



Report

Peru -- Leaders Claim ALBA Penetration, Point To Opposition

A recent spate of Peruvian press reports allege widespread penetration of domestic social and political groups by Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) member states and affiliated entities. President Garcia's administration has used the controversy to support its claim that Peru is under attack from an ALBA-directed "conspiracy" and has linked the supposed threat to opposition leader Ollanta Humala as well as to NGOs.

Peruvian media outlets in recent weeks have reported on alleged penetration of domestic social and political groups by ALBA members, notably Venezuela. These reports, citing government assessments and legislative commissions, echo the Garcia administration's insistence that Peru is under attack from an international "conspiracy" headed by Venezuela and Bolivia.

- In early July *El Comercio*, Peru's highest-circulation and most influential daily, revealed that since 2006 Peruvian intelligence services have tracked the "strong penetration by entities sponsored by the Venezuelan Government" of various Peruvian "social, union, and partisan groups." Claiming to have seen the original intelligence report, the daily asserted that ALBA-related groups -- including so-called "ALBA houses" meant to spread "21st century socialism" -- were serving as "spearheads" for Caracas.^{1 2}
- *El Comercio* named as "operators" for the "broad front of Bolivarian entities" in Peru a former Venezuelan Minister of Information and Communication, Andres Guillermo Izarra Garcia, and an Argentine citizen, Fernando Ramon Bossi Rojas.³
- In an earlier report *El Comercio* claimed that Peruvian intelligence had uncovered a network of 15 provincial and district mayors with whom Venezuelan President Chavez had coordinated on establishing ALBA offices and who had made "suspicious" visits to Bolivia (8 July).⁴ *Expreso* -- like *El Comercio* a conservative, government-friendly daily -- simultaneously published a report that a legislative commission had found proof of "Chavist interference in Peru" linked to Venezuelan diplomat Virly Torres.⁵
- In late June Venezuelan citizen Jose Francisco Arque Cordova was arrested for participating in violent antigovernment demonstrations; labeling him a Venezuelan "spy," Garcia cited him as evidence of a "cold war"-style "conspiracy" against Peru (elcomercio.com.pe, 30 June; acpi.gob.pe, 1 July).^{6 7} *El Peruano*, a government gazette, reported days later that Congress' Intelligence Committee had found links between these "violent mobilizations" and Bolivarian entities as well as the FARC.⁸

<p>This OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components.</p>
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Garcia's administration -- facing dwindling approval ratings due to its handling of recent antigovernment demonstrations^a -- is taking advantage of the media spotlight to tie this "conspiracy" to domestic opposition groups, particularly its highest-profile nemesis, Peruvian National Party (PNP) leader and potential 2011 presidential candidate Ollanta Humala.

- On 23 July Garcia's APRA party and other parties reacted with alarm to an *Expresso* report that Humala had plans to "join forces" with Peru's longstanding insurgent groups, Shining Path (SL) and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). Citing Humala's statements that those groups were "no longer a threat" and "cannot be considered terrorist groups anymore," legislators questioned Humala's patriotism and accused him of allegiance to Venezuelan ideology instead.^{9 10}
- This backlash was particularly strong because *El Comercio* had reported earlier that the 15 Peruvian mayors who had ties to the Bolivarian movement and to Venezuela also belonged to Humala's PNP.¹¹ Legislators were also aware of the daily's claim that other domestic left-wing groups were associated with SL, MRTA, and the FARC.¹²
- Humala -- who denied that he had any plans to join forces with SL or MRTA (RPP, 22 July)¹³ -- had also derided Garcia's conspiracy claims, accusing the president of "saying all these lies to cover his shame" at the violence that erupted during early June antigovernment demonstrations (larepublica.pe, 22 July).¹⁴ Humala's party had also angered top political leaders because one of its members called a press conference for a far-left group that made statements supporting the MRTA (RPP, 22 July).¹⁵

Garcia Administration Expanding Charges Beyond Governments to Include NGOs

Not content to blame Peru's problems solely on neighboring governments, Garcia's administration has also lashed out at NGOs for allegedly supporting the anti-Peru "conspiracy."

- Following the June demonstrations, Vice President Giampetri denied that the disturbances could have been "internal improvisations, [because] there are external ingredients that come from [other] countries as well as NGOs" (rpp.com.pe, 22 June).¹⁶ Garcia himself subsequently told a group of Peru's ambassadors that his government was being targeted by "some NGOs that have carried out a systematic [mis]information campaign and have filled blogs in the outside world" (acpi.gob.pe, 1 July).¹⁷
- By "NGOs" Garcia could be referring to the various Bolivarian entities that his intelligence services reportedly claim have penetrated domestic social and political groups, as well as to international NGOs such as Survival International, which has labeled the June disturbances "the Amazon's Tiananmen" and published a series of

^a For more information on the demonstrations, subsequent strikes, and their domestic and international political fallout, see the 27 July OSC Analysis, *Peru -- Government Measures Derail Strike's Impact; Challenges Ahead* (LAF20090727053003) and the 18 June OSC Analysis, *Peru-Bolivia -- Economic Differences Fueling Bilateral Acrimony* (LAF20090618206002).

