would be a high-risk move for Bamako's survival.

In recent weeks, both organizations have taken on different actions, Daesh, asserts that, in the north and center of Mali -also covering the north of Burkina Faso-, it has carried out different operations against al-Qaeda targets while reporting having repulsed two al-Qaeda incursions near Nampala, an area close to the border with Mauritania, and east of Macina in the Segou region.

This spring, the military actions that took place last fall are being repeated, but on a larger scale. As reported by local media at the beginning of April, there were strong clashes between the two organizations in the towns of Dialloubé, Koubi, Djantakai and Nigua in the Mopti region. And in March, there was fighting near the Mauritanian city of Fassala, on the border with Mali.

After the alleged repulsed attacks in Nampala, clashes took place south of Boulikessi, which

reportedly caused 35 deaths and more than a dozen wounded al-Qaeda men.

On April 20, clashes took place in Pobe and Keraboule, towns in the Soum province, in Burkina Faso, and in more intense battles in the Burkina Faso towns of Arbinda and Nassoumbou, where more than sixty deaths occurred on both sides.

On April 18, a fierce battle was fought in the Ndaki area of Mali when a JNIM (al-Qaeda) contingent attacked four large towns in the border area between Mali and Burkina Faso, which were under the control of Daesh. Columns of armored vehicles of up to more than forty units and dozens of motorcycles participated in these confrontations, which gives a dimension of the availability of resources that the fundamentalists have in those regions. According to Daesh, these actions would have taken place a few weeks earlier and it points out that its men were able to withstand the attacks of the al-Qadians after they

used a suicide car that caused significant casualties and destruction in the enemy ranks.

According to Daesh, in that battle it would have captured 40 motorcycles and three vehicles, a statement that has not been verified by any means, a usual maneuver in these cases, where the information is provided by the parties in dispute, although according to local media, Given the difference in dates, it is not known if the information refers to the same event, or in fact there were two major battles, one week apart. Al-Naba, also records in its latest installment, a shooting in the Gao region, northern Mali, near the Nigerien villages of In-Tillit and Aghay, in the Tillaberi region on April 16. In which the Daesh would have killed four members of JNIM and captured another three.

This war between Daesh and al-Qaeda, like everything that occurs in Africa, is doomed to deepen and will continue to kill people, in this case, by the grace of God.

Image Source:

<https://atalayar.com/content/la-estrategia-antiterrorista-en-el-sahel-se-replantea-con-el-p3s>

From the OPV-80 to the OPV-93C. Fassmer/Cotecmar cooperation

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



Thanks to the know-how acquired by the Colombian shipyard COTECMAR, whose main headquarters are in Cartagena de Indias, a very important step has been taken in innovation, achieving a 100% Colombian design of an Exclusive Economic Zone Patrol Vessel, which has been called OPV -93C.

Since 2015, Colombian engineers and designers have been designing the OPV-93C, also known as the "second generation" OPV (the first generation being the Fassmer model, the OPV-80, of which 3 have already been built). units). This project is the most important in recent years, and the first unit is expected to materialize in the third quarter of 2022, with its delivery to the Colombian National Navy.

In Plan 2030, the Strategic Plan of the Colombian Navy, the manufacture of 6 OPVs is established, of which three have already been delivered. Apparently, the idea with this is that the other three -when the resources are available-, are of the OPV-93C model.

At this time, the conceptual and preliminary design phase is ready, and the contractual design phase is currently being worked on. It is expected to have a detailed design according to the specifications of the

ship, both in life cycle projections and in costs, and that, from the construction contract, the materialization of this important project will last 36 months.

COTECMAR's OPV-93C will have the ability to adapt to different configurations of propulsion systems, being able to incorporate conventional Diesel and Diesel propulsion (CODAD) and also combined Diesel-Electric propulsion (CODELOD). In this way, the system will be distributed in two machine rooms, this increases the survivability and operability of the ship if compared to the previous ones of its class.

