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Corruption and Human Rights Abuse in Paraguay

By Peter Tase

Toxic levels of corruption and lack of discipline in the government, minister of the interior Federico Alberto Gonzalez Franco giving lip service to Russia, Iran, and Brazil, and the feckless leadership of Attorney General Sandra Quiñonez are the substance of Paraguay's sociopolitical reality.

Attorney General Quiñonez, has grossly failed to investigate the underground communications held between Minister Federico Alberto Gonzalez and his superiors in Moscow and Brasilia.

On early October 2022, I witnessed firsthand in Paraguay, how Minister Federico Alberto Gonzalez Franco ordered his security detail to forcefully evict various indigenous families from their natural- precarious habitat in a wild forest, in order to satisfy his business partner and instill panic in the local community.

Quiñonez has failed to interrogate Minister Federico Alberto Gonzalez in relation to his involvement in allowing Iran's <u>EMTRASUR Boeing Cargo Plane</u> to land in Ciudad del Este – Paraguay on two separate occasions (in 2022).

Paraguay's skunkiest head of state is worst than Burkina Faso's deposed president RochKabore; Abdo Benítez for over three months has humiliated his predecessor, <u>Horacio</u> Manuel CartesJara, in public events, meanwhile behind the scenes he purchases a <u>Cessna</u>Citation 680 from <u>Aerocentro</u>, one of the companies of the Cartes Group, for a total of USD 8 million.

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Furthermore, Federico Gonzalez was heavily <u>involved</u> in <u>handling</u> the underground <u>energy sale</u> negotiations with Brazil in 2019, potentially <u>inflicting</u> a financial <u>damage</u> of more than USD 250 million USD to Paraguay's treasury.

Moreover, four members of United States Congress; Representatives <u>Stephanie</u> Murphy, Kathleen Rice, Mark Green, and Kurt Schrader, visited Asuncion to present with <u>the laurels of achievement</u> the very same <u>people</u> that are <u>destroying</u> the future generations of Paraguayan nation and have succumbed their country into abysmal levels of <u>corruption</u> where <u>criminal organizations</u> have permeated the judiciary and every decision-making institution. Congresswoman Murphy and her colleagues met with Minister BernardinoSoto Estigarribia the executor in chief of young military officers in the Armed Forces of Paraguay. The Members of United States Congress also had a cordial meeting with Minister <u>Esteban Aquino</u>, another useless, highly corrupt bureaucrat, who is the closest ally of Vice president <u>Hugo Adalberto</u> Velázquez Moreno.

It remains unclear as to why the <u>US Embassy in Asuncion</u>, continues to <u>award accolades</u> to AG Sandra Quiñonezfor a 'job well done' when it is evident that her investigative trajectory is <u>astonishingly absent</u> and her failure to press charges upon some of the most dangerous criminals and corrupt policy makers, makes her the best ally of corrupt ministers, and human traffickers in South America. Washington must act quickly and take immediate military – political actions to isolate as well as deter some of Latin America's most dangerous thugs in President Mario Abdo Benítez's cabinet of ministers.

While various <u>mechanisms</u> dedicated to international perception of corruption are very generous with Paraguay; tangible evidence shows convincingly that this landlocked nation, with the size of California, has the most corrupt government in the Western Hemisphere.

It is time for Washington to begin a new era of military and diplomatic actions in Paraguay, cut the financial aid, as the organized crime is taking hostage the entire country.

As the White House struggles to fine tune its diplomatic actions in Asuncion, Mario Abdo Benítez, Federico Alberto Gonzalez Franco, and his VP <u>Hugo Adalberto</u> Velázquez Moreno, publicly known as the triumvirate, indeed are hiding away like an ostrich, or as they say in Guaraní: "oñemokuréramavýhina". -

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