

The Colombian-US missile attack in Ecuador, the US 4th Fleet in the Caribbean, the US-backed secessionist push in the Venezuelan state of Zulia, the US-backed, illegal referendum by the rebel oligarchs in the state of Santa Cruz to secede from Bolivia, the threat by US Ambassador Brownfield (formerly in Venezuela, now in Colombia) to relocate the US air base in Manta to La Guajira on the Venezuelan border, the baseless media show of *FARC* laptops in an attempt to label Venezuela with 'state sponsored terrorism' and on and on it goes. *Axis of Logic* writer-analyst, Ramón Santiago summed it up in an [article](#) last week on the new US strategy to achieve regional dominance.

Now we have a so-called US 'counter-narcotics' plane invading Venezuelan airspace on Saturday. It was in fact a US Navy war jet and it happened just two days after the US-backed Colombian funded troops crossed the border into Venezuela. The jet flew close to Venezuela's military base at the Venezuelan island of La Orchila and near the residence of President Chávez. La Orchila is also the island where President Chávez was taken and held prisoner during the failed, US-backed coup in 2002. This all adds up to one thing: a systematic strategy to bully, threaten and ultimately bring down the government of the *Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*. Venezuelan Defence Minister Gustavo Rangel nailed it: "This is just the latest step in a series of provocations."

The *US Joint Interagency Task Force South* issued a statement saying their "operations lost navigational situational awareness", admitting they penetrated Venezuelan airspace and they "greatly appreciated as they [the Venezuelan air force] rendered assistance in guiding the US aircraft to international airspace". What the US calls 'rendering assistance' was in fact, the *Venezuelan Government* demanding that they get the hell out of Venezuela. Now the *Venezuelan Government* is demanding an explanation for this added provocation by the *US Government* and they won't be satisfied with supercilious words about losing 'navigational situational awareness'.

As we approach the critical Venezuelan regional elections in November, we can expect added layers to these manifold, invasive maneuvers. All this points to an attempt to suck Venezuela into a military response, giving the US pretext for military action against Venezuela. They are using the same threatening strategy in the *Strait of Hormuz*, in their lust for war with Iran.

Given the history of the *Bush administration*, it is not difficult to imagine a plan for a US military assault on Venezuela to be followed by *UN Blue Helmets* to 'restore order', opening the way for eventual US control of Venezuela's petroleum reserves. One of the sickening sidelines is that the small gang of US funded opposition thugs in Venezuela would welcome such an invasion of their own country.

The Bush regime may be foolish enough to think that they can do here what they did to the poor, defenseless Haitians in 2004. Neither, the Venezuelanos nor their Bolivarian neighbors will allow that to happen here. Should the Bush-Uribe regime be stupid enough to make such a move in Venezuela, they will learn what "'losing situational awareness' really means. It will be another brick in their crumbling wall - a list of failures to defeat, not President Chávez, but the Venezuelan people. In Venezuela, they will be in for a fight that will make Iraq look like 'the cakewalk' they thought it would be. They should be absolutely certain that Venezuelanos will not be welcoming them with flowers and their world-renown chocolates."²

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² The immediate response of the *Bolivian Government* was to up the stakes by activating a key clause in an agreement signed between the *Islamic Republic of Iran* and the *Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* in March 2007 for the creation of a *Venezuelan-Iranian Binational Bank* to finance economic, commercial and social programs and projects for the benefit of the peoples of Iran and Venezuela. The *Bolivarian News Agency (ABN)* reported a notice in the *Approbatory Law* (Official Gazette No. 38,933, dated May 19, 2008) that the bank's headquarters will be in Teheran with initial reserves of \$1.2 billion supplied equally by Iran and Venezuela from capital set aside for the creation of the *Venezuelan-Iranian Binational Fund for Development Financing* and the *Venezuelan-Iranian Investment Fund*, headquartered in Caracas. [Ed].