The OPV-93C Project considers, from the design stage, the fulfillment of humanitarian aid missions and also scientific research, but at the same time the strengthening of the country's naval power, increasing the coverage of the National Navy in the maritime territories that it has. under your jurisdiction.

The national manufacture of the OPV-80 ocean patrol boats and the planned OPV-93C, is a step forward in the project to nationally manufacture the frigates that replace the current FS-1500.

As already mentioned, COTECMAR has produced three patrol boats of the OPV-80 model at its facilities in Cartagena de Indias, in the Colombian Caribbean, with the support and advice of the Fassmer company. By themselves, these ships represent an important scientific and technological advance for the country, in addition to providing a valuable asset for national security and defense.

Acquiring these vessels has been a wise decision, since their tactical, technical and operational characteristics offer significant advantages over other types of vessels, taking into account the missions that must be fulfilled to face current and potential threats.

International market. Comparison with the Corvettes "Tamandaré" of Brazil

The third OPV-80 of the Colombian Navy was launched in December 2016 in Cartagena de Indias. These ships are based on Fassmer's design; however, they have been upgraded to the point that none of the three ships produced is exactly the same as the others, each progressively improving upon the previous one. The ARC "Victoria" (initially ARC "Santander"), includes significant improvements, such as a more powerful gun in the bow, the OTO Melara 76 mm. instead of the 40mm. of previous versions; In addition, it mounts a 25-millimeter M242-ATK Bushmaster automatic cannon on the hangar deck, thereby increasing its power and rate of fire. In the ARC "Victoria" the propulsion is improved, being able to reach higher speeds. Additionally, the aft structure was strengthened so that the flight deck can support medium-sized helicopters, weighing around 10 tons. As a complement, the hangar is slightly larger to accommodate larger aircraft.

The construction of this unit took just two years, and had a cost of 63 million dollars. The quality of the

ships built in Colombia and their competitive prices make them a viable alternative for navies around the world.

Some specialized media have even drawn comparisons between the Colombian OPV project and the projects being developed in their countries. Such is the case of Brazil, where the OPV-80 produced by COTECMAR has been compared with the CV03 project, a Corvette model developed in Brazil and called "Tamandaré", whose cost per unit reaches 450 million dollars. dollars, amount with which COTECMAR could manufacture seven (7) OPV-80 at the last declared price of 63 million dollars per unit.

It is obvious that the "Tamandaré" corvettes and the OPV-80 were designed for different missions and therefore have different capabilities. The Brazilian ship displaces about 2,750 tons, while the Colombian only 1,723 tons. The corvette's armament is much more powerful and of course more expensive, as are its sensors and electronics.

Without ignoring the above, the analysis deepens when considering that the presence in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone would be greater - in space and time- with seven units like the OPV-80 than with a single "Tamandaré". By the way, Brazil plans to manufacture 5 "Tamandaré" corvettes, which would have the cost equivalent to 35 OPV-80 patrol boats produced by COTECMAR.

In the last seven years, COTECMAR has manufactured 3 OPV 80, 5 landing craft of 600 tons, a CPV-46 and at least ten LPR-40 artillery river boats, of which Brazil acquired some units. A "Logistical and Coastal Support Vessel" (BAL-C) was recently delivered to the Honduran Navy. The technical successes of the Colombian company are beginning to translate into commercial successes.

Douglas Hernandez

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Fuerzas Antiterroristas del Mundo

Arduentes Fortuna Iuvat



Honor Guard of the Mongolian Army, in historical uniforms.

Mongolia **Armed forces**



At present, the Mongolian armed forces have become more compact and professional, as compulsory military service was replaced by the alternative between military service and other service. The ground force, a core of the armed forces, is the main force to defend the country by military means. In times of peace, the land force directs its activities to ensure the readiness for the mobilization of the Mongolian Armed Forces, providing military training to the population, building personnel resources, and organizing the maintenance, protection and servicing of military equipment and reserves of materials. Depending on the organizational details of military units and organizations, the ground force is divided into combat, combat service, training, training combat, and storage and service units.