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graphic reports that side clearly with the protesters against the government.¹⁸

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¹ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090709209001 | 9 July 2009 | "Peruvian Intelligence Had Warned of Bolivarian Penetration in Peru since 2006," *El Comercio* | (U)]

² [Open Source (Not OSC) | <http://www.elcomercio.com.pe/noticia/311706/inteligencia-alerto-sobre-penetracion-bolivariana-peru-desde-2006> | 9 July 2009 | "Inteligencia alertó sobre penetración bolivariana en el Perú desde el 2006," *El Comercio* | (U)]

³ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090709209001 | 9 July 2009 | "Peruvian Intelligence Had Warned of Bolivarian Penetration in Peru since 2006," *El Comercio* | (U)]

⁴ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090708209001 | 8 July 2009 | "Intelligence Report Includes 15 Nationalist Party Mayors in Bolivarian Network," *El Comercio* | (U)]

⁵ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090708209001 | 8 July 2009 | "Congressional Report Confirms Chavist Interference in Domestic Affairs," *Expreso* | (U)]

⁶ [Open Source (Not OSC) | <http://www.elcomercio.com.pe/noticia/307711/policia-detiene-venezolano-que-incitaba-violencia-durante-paro-transportes> | 30 June 2009 | "Detienen a venezolano que incitaba a la violencia en paro de transportes," *El Comercio* | (U)]

⁷ [Open Source (Not OSC) | http://www.apci.gob.pe/contenido_noticias.php?ID=3958 | 1 July 2009 | "Presidente Alan García, se reunió con el Canciller y Embajadores del Perú en el Exterior," government-sponsored Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation | (U)]

⁸ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090702209001 | 2 July 2009 | "Alleged Link Between FARC, Social Demonstrations Under Investigation," *El Peruano* | (U)]

⁹ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090722206005 | 22 July 2009 | "Humala Wants to Reach Agreements with Shining Path and MRTA," *Expreso* | (U)]

¹⁰ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090724206001 | 24 July 2009 | "Humala: Shining Path and MRTA Are Not a Threat to the Constitutional State," *El Comercio, Expreso, Correo, Peru 21* | (U)]

¹¹ [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090708209001 | 8 July 2009 | "Intelligence Report Includes 15 Nationalist Party Mayors in Bolivarian Network," *El Comercio* | (U)]

¹² [OSC | Highlights: Peru Press | LAP20090709209001 | 9 July 2009 | "Peruvian Intelligence Had Warned of Bolivarian Penetration in Peru since 2006," *El Comercio* | (U)]

¹³ [OSC | Program Summary: Lima Radio Programas del Peru Spanish | LAP20090723018001 | 22 July 2009 | "Newspaper of the Airwaves,' 23. 26:54," Radio Programas del Perú (RPP), independent news radio station | (U)]

¹⁴ [Open Source (Not OSC) | <http://www.larepublica.pe/politica/22/07/2009/humala-niega-que-las-protestas-indigenas-sean-conspiracion-externa> | 22 July 2009 | "Humala niega que las protestas indígenas sean conspiración externa," *La República*, moderate center-left daily | (U)]

¹⁵ [OSC | Program Summary: Lima Radio Programas del Peru Spanish | LAP20090723018001 | 22 July 2009 | "Newspaper of the Airwaves,' 23. 26:54," Radio Programas del Perú (RPP), independent news radio station | (U)]

¹⁶ [Open Source (Not OSC) | http://www.rpp.com.pe/2009-06-22-giampietri-afirma-que-paises-extranjeros-promueven-protestas-en-el-pais-noticia_189902.html | 22 June 2009 | "Giampietri afirma que países extranjeros promueven protestas en el país," *RPP* | | (U) |]

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¹⁷ [Open Source (Not OSC) | http://www.apci.gob.pe/contenido_noticias.php?ID=3958 | 1 July 2009 | "Presidente Alan García, se reunió con el Canciller y Embajadores del Perú en el Exterior," government-sponsored Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation | (U)]

¹⁸ [Open Source (Not OSC) | <http://www.survival-international.org/news/countries/peru> | Accessed 27 July 2009 | Survival International: News by Country: Peru | (U)]

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