

# Canadian 'Aid' to Venezuela Part of Plan to Overthrow Government

By [Yves Engler](#)

Global Research, February 26, 2019

[Yves Engler](#) 23 February 2019

Region: [Canada](#), [Latin America & Caribbean](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

*If more people understood that "aid" often goes hand in hand with military intervention there would be less uncritical support for it.*

An important, though little acknowledged, principle of Canadian 'aid' policy is that military intervention elicits international assistance. Or, in the case of Venezuela 'aid' is a tool being used to stoke military conflict.

In fact, a long-standing element of foreign policy is that wherever Canadian and US troops kill Ottawa provides 'aid'. This military-intervention-equals-aid pattern dates back at least to the 1950-53 Korean War when the south of that country was a major recipient of Canadian assistance. Canadian 'aid' [flowed](#) to south Vietnam during the U.S. war there and to [Grenada](#) after the 1983 US invasion. During the 1990-91 Iraq war Canada provided [\\$75 million](#) in assistance to people in countries affected by the Gulf crisis. Hundreds of millions of dollars flowed into Haiti after Canadian troops helped overthrow the country's elected government in 2004. In the years after the invasions, Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti were the top three recipients of Canadian 'aid'. A sizable proportion of the \$2 billion in 'aid' Canada spent in Afghanistan was a public relations exercise to justify the war.

The intervention-equals-aid pattern is an outgrowth of the primary objective of Canadian overseas assistance, which is to advance Western interests, particularly keeping the Global South tied to the US-led geopolitical order (as [articulated](#) in 1950 when Ottawa began its first significant non-European allocation of foreign aid through the Colombo Plan).

Justin Trudeau announced Canada would deliver [\\$53 million](#) in 'aid' to Venezuelans at the most recent "Lima Group" meeting. The Ottawa gathering also called on the Venezuelan military to [oust](#) the elected president and urged the military not to impede humanitarian assistance from entering the country. The US and self-appointed interim president Juan Guaidó have made delivering 'aid' central to their campaign to oust Maduro. US military planes have transported hundreds of tons of 'aid' to the Colombian border City of Cucuta. To test the military's loyalty to the government, Guaidó announced plans to force 'aid' into the country. The US and Colombia clearly aimed exploit this moment to intervene.

Whether it reaches the point of armed confrontation, the 'aid' gambit is a public relations strategy. The aim is to exaggerate the scope of the economic downturn and to portray Nicolas Maduro as indifferent to the population's (real) hardships. The public relations campaign even included a "Live Aid" style Venezuela fundraiser put on by billionaire Richard Branson in Cucuta last night before Guaido said he will seek to force 'aid' into the country. The concert fizzled with only about 5,000 people showing up and some artists pulling out at

the last minute.

For their part, the International Red Cross and UN have [refused](#) to participate in the US led 'aid' endeavor. A UN spokesperson called Washington's 'aid' plan "politicised".

The politics driving the 'aid' deployment is obvious, but some progressives have been seduced by the label. In an internal memo responding to media backlash over their principled criticism of Ottawa's regime change efforts in Venezuela, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) said it [supports](#) the federal government's decision to increase humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans. But, the slow-moving coup attempt and Canadian 'aid' disbursements can't be separated. They are simply different parts of a single plan.

It's not uncommon for progressive organizations to support 'imperial aid' as a way to soften their criticism of international policies. At their 2006 convention, for instance, the NDP leadership sought to [temper](#) the "troops out" of Afghanistan demand pushed by activists by including language in the resolution that called for "support[ing] the continuation of development assistance to Afghanistan." But, the 'aid' there was obviously designed to support Canada's military occupation.

In the academic literature it's understood that the Canadian International Development Agency was "[not a policy](#) maker, but a policy taker." The dissolution of CIDA into Global Affairs Canada in 2013 further subordinated aid policy to foreign policy objectives.

Far and away the largest contribution announced, Canada's humanitarian assistance to Venezuela is not designed to alleviate suffering. Its aim is to overthrow the government, which may spark and/or require war. If that disastrous situation develops, we need to add the 'aid-leading-to-military intervention principle' to our critical foreign policy lexicon.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

*Featured image is from Yves Engler*

The original source of this article is [Yves Engler](#)

Copyright © [Yves Engler](#), [Yves Engler](#), 2019

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Yves Engler](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in

print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)