

Nicaragua is a free, sovereign, and independent State. Its electoral process is being carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Nicaragua, the electoral law and the mandates and provisions of the Supreme Electoral Council.

An electoral calendar has been agreed upon with the legally recognized political parties and in this electoral calendar it is established that from the end of July to the middle of August the electoral candidates will be registered. According to electoral law there are no candidates or pre-candidates until the legally recognized parties announce them beginning at the end of July.

These persons [who say they have presidential aspirations] are being investigated because of strong indications they have committed crimes of money laundering, crimes linked precisely to attempts against the Nicaraguan society, against the rights of the Nicaraguan people and another series of acts that undermine the independence, sovereignty and self-determination of our country. These people also incite foreign interference in internal affairs and have even gone so far as to call for military interventions and organize themselves with financing from foreign powers to destabilize the country and continue with their attempted coup d'état. That is the situation.

If you come to Nicaragua and you interview the authorities that coordinate and by mandate of the Constitution organize, direct and follow up the electoral process, which is the Electoral Council, then you will see that there is a legal and juridical institutional design with the participation of 17 political parties. And who is going to participate? The candidates chosen by each party or political alliance. When are we going to know who the real candidates are? Between July 28 and August 18, which is the time agreed by the political parties and the Electoral Council to register candidates.

We are carrying out the processes that Nicaraguan institutionality mandates, what the Constitution and the laws mandate.

The US Secretary of State himself, Antony Blinken, said a few days ago that all the unilateral [coercive] measures they are taking against Nicaragua, which they call sanctions—and which incidentally are in violation of International Law and the United Nations Charter and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States—were going to be taken in coordination with Canada, the European Union and other countries and human rights organizations.

We are witnessing the synchronization and coordination of U.S. imperialism in tune with its allies, which are their subject countries, together with international organizations concerned with human rights, in order to politicize, unfortunately, the issue of human rights. Thus we see that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is always distorting information, without objectivity, and although we constantly send her reports, she ignores our information, and shares only what the United States says, which, in order to accuse Nicaragua, uses lies and falsehoods.

Our representative in the OAS has been insistent for several years telling them: Gentlemen and women of the OAS, do not violate your own charter which says that you do not have the right to intervene in the internal affairs of other States. We have also told you that Nicaragua has not asked the OAS for help or support or interference in the internal affairs of our country, much less in internal politics such as the electoral process, which is an exclusive activity of the Nicaraguan people, of the political parties that participate and are legally constituted.

The OAS is the instrument created many decades ago by the United States to make its Monroe Doctrine policy a reality, that is, America for the Yankees. It is a strategy of domination by the U.S. elites to control, dominate and take over the natural and energy resources of Latin America and the Caribbean. That is the objective, and to obstruct the good relations projected by countries like Russia or China, which are relations of cooperation and solidarity with Latin America and the Caribbean.

Now, why doesn't the OAS apply the same to Colombia [where the people are rebelling against their government]? Precisely because Colombia is the main ally of the United States in Latin America, because Colombia has seven U.S. military bases in its territory along the border with Venezuela ... and because Colombia is part of NATO. All this makes Colombia a subordinate country, and therefore, the OAS, which is the instrument of the United States to dominate Latin America and the Caribbean, does not deal with the issues of Colombia or Chile. We as a State, as a Government, do not interfere in the internal affairs of countries because we precisely say: we respect the internal affairs of all countries, but we demand reciprocity. Do not interfere against Nicaragua in the OAS or in other international or human rights organizations.

Let us remember that after the triumph of the revolution in 1979, in the 1980s, the United States organized the Contra against the government. They organized it, they prepared it, they supported it logistically, they financed it and we had a decade of US intervention and aggression. They also developed a psychological campaign in addition to the destruction they created in all our infrastructure, in our ports, in the electric lines, in the population. U.S. interference caused us approximately 50,000 deaths, and at the end of the 80's, in the 90's, when we went to elections, they carried out another tremendous campaign to influence the psychology and the will of the voters, the Nicaraguan population. Ah, but they talk about free, honest, transparent elections.

Now, with all the sanctions measures they are applying, moving all their tentacles in all spheres, they are already saying that there are no conditions for free and transparent elections. They are designing their strategy and using all kinds of measures to prevent the Sandinista National Liberation Front from having the success that is already visualized: over 65% of the vote in favor of the economic and social policies that the Government has developed for the benefit of the Nicaraguan population.

What the gringos really want, with their allies, is to paralyze, stop, obstruct and prevent the triumph of the Sandinista National Liberation Front in next November's elections. That is the objective and that is why we are seeing all their tentacles moving. In addition, they are insisting on the presence of international observation in our elections. Let us not lose sight of the fact that in Bolivia the OAS was capable of carrying out its first electoral coup d'état, and they used that as a laboratory and want to apply it in Nicaragua. We, obviously, have to be very careful and prevent them from getting away with destabilizing our country, manufacturing a coup d'état and producing for us, as in April 2018, tremendous crimes against our population, destruction of infrastructure and enormous damage to the economy.

There is a geopolitical and historical interest of the United States—let's remember that Nicaragua is located in the centre of the American continent. In addition, we have coasts on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; we have rivers and we have lakes. All this would facilitate the construction of an interoceanic canal for international trade. This is independent of the existence of the Panama Canal. The Nicaraguan canal is a viable project. There is a geostrategic interest. The United States invaded Nicaragua, occupied it militarily [from 1912 to 1926], held elections here with the Electoral Council made up of its Marines, incredible things, shot a president in the previous century, declared slavery, set fire to Granada. Then, the geostrategic interest of the United States, expressed in an agreement between the gringos and Nicaragua, was that the right to build the canal be ceded to them for 100 years. They wanted either to build the canal or to prevent other countries from building this inter-oceanic communication route.

The other element has to do with Latin America and the Caribbean and the control they [the US] think they are predestined to have with their Monroe policy. So, Nicaragua resists this interfering attitude of the United States; we reject it; we denounce it; we condemn it and we are very clear in saying that Nicaragua is a free, independent and sovereign country. We want to have relations with all countries, and we do, but on a plane of respect, of sovereign equality of States and of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Relations with ALBA are excellent. On June 24, the nineteenth summit of Alba-TCP heads of state and government was held in Caracas. There was a political declaration that ratified the unconditional support of the Sandinista government, President Daniel Ortega, and the people of Nicaragua in their decision to continue defending sovereignty, peace and the remarkable social, economic, security and national unity progress achieved during these years. We also have excellent relations with Russia. We are very grateful for Russia's support with the Sputnik V vaccines. In short, we have very good relations and communications. Interview in Spanish: <https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:117667-entrevista-del-canciller-de-nicaragua-a-sputnik> (*19 Digital*, 26 June 2021)