

HUGO CHÁVEZ' ADDRESS

By Cde. Fidel Castro Ruz

“Will the US Congress be, starting on January 1, an ultra-rightwing Congress? Well, the Venezuelan Parliament from January 5 must then be ultra-leftwing.

“And I am calling on the deputies elected by the people, by popular movements, social movements, and parties of the revolution, to have a strong commitment from January 5.

“Indeed it is unprecedented, and Eva reminds us. How is it that here, it is still allowed that we, having this Constitution—which cost us so much, so many years of battle, so much sweat, so much blood, so much effort; here it is very clearly stated, it is also there in the first Constitution, the first act of independence and our first Constitution, we are a sovereign country—, at the risk of being called ‘the silly homeland or stupid revolution’ again, or if you want to be more vulgar the ‘dumbass revolution,’ how is that we are going to allow political parties, NGOs, important members of the counter revolution to continue to be financed with millions and millions of dollars from the US Empire and to continue to go around making use of the full freedom to abuse and violate our Constitution and to attempt to destabilize the country? I im-



Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz

plore you to introduce a very severe law to prevent this. This should be how we respond to imperial aggression, the imperial threat, by radicalizing our positions, not loosening anything, adjusting positions, picking up the pace, consolidating the revolutionary unity. Not just a parliament that leans much more to the Left, much more radically to the Left, we need a government much more radically to the Left, an armed forces, General Rangel—General in Chief, who will take over

Saturday, November 27, Air Forces Day—, that is much more radically revolutionary, together with the people.

“There should be no place in our civilians or military ranks for half-measures. Not a single column: radicalize the revolution! And that disgusting stateless bourgeoisie should really feel this. The Venezuelan bourgeoisie, without shame and without a country, should feel this, should know it’s unwarranted for one of its most distinguished representatives go to the Congress of

the empire itself, to lash out against Venezuela and to continue having a television channel here. And so on, and so forth! The Venezuelan bourgeoisie should know that their aggression against the people is going to cost them dearly, and that they should not be hanging about over there.

“I remember—there’s José Vicente Rangel, Maduro and a colleague, thank you for joining us— during Betancourt’s government, deputies from the leftist parties were detained without trial or previous notice, without any evidence they were led off to prison, stripped of their parliamentary immunity.

“In a few weeks, a group of deputies from the extreme Right will enter this room. Well, you just have to remind them that here there is a constitution. Just as, at one time, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and many other parties, was outlawed here, and the parliamentary immunity of many colleagues was lifted, without proof, some went to the mountains like the great Fabricio Ojeda, who resigned his seat and went to the mountains to give his blood for the revolution and the people. I imagine that this worthy Parliament, having a majority representation from the popular forces, will not accept the



President Hugo Chavez

rightwing forces coming here trying to subvert the constitutional order.

I suppose that the state... I am sure the State will activate all the mechanisms to defend the Constitution and the law against the attacks, giving them no hope.

“In short, the threat ... What did they call the terrorist event? ‘The threat in the Andes’, no?, Nicolás: Danger in the Andes; It’s like the title of a movie, Danger in the Andes; danger in the world, we must raise the alert or rather warn, the danger is global.

“At the moment there is a situation, right now, in the Korean peninsula. When I was on my way here the news was still confusing, as confusing as was the sinking of that vessel from South Korea, the Cheonan, but later evidence emerged that the ship was sunk by the US. Now on a small island in that invaded peninsula, ravaged for years and divided by the Yankee Empire, there is a tense situation, some bombs, some dead and some wounded.

“A few months ago, Fidel Castro warned about the serious risks of nuclear war. I was there recently, once again, and he explained to me, he put his thoughts together—we know plenty already, of course, but there is nothing better than talking—and he said to me, ‘Chavez, the slightest little gunshot in that area, full of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons, could escalate into a war that could be, at first, conventional ...’, but he is convinced that it will go directly into a nuclear war that could mark the end of the human species. So the danger is not in the Andes, you dirty scoundrels in Washington, the danger is global.

“Here in Venezuela, as Eva said, a light has been turned on, and another in Latin America, and another, and they’re turning on others. Today we can say—not that Venezuela alone, no—that Latin America is a continent of hope and the Yankee Empire can not close the doors of hope.

“We, Venezuelans, we’ve always been, for some reason or another, at the forefront of these struggles, for centuries.

“I see over the portraits of

Miranda, Bolivar, over there Martín Tovar y Tovar, Carabobo, and all the stuff that Roy read and said with such passion: It is right here, in our genes, in our blood. He paraphrased Mao, the Great Helmsman.

“That empire, that failed state that is the United States, despite its immense power and its threats, will end up being a gigantic paper tiger and we are forced to become true tigers of steel, small steel tigers, invincible, indomitable.

“Madam President, I promised to be brief, and as I said at the beginning, and I repeat: I believe that all that had to be said has been said by that brave woman Eva Golinger and by that brave deputy Roy Daza, which is contained in this document, which I now understand will circulate to the four corners of Venezuela, and beyond, throughout Latin America.

“I appreciate the invitation to this event, I appreciate the gesture, and as just one more person, I join this huge battalion, so to speak, in defense of Venezuela, in defense of the Venezuelan homeland.

“Looking at this painting, more than a painting, the monumental work of Tovar y Tovar, one sees the infantry there, and the cavalry over there. We will draw our inspiration from there: Infantry draw bayonets, quick march! Cavalry, at gallop, in defense of the Bolivarian homeland, of the Bolivarian Alliance of our People!

“Down with the Yankee empire!” he exclaimed at the end, “Long live ALBA, the Homeland and the Revolution!”

There is absolutely no doubt that Chavez, a career military man, but much more committed to dialogue and persuasion rather than force, will not hesitate to prevent the pro-imperialist and anti-patriotic rightwing from trying to deceive Venezuelans into turning against the public police force to spill blood in the streets of Venezuela. In Bolivia and Venezuela, the imperialist mafia has received a response more clear and forceful than they could have ever imagined.



Sakeus Haimbodi was diagnosed in 2008 (at the age of 18) with Osteo Sarcoma and went to South Africa for treatment after which he was left paralyzed. Dr Dolores Wolfaardt from IOL and Dr Zietsmann from the Dr AB May Cancer Care Centre approached the Cancer Association of Namibia to assist with a custom made wheelchair. The wheelchair is specially made to the measurements of Sakeus and cost N\$25 400. The Quinton-Steele Botes Cancer Fund agreed to assist with the financial cost. Sakeus is currently in remission and is studying to complete his Grade 12 with the assistance of the Institute of Open Learning.

The Quinton-Steele Botes Cancer Fund has helped over 30 patients to the total amount of N\$250 000-00. Quinton-Steele stated that he is pleased to be able to change someone’s life. He encouraged Sakeus to complete his studies and empower himself. Sakeus in return thanked the Cancer Association of Namibia and the Quinton-Steele Botes Cancer Fund for giving him the opportunity to live an independent life again. He also feels it is important to help other cancer patients who has been newly diagnosed to stay positive and walk the road to recovery.

In the picture (left to right): Quinton-Steele Botes, Sister Nellie Coetzee of the Cancer Association of Namibia, Dr Dolores Wolfaardt of IOL, (in front) Sakeus Haimbodi