

Does US hold secret indictment over Venezuela's Delcy?

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal previews his report on the mafia tactics the Trump administration is using to twist the arm of Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez. Read it here:

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#Max

Very quickly, I wanted to touch on Venezuela. I just heard from a friend who was at a gathering of oil industry executives. I'll be reporting on this a little bit later. It was not an on-the-record meeting, and none of them are particularly interested in going into Venezuela. They consider it an unstable environment. They were not pushing for this. It really was the Gusano Industrial Complex based in South Florida that, for ideological reasons, wanted regime change in Venezuela—wanted the operation that saw Nicolás Maduro, the UN-recognized president of Venezuela, and his wife, Cilia Flores, kidnapped. Following that kidnapping, Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is the de facto leader of the Gusano Industrial Complex, announced that the new acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, would do whatever they wanted.

So there was no regime change. They just threatened Delcy Rodríguez and the Chavista movement, and the PSUV party that controls the government, with another military invasion and possibly their own assassinations if they didn't pass a new hydrocarbon law—one that would invalidate the reforms to the PDVSA state oil company of Venezuela enacted by Hugo Chávez in 2007, and make it possible for the U.S. to serve as a custodian of Venezuela's oil profits in a private account in Qatar, held outside the purview of the American public. A very Epstein-like arrangement—unregulated, corrupt, a slush fund. But the Venezuelan leadership had very little choice here unless they wanted to go to war with the United States again. And they're being promised some kind of sanctions relief.

There will be revenue. Delcy Rodríguez was essentially forced to meet with CIA Director John Ratcliffe, who reportedly told her to eject the Russians, to start canceling business deals with Russian companies like Lukoil and Rosneft, which are involved in the Orinoco oil belt, to cancel deals with China around Belt and Road infrastructure, mining, and so on—to deal with the U.S. exclusively, at the point of a gun. Newsmax, which is a ratchet right-wing quasi-news propaganda network that

answers to the White House and is sponsored by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, run by longtime conservative hatchet man Chris Ruddy, has sent a reporter to Caracas who may be the first to interview Delcy Rodríguez. This will not be journalism.

It'll be an interview conducted at the point of a gun, essentially—literal information warfare. So you have to kind of pity the position the Venezuelan leadership finds itself in as they try to hold on to the social programs and the communes they established starting under Chávez, and to be able to plow some of the revenue they're going to receive back into the social sector. That's something Delcy Rodríguez has announced she's going to do. But you also have to question what kind of leverage the U.S. regime has over Delcy Rodríguez, which they're using to extract these kinds of major concessions. And one of them, of course, is the threat of military invasion. But I actually think—and I'll be reporting on this hopefully by tomorrow—my schedule is kind of tight.

But I've gathered some information on this. I think there's a possibility that the U.S. has a secret indictment of Delcy Rodríguez. And it's the same thing the U.S. has used to twist the arms of Latin American leaders before her. There was also Lenín Moreno, one of the biggest sellouts in Latin American history, who was vice president under Rafael Correa in Ecuador when the pink tide was at its height—the sort of social democratic pink tide—who sold out Correa and then helped participate in the jailing of Assange, as well as the jailing of Jorge Glas, the sellout of the entire Correísta movement. What was being held over his head were documents demonstrating corruption, known as the INA Papers.

Corruption, I think, in the oil sector in Ecuador. And it was eventually released anyway in 2019, after he died—after he was leaving the stage. So they were always going to come out with it. Just like the indictment against Maduro, which also names Diosdado Cabello. They're using that indictment as leverage against an active minister in the Venezuelan government, Diosdado Cabello. There was also a secret indictment of Julian Assange. Remember when Assange was in the Ecuadorian embassy and James Ball from The Guardian—this former WikiLeaks mole—came out and said, "Julian Assange has nothing to fear"? And Julian Assange was saying all along, "There's a secret indictment, there's a secret indictment." And they called him crazy.

The secret indictment was authored and introduced in a Northern Virginia federal court the day after, or the same day, the CIA learned that Julian Assange was planning to escape from the embassy to a third country. So, secret indictments are something the DOJ uses to extract concessions and control leaders, probably around the globe. And I think we need to question whether there's one hanging over the head of Delcy Rodríguez, who helped restructure PDVSA to beat sanctions. You know, when you hear, "Oh, the criminal Delcy Rodríguez," or "the crimes of the Venezuelan state, the criminal Venezuelan state," you'll see that in all these State Department-backed, phony journalism groups like OCCRP and Armando Info.

The crimes are just them circumventing sanctions, and the sanctions are the real crime. So you set them up with sanctions, and then when they try to get around them—as Delcy Rodríguez effectively

and masterfully did, actually growing Venezuela's economy under massive sanctions through oil sales, through a ghost fleet, just like Iran has to have—you have to have a ghost fleet of ships to get your oil out. Then you sell it at bargain-basement rates to countries like China just to keep your country alive, to keep it from collapsing under U.S. sanctions. Then they accuse you of crimes because you're cheating. But the real crime is the sanctions. And who authorized the sanctions? Nobody but the Treasury Secretary.

It's not like they go to the U.N. Security Council or the U.N. General Assembly and ask for a vote on sanctions. That doesn't happen. These are unilateral acts of financial terrorism. So now the CIA is coming back to Venezuela—they've announced that. One of the things I think they're going to do is get their tentacles into PDVSA and look for ways to build up allegations of dirt and crime to keep twisting the arms of the Venezuelan leadership. There are all these rumors being spread about Alex Saab, who also helped circumvent sanctions and helped create the CLAP program that kept Venezuelans fed under sanctions, often with free food and free meals.

There are rumors that he's been arrested. I've been told by multiple sources that those rumors are false. But, you know, who knows what could be planned? And then there's the María Corina Machado case—the radical opposition, which has been iced out by Trump for now, is trying to organize protests and has called for the student sector to come out and demonstrate. So they're trying to create destabilization inside Venezuela, to make it harder for this government to even govern with the U.S. twisting its arm. Which is interesting, because the María Corina Machado opposition—the radical, formerly State Department-backed opposition—is actually threatening its own relationship with Trump and Rubio here.

And why do I think there could be a secret indictment? Well, here's one clue—but I'll introduce more later. I don't like to telegraph punches, but, you know, I'm here anyway. This is a quote from David Smilde, who they just say is a Tulane University professor who studied Venezuela. But no, this guy's been consulting on regime change for a long time, in addition to, I think, attacking The Grayzone because we got in their way. Just being a leader in a highly corrupted regime for over a decade. Remember, it's "highly corrupted" because they don't play ball.

They actually circumvent sanctions, and that distorts the state. It makes it logical that she—Delcy Rodríguez—is a priority target for investigation, said David Smilde, a Tulane University professor who has studied Venezuela for three decades. She surely knows this, and it gives the U.S. government leverage over her. She may fear that if she doesn't do as the Trump administration demands, she could end up with an indictment like Maduro. So, pretty clear clue there. The DOJ, the Treasury Department, and the Pentagon are teaming up to terrorize Venezuela, but they haven't yet achieved regime change. So it's something to keep an eye on, and we'll be reporting more.