As a result of the reform processes started in 1997, the units of the Mongolian Armed Forces were reorganized into a brigade-battalion system. In peacetime, brigade subunits have a mixed staff organization (ie, constant combat readiness, training, and low force level). In 2016, the General Purpose Force was renamed to its current name of the Armed Forces Land Force.

In 1997, the Mongolian Armed Forces had in service 650 tanks, 120 light armored reconnaissance vehicles, 400 armored infantry fighting vehicles, 300 armored personnel carriers, 300 towed artillery, 500 mobile anti-aircraft weapons, 130 multiple rocket launchers, 140 mortars and 200 anti-tank guns. This material, mostly of Soviet

origin, has progressively become obsolete, with no sign of its replacement by equivalent numbers of more modern material. It owns a smaller number of newer models designed in post-Soviet Russia. Mongolia deployed its troops in peacekeeping operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with weapons, transport and equipment from the Soviet bloc from the 1970s. Although the Mongolian troops are highly proficient with the use of these weapons and equipment, they are not interoperable with the rest of the coalition members. Except for Harris Corporation communications equipment provided by the United States, Mongolia had no other equipment that was interoperable.



Air Force

After the end of the Cold War and the advent of the Democratic Revolution, the air force was grounded due to lack of fuel and spare parts. However, the government has been trying to revive the air force since 2001. The country has a goal of developing a full air force in the future.

Without Russian help, the Mongolian air force's inventory was gradually reduced to a few Antonov An-24/26 tactical aircraft and a dozen airworthy Mi-24 and Mi-8 helicopters. In 2011, the Ministry of Defense announced that they would buy MiG-29s from Russia. In October 2012, the Ministry of Defense returned a loaned Airbus A310-300 to MIAT Mongolian Airlines. Between 2007 and 2011 the active fleet of MiG-21 was reduced. In 2013, the Air Force discussed purchasing three C-130J transport aircraft, made by Lockheed Martin.

On November 26, 2019, Russia donated two MiG-29 fighter jets to Mongolia, which became the only combat-capable aircraft model in its air force.



Mongolian Mig-29 fighter

Naval Forces

Historically, the Mongolian Navy was one of the largest in the world, during the time of Kublai Khan. However, most of the fleet was sunk during the Mongol invasions of Japan. The Mongolian Navy was recreated in the 1930s, while under Soviet rule, using it to transport oil. The Mongolian Navy in 1990 consisted of a single ship, the Sukhbaatar III, which was stationed on Lake Khövsgöl, the largest volume of water in the country. The Navy was made up of 7 men, which meant that it was the smallest army in the world at the time. In 1997, the marina was privatized and offered lake tours to break even. In 2001, it was reported that only one of the seven members knew how to swim, but this person was afraid of water. Mongolia currently has no official Navy, but they do have small border patrols at Lake Buir near the Chinese border, patrolling the Mongolian-Chinese border at the lake.

World War II and immediate aftermath

In the early stage of World War II, the Mongolian People's Army was involved in the Battle of Khalkhin Gol, when Japanese forces, together with the puppet state of Manchukuo, attempted to invade Mongolia from the Khalkha River. Soviet forces under the command of Georgy Zhukov, along with Mongol forces, defeated the Japanese Sixth Army and effectively ended the Soviet-Japanese border wars.

In 1945, Mongol forces participated in the Soviet invasion of Manchuria under the command of the Red Army, among the last fighting of World War II. A Soviet-Mongolian cavalry mechanized group commanded by Issa Pliyev participated as part of the Soviet Transbaikalian Front. The Mongol troops numbered four cavalry divisions and three other regiments. From 1946 to 1948, the Mongolian People's Army successfully repelled attacks by the Hui regiment of the Kuomintang and their Kazakh allies on the Mongolian-Xinjiang border. This little-known border dispute between Mongolia and the ROC became known as the Pei-ta-shan incident.

