

Constructing the Deception of the Anti-Government “Protests” in Venezuela: A Photo Gallery

By [Dawgs Blog](#)

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Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#)

The polarized politics of Venezuela are again in the news as demonstrations by pro- (see the first photograph [below](#)) and anti-government forces are taking place, with, at this point, [four deaths](#): a government supporter; an opposition demonstrator; a police officer; and one of uncertain provenance.

But the foreign press is portraying these as evidence of bloody government repression.



Not to go over old ground, at least too much, but this manufactured crisis is a re-run. Anyone remember the [massive demo/counter-demo](#) at the Miraflores palace in 2002, the lead-up to a short-lived coup against Hugo Chávez?

[T]here were 19 fatalities that day. Seven of the dead had participated in the pro-Chávez demonstration, seven in the anti-Chávez demonstration, and five were non-partisan bystanders. Also, there were a total of 69 wounded that day. 38 in the pro-Chávez demonstration, 17 in the opposition demonstration, and 14 were reporters or unaffiliated passers-by.

That was all blamed on Chávez at the time, by the opposition and by much of the international press. Supposedly he ordered the military, and unidentified pro-Chávez thugs, to fire into the crowds of opposition demonstrators. As with the current unrest, it seems that the government side had remarkably poor aim.

There is no flabby pretense of “objectivity” on the part of the international media when it comes to Venezuela. That country poses a stark threat to the hegemonic order, characterized these days by tame Latin American states, emerging from US-backed military dictatorships, now gamely accepting neoliberal economic policies like good little boys and girls. Having enough oil wealth to say No to all that, Venezuela created its own counter-hegemonic partnership, [ALBA-TCP](#). And domestically, while all we hear about is [toilet-paper shortages](#) and [inflation](#), there has been substantial [progress on a number of fronts](#) for years now—a sharp reduction of dire poverty, major advances in education, reduced child mortality, and rapid steps taken towards gender equality, maternal health, and environmental protection.

You won’t read much about that in the mainstream foreign media.

Instead, we’ll hear about opposition grievances of all kinds, and we’ll get photographs, too, circulated on Twitter and sometimes picked up by big news outlets like CNN. Here are some brutal cops, with nice woolly caps and fur collars to guard against the 24°C Caracas weather, I assume.



And visiting police officers from Bulgaria:

"Tu y yo somos venezolanos mi pana" pic.twitter.com/dD4FAc1dPt

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MANIPULACIÓN

posted this image from Bulgaria on Wednesday.

And a casualty:

SMS YA CUBA TWITEA @YACUBATWITEA Follow

#SOS Represion en #Venezuela
#Urgente que esta foto le de la vuelta a mundo #12FVenezuelaPaLaCalle #Cuba pic.twitter.com/he9bN23E25

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RETWEETS 239 FAVORITOS 12

3:25 AM - 12 Feb 2014 → 3:25 AM - 12 Feb 2014 Flag media

Violencia y Destrucción Opositora

9 heridos y más de 6 horas de Guarimba dejó paso de Capriles por Mérida (+Fotos)

ARTICULO | ABRIL 11, 2013 - 9:47AM → ABRIL 11, 2013 - 9:47AM

Promedio: ★★★★★
Su voto: Algunos Usuarios: 5 (1 voto)
Yvive Mendel/Ramón David Fajardo/VVXZ Mundial los Andes

Autoridades señalaron como responsable de la revuelta a Capriles Radosnki, y como autores materiales al Movimiento 13 de Marzo y el Colectivo Juventud Activa Venezuela Unida (JAVU), quienes borrachos arremetieron en contra de

But the victim here was a pro-Chavez demonstrator: and the picture was taken last year.

Here's a re-purposed photo actually taken in Argentina:

Condena millonaria al estado Argentino por muertes del 2001

"El Estado es responsable por el hecho dañoso, pues el fallecimiento de Cristian Gómez y de Maximiliano Tasca fue consecuencia directa del uso del arma que la Policía Federal Argentina proveyó a uno de sus agente".



FOTO VERDADERA



Ana Miranda @Anaais5 · 6 h
Dicen que con el tiempo se pierde el miedo... pic.twitter.com/YV8VdM9yY



12:13 · 14 de feb. de 2014 · Detalles ·

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161

FAVORITOS

81

FOTO MONTADA

And here's a photo from Chile:



Here's an unfortunate fellow, shot in April and then again in the exact-same way during the current protests:



This one is so iconic! But [CNN had to admit](#) that the graphic photo was actually taken in Singapore:



Here's one from Greece:



And here's an absolutely shameless steal from Egypt: this photo became known world-wide during the Arab Spring:

Rafael @rafaelemiro

#sosvenezuela @CNNEE @NTN24 asi trata la GNB a nuestras mujeres que protestan pacificamente pic.twitter.com/hwlkwBMVID

85 RETWEETS 3 FAVORITOS

3:51 PM - 17 abr 12

the guardian

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Image of unknown woman beaten by Egypt's military echoes around world

The arrest and brutal treatment of this young woman reminds us that the revolution is far from over.

Abdul Saeed
The Guardian, Sunday 18 December 2011 22:04 GMT
Jump to comments (410)

Egyptian soldiers beating and dragging a young woman during clashes in Tahrir Square. Her image has become the latest icon of the revolution. Photograph: Reuters...

Here's a heart-wrenching picture of babies in laundry-baskets, with the question, What kind of revolution is this? The photo is from Honduras:

Idania Chirinos @IdaniaChirinos

Esto es Venezuela...es el Hospital Central de Maracay! De qué revolución hablamos?

05/02/14 17:06

499 RETWEETS 30 FAVORITOS

LaPrensa.hn

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8 de noviembre de 2012

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Otros títulos de esta sección

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Polen a hondureños

Here's my personal fave: a religious procession, reincarnated as an anti-government protest:



OPOSICIÓN ES PURA FOTO FALSA O MANIPULADA, ASÍ SIEMBRAN ODIO O SE AUTOENGAÑAN

FOTO REAL en Panorama:

La Divina Pastora llegó a la Catedral de Barquisimeto tras multitudinaria procesión



Imagen de la Divina Pastora llegó a la Catedral de Barquisimeto tras multitudinaria procesión Barquisimeto, 14 Ene. AVN.- La imagen de la Divina Pastora, patrona espiritual de los larenses, llegó a finales de la tarde de este martes a la Catedral de Barquisimeto, luego de la multitudinaria procesión que se inició en la iglesia del pueblo de Santa Rosa, santuario de la Virgen.

El pueblo venezolano acompañó a la Virgen en todo su recorrido. Por cada lugar que pasó fue homenajeada con aplausos, cohetes, flores, lágrimas y muchas emociones.

Ronald Torrealba, que vive en el área central de Barquisimeto, caminó toda la procesión descalzo. Lo hizo como pago de promesa a la Divina Pastora. Contó que su hijo Ronald José nació prematuro, de 6 meses y pesó muy pocos gramos.

"Le pedí a la Virgen que el niño viviera y el milagro obró. Hoy Ronald José es un niño sano y yo pago este favor a la Divina Pastora haciendo la procesión a pie", relató.

The social media that make this stuff go viral, and even attract mainstream media like CNN, are also the means by which fakers are quickly unmasked. Readers are invited to contribute more links to this international cavalcade of anti-government protest and government brutality in the make-believe land called "Venezuela."

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