

## Week 10 of the war against Iran

### Introduction

This is my analysis of week 10 of the war against Iran. I build on the conversation I had last week with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdulwahid Abu Ras of the Republic of Yemen and the latest international development. Minister Abdulwahid Abu Ras pointed out that the Axis of Resistance has projects that can be worked on with the Latin continent—in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and other countries. It is possible to work on that and to draw a roadmap in this direction for cooperation and coordination to face the arrogance and imperialism, and the "Mother Problem" represented by American imperialism.

### The link between Cuba and Iran

On May 1st Trump signed an executive order to impose new sanctions on Cuba. It is intended to fabricate a humanitarian crisis situation to justify far more dangerous actions, including a military aggression against Cuba. In that order Trump makes a clear connection to the war against Iran. He says in the same order: *"In Operation Midnight Hammer, President Trump decisively eliminated Iran's nuclear weapons capability via targeted military strikes, escalated sanctions, and intelligence operations. Operation Epic Fury successfully completed all of its military objectives in less than six weeks. Iran no longer poses the nuclear and terror threat it did, and no longer has the nuclear ambitions it held before. Now, the U.S. naval blockade and Operation Economic Fury have dissipated Iran's economy."*

But the reality is that Iran is stronger than ever because of the war. Iran's victory over the U.S. has inaugurated a new reality. On Wednesday May 7 Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi visited China. After meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, he said that Beijing viewed Iran as being different now compared with before the war, with a stronger international position and proven capabilities.

On April 4 a broad range of intellectuals signed a Declaration to the Conscience of Humanity. It outlines the role that Iran is now playing in changing the course of world history. It says: *"Iran is the final frontier. If it falls, the hope of a better, enlightened future for the world dies with it. We cannot let that happen. The aggression against Iran is part of a system of global power that oppresses all of us."*

As Minister Abdulwahid Abu Ras explains: *"This war began to end with a completely different reality; this is a strategic battle; this is a clash of projects. One of the projects must remain in the region; both projects cannot remain."*

If Iran falls, it will have a major impact on Cuba and Venezuela. They are leaders of the Axis of resistance of Latin America, Latin Abya Yala. If Iran wins, it will change the reality of these countries.

### Venezuela

Venezuela is the country that is suffering enormously, because the U.S. is strangling the political and economic system. It has no effect military means of confronting the U.S. so the only instrument it has is political maneuvering in a very complex situation.

The U.S. Treasury and State Department have taken a hands-on role in managing Venezuela's oil exports. Proceeds from oil sales are no longer sent directly to the Venezuelan Central Bank. Instead, they are routed through U.S.-supervised accounts (formerly in Qatar, now primarily managed by the U.S. Treasury). The U.S. is using global commodity giants like Vitol Group and Trafigura Group to market and sell existing

Venezuelan oil stocks. Venezuela gets part of the proceeds, depending on the negotiations with the U.S.. But there is another strange side to this deal. Venezuela used to sell its oil to China at massive discounts—often \$30 to \$35 below the market price. This was because China was one of the few buyers willing to bypass U.S. sanctions, and their refineries demanded a huge "risk premium" for taking the oil. Now Venezuela is selling oil at closer to market value. When China refused to buy Venezuelan oil at these prices, Indian refineries stepped in to pay higher, more competitive rates. Some people on the left criticize the Venezuela government for not confronting the U.S. more aggressively. This critique does not take into account that the Venezuela government has a gun pointed at her head with no effective defense. If Venezuela decides to go to the offensive and confronts the U.S., how will this end militarily? That is the question we should ask. Iran has been preparing for a war with the U.S. for 40 years and built underground facilities for the final battle. So Venezuela has to move under these very difficult circumstances to get the best for its population with political means, not with military confrontation. It is not easy. Take the question of the relation with the IMF. In 2019 the IMF put a freeze on the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of Venezuela. Each country has ownership rights of the IMF funds of SDR, which is worth US\$ 5 billion. Venezuela has now officially re-engaged with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is actively pursuing the release of its Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). On April 16, 2026, the IMF officially announced the resumption of dealings with Venezuela. This ended a seven-year freeze. Within 24 hours of the IMF's decision, the World Bank also restored ties, paving the way for Venezuela to reintegrate into the global financial system. Some ultra leftish criticize Venezuela for re-engaging with the IMF referring to previous statements by Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro against the IMF. Those statements concerned the IFM economic programs that reform the economy. This is about securing Venezuela's legitimate SDR funds. The U.S. is trying to recolonize Venezuela. The Bolivarian government is trying to fight that project. But she stands pretty alone. The superpowers of China and Russia will give symbolic support, but are not going to confront the U.S. militarily. As Minister Abdulwahid Abu Ras mentioned, Russia is completely preoccupied with its battle in Ukraine. China's starting points come from economic foundations. We are not in the shoe's of the Venezuelan government and don't know the immense pressures that heaped upon them daily. For now they try to bargain the best in the interest of its people and wait for better times. Those times may come when the U.S. is finally defeated in Western Asia.

## **Cuba**

Cuba is a different story. While Trump might not want to change the government in Venezuela and prefers to act with pressure, he has no options for Cuba than ultimately invade the country. There is no oil in Cuba. There is no economic interest for the U.S.. There is a political interest which is killing the inspiration that the Cuban revolution is for millions of people across the globe. The executive order of May 1, 2026, is preparing the way for this option.

In Venezuela the population is very much divided in the support for the Bolivarian project. The presidential votes for Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro varied between 50 and 60%. There is still a large percentage of the electorate that did not vote for them. The political system of Venezuela is based on multiparty elections.

In Cuba the political system is more robust. The political education for decades has created a more solid support for the Cuban revolution. There is not political alternative for the Cuban Communist Party. So a military invasion and a brutal occupation is the only way to break the system. But the U.S. will start this war, Russia and China will criticize the U.S. but will not confront the empire as Iran is doing now militarily.

Whether or not the U.S. is willing to start this adventure in Cuba will depend on how the war in Western Asia goes.

The Declaration to the Conscience of Humanity calls upon all people to join in mobilizing against U.S. imperialism, not only in Western Asia. It says: *"The aggression against Iran is part of a system of global power that oppresses all of us. We cannot afford to stand by and watch arrogant authoritarianism running amok. Our very future depends on the success of Iran."*

Now is the time to step up our support for Iran, Venezuela and Cuba.

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