These engagements would be the last active battles the Mongol army would see, until after the democratic revolution.

After the Democratic Revolution

Mongolia underwent a democratic revolution in 1990, ending the one-party communist state that had existed since the early 1920s. In 2002, a law was passed allowing the Mongolian army and police forces to carry out international missions. peacekeeping organizations backed by the UN and abroad. In August 2003, Mongolia contributed troops to the Iraq War as part of the Multinational Force. The Mongol troops, numbering 180 strong at their peak, were under the Multinational Center-South Division and were tasked with protecting Poland's main base, Camp Echo. Prior to that mission, they had been protecting a logistics base called Camp Charlie on Hillah.



The then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, visited Ulan Baator on January 13, 2004 and expressed his appreciation for the deployment of a 173-person contingent to Iraq. He then inspected the 150th Peacekeeping Battalion, which was scheduled to send a new force to replace the first contingent later in January 2004. All troops withdrew on September 25, 2008.

In June 2005, Batzorigiyn Erdenebat, deputy minister of national defense, told Jane's Defense Weekly that the deployment of forces in Mongolia was changing from the Cold War-oriented south against China's stance. "Under the Mongolian regional development concept, the country has been divided into four regions, each incorporating several provinces. The largest capital city of each region will become the regional hub and we will establish regional military headquarters in each of those cities."

In 2009, Mongolia sent 114 troops as part of the International Security Assistance Force to Afghanistan. The troops were sent to support the increase in the number of American troops. Mongolian forces in Afghanistan mostly assisted NATO/International Security Assistance Force personnel to train on the old Warsaw Pact weapons, which comprise most of the military equipment available to the Afghan National Army.

Peacekeeping missions

The Mongolian armed forces have carried out peacekeeping missions in South Sudan, Chad, Georgia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Congo, Western Sahara, Sudan (Darfur), Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sierra Leone, under the mandate of the Mission of the United Nations in Liberia. In 2005/2006, Mongolian troops also served as part of the Belgian KFOR

contingent in Kosovo. From 2009 to 2010, the Mongolian Armed Forces deployed its largest peacekeeping mission in Chad, successfully completing the mission.



In 2011, the government decided to deploy its first fully self-sufficient forces in the UNMISS United Nations Mission in South Sudan. Since then, the Mongolian infantry battalion has carried out PKO tasks in the Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan.

Politics

Mongolia has a unique military policy due to its geopolitical position and economic situation. Being sandwiched between two of the world's largest nations, the Mongolian military has limited ability to protect its independence against foreign invasions; Thus, the country's national security depends heavily on diplomacy, a notable part of which is the third-neighbor policy. The country's military ideal is to create and maintain small but efficient and professional armed forces.

An article from The Diplomat is reproduced below, giving us a detailed look at what the Mongolian Army is today.

The Mongolian Modernizing Army

By Bolor Lkhaajav

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The Mongolian land army has faced many modernization challenges and opportunities throughout history. The ancient Mongol army, like other great armies, whether Greek, Roman, or Ottoman, had its strengths and weaknesses, its historical glories and bruises. When discussing the modernization of the Mongolian armed forces today, a number of historical aspects remain crucial in shaping military principles, core values, and social influences. These historical aspects are linked with fundamental changes, progress and sometimes regressions in Mongolian military affairs and military diplomacy.

At its height, the Mongol empire stretched from Eastern Europe to Eastern Siberia and the Korean Peninsula, connecting and uniting cultures, societies, and ideologies. As the Mongol army conquered new areas, it provided the empire with an opportunity for modernization: gaining access to new goods and services, exotic cultures and societies, and most importantly, access to new military equipment, tactics, and strategies. The Mongols used traditional nomadic weaponry for centuries. Mastery of horseback riding, archery, and the introduction of steel spears and hooks were part of the modernization of the ancient Mongol military.



Through the Guard of Honor, attachment to history and traditions is observed.

Meanwhile, the Mongol conquests of Marv, Balkh, Bukhara, Samarkand, Kashgar, Turpan, Khotan, and many other capitals during the 13th century increased ethnic and cultural diversity under Mongol rule. This historical interconnectedness paved the way for modern Mongolia to pursue political, economic, and military diplomacy with countries around the world.

In addition to traditional Mongolian military principles, Mongolia's relationship with neighboring Russia became the main source of learning, technology, weapons, and strategies. From Russia, Mongolia learned the positives and negatives of a top-down military structure and military institutionalization. Military ties between Russia and Mongolia were strengthened during Mongolia's struggle against Qing rule in 1911, but improved significantly during World War II. During the war, the Japanese invasion of Inner Mongolia and Manchuria allowed Stalinist Russia and Mongolia to strengthen their military ties while combating Japanese expansion in East Asia. It was the Mongol army that supplied the Russians with horses, wool and fur during their winter wars. Consequently, on the 72nd anniversary of "Victory Day" on May 7, 2017, the Russian government built a large bronze warhorse monument in commemoration of Mongolian warhorses. Mongolia's participation in World War II modernized its military capabilities, despite its status as a Soviet satellite state.

When analyzing the modernization of the Mongolian armed forces and its social impacts, we must analyze both its foreign and domestic contributions. At home, the Mongolian army bears the heavy responsibility of building infrastructure, schools and hospitals. In a way, the military bridges the gap between the government and civilians by building the necessary pieces of a modern society.

The National Center for Emergency and Disaster Relief is an important part of the army. According to the official government website, through the NCEDR, the military serve as first responders for earthquakes, fires, and wildfires; contagious diseases; and snow and dust storms, as well as severe winters (known as *zud*). The National Center for Emergency and Disaster Relief programs have produced humanitarian doctors and construction engineers, who build schools, hospitals, and emergency centers, especially in rural areas such as Gobi-Altai, Bayan-Ulgii, and Orkhon provinces.

Despite these duties at home, the Mongolian military is also active abroad. Mongolia's foreign policy goals, along with military diplomacy, have played a critical role in increasing military relations with various countries. Mongolia's participation in international missions and peacekeeping operations reflect Mongolia's historical and contemporary principles and values. Actively supporting, defending and contributing to world peace is also part of the military modernization process.

According to Colonel T. Narankhuu, Mongolian military and defense attaché to the Mongolian Embassy in Washington DC, "As of now, Mongolia has military diplomacy with the United States, Japan, Germany and 30 other countries and has a close army. with Russia, China, Turkey, Ukraine and Belarus."



Since 2001, the Mongolian military has been involved in the US-led coalition's counterterrorism efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to 1st Lt. Mark Larson, writing from the 10th Division in Kabul, "The Mongols, by the way, provide the most extraordinary example of international support. That Mongolia, a landlocked country of only three million people, nearly half of whom still lead a nomadic life, provides aid to the international force is remarkable." In 2006, Mongolia became the first country to organize a multinational military training in the Northeast Asia region, the "Command Post Exercise and Field Training Exercise with the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GOI)". with the support of the United States.

Mongolia also helps protect women and children from armed militias through United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). According to the 2016 Military and Police Contributions Ranking Report to UN Operations, Mongolia was ranked 30th out of 123 countries with 950 peacekeepers operating in MENA countries.

Mongolian peacekeepers in MENA countries have been recognized by the international community; More than 850 Mongolian peacekeepers, stationed in South Sudan, were awarded the UN Medal in May 2017. Previously, in March 2017, Mr. T.Buyanzul and O. Tsend-Ayush, from the Mongolian Battalion, saved a 2-year-old Sudanese boy from a war zone. After this case, in July 2017, 22 armed men tried to enter the refugee camps and were captured by Mongolian peacekeepers. These cases illustrate both the modernization of the Mongolian military as a whole and its contribution to world peace.

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