

Uruguay and Marijuana legalization: a new Tupamaros strategy ?

by Fabio Bernabei

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The consequences of what's happening in Uruguay are certainly not destined to remain within the boundaries of that South American nation and could have important consequences for the peoples all over the world.

The Uruguay left-wing government have decided to pass a national law, for now in the Lower House by a narrow margin (50 votes against 46), pending the vote in the Senate, which unilaterally wipe out the obligation to respect the rules and controls set under UN Conventions on Drugs, legitimizing the cultivation and sale of cannabis.¹

José Alberto Mujica Cordano, current head of State and Government, is the kingpin for this decisive turning-point against the population will who's for 63% contrary to the legitimacy of cannabis.²

The President Mujica Cordano, at the beginning of the parliamentary process to ratify that unjustified violation of international law, refused to meet the delegation of the International Narcotics Control Board-INCB, an independent body that monitors implementation of the UN Conventions on Drugs by the signatory States such as Uruguay.

The INCB, stated in an press release, in line with its mandate, "has always aimed at maintaining a dialogue with the Government of Uruguay on this issue, including proposing a mission to the country at the highest-level. The Board regrets that the Government of Uruguay refused to receive an INCB mission before the draft law was submitted to Parliament for deliberation"³. A one more (il)legal precedent disrespectful the International Community.

In an attempt to reassure the international public opinion, President José Mujica, told the Brazilian press his government will not allow unlimited use of marijuana and illicit drug dealing: "And if somebody buys 20 marijuana cigarettes, he will have to smoke them. He won't be able to sell

¹ <http://globovision.com/articulo/para-producir-cannabis-uruguay-planea-entregar-licencias-a-privados#.UfrRNQ4VB8U.twitter>

² www.elobservador.com.uy/septimodia/post/889/la-revolucion/

³ www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/pressrels/2013/unisnar1176.html

them".⁴ Amazing statement, unless you put a police officer to shadow each individual, legal, buyer, as long as he has smoked it all and he did it in moderation!

In order to convince the majority of the Uruguayan population, contrary to the legalization, the President Mujica has promised to launch at the same time "a campaign aimed at young people on how to consume marijuana. Avoid, for example, to smoke to not damage the lungs but inhale or consume it with food".⁵

Nothing new: the Pro-Legalizer Lobby is interested from the very beginning in the psychoactive effects of cannabis on the conscience of the people, to scale up drug use and to cause a social revolution in "interiore homine"⁶. But for that it's necessary do not have big health emergencies so to provoke a social alarm inside the public opinion that could spark a strong reaction of parents in defense of their kids as happened in some countries in the past times.

For the ideological anti-prohibitionist front⁷ the so called "Harm Reduction"⁸ of the drug use is a constant concern so to scheme a "pragmatic" strategy, seemingly far from the "ideal" one of the Hippy movement, which was codified in 1990 "Frankfurt Resolution".

An anti-prohibitionists stereotype, used by President Mujica Cordano, is also the cliché according to the promotion by the State of production and use of the drugs would defeat the illegal drug

⁴ www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/southamerica/uruguay/9347452/Uruguay-marijuana-sales-to-be-controlled-by-state.html

⁵ www.lastampa.it/2013/02/21/esteri/1-ultima-sfida-del-presidente-mujica-vi-insegno-come-usare-la-marijuana-9DqZIHkyZ7zAX1sA3cAL3K/pagina.html

⁶ The mass scale use of drugs initially, it's written in a essay published in 1976 by the italian anti-prohibitionist Ngo Gruppo Abele - "is linked to counter-culture movements by means of drugs and hallucinogens to create an alternative world to the Capitalism. According to the 'beat generation' leaders, as Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac, the psychedelic experience is a tool to break the constraints imposed by the System" by a bottom-up political process, in Bernabei, Fabio, Cannabis Medica, Sugarco, Milan, 2012, p. 113.

⁷ For the sociologist and italian Senator Luigi Manconi, anti-prohibitionists are to be understood as all those who "are in favor - for ideal or theoretical reasons and for legal and social reasons - of the legalization of production, distribution and consumption of those substances called psychoactive drugs, now banned» in Bernabei, Fabio, Cannabis Medica, Sugarco, Milan, 2012, p. 104.

⁸ In the words of Luigi Manconi, the "Harm Reduction" is nothing but "the containment of suffering physical, psychological and social, individual and collective, produced by the spread of drugs" that fosters an environment conducive to their legalization." in Bernabei, Fabio, Modern History of Drugs, Pages Editore, Rome, 2010, p.98.

trafficking, whereas each legalization in any part of the world has always created a "gray" market close to the "black" one which was never replaced by the "legal" market.⁹

The popular protests seem to push the Uruguayan government to hold a referendum on the new anti-prohibitionist legislation. For that reason the Open Society Foundation headed by the financier George Soros has announced the launch of a massive media campaign across the nation to manipulate the public consensus¹⁰.

Yesterday a social revolution by "armed propaganda" ... today by drugs?

How it is possible that a government violates international law and respect for human rights enshrined in the UN Conventions on Drugs in a such harsh way, you can tell by reading the biography on the official page of the President of Uruguay, José Mujica Cordano, cofounder of the '60 Movimiento de Liberación Nacional-MLN-Tupamaros, along with Raúl Sendic and others.

The Marxist inspired group practiced guerrilla warfare, along with every kind of crime: theft, robbery and kidnapping of people, by what they call "armed propaganda" in their manual of subversion "Nous les Tupamaros" (We, the Tupamaros).¹¹

Convicted of numerous crimes José Mujica will be arrested and his organization dismantled. Convicted of numerous crimes will serve fourteen years in jail until the general amnesty of 1985 enacted to reopen a national reconciliation and a new democratic season. José Mujica, who never abandoned his own ideals, once free gave life, with other leaders of the MLN and some sectors of the Left, to a new party: the Movimiento de Participación Popular (MPP).

⁹ The latest example comes from the USA. An Associated Press article (28.7.2013), reports the drug trafficking generated in the rest of the United States from those states where referenda have voted the creation of the "medical" marijuana industry. So neighboring states like Kansas have become reluctant way stations for the high-grade "medical" marijuana flowing across their borders, in addition to marijuana smuggled from Mexico. "Today - says Chris Bannister with the undercover narcotics division of the Wichita Police Department - about 85 percent of the marijuana seized is medical-grade and just 15 percent "traditional marijuana".

¹⁰ Time magazine (5.8.2013) tells us that «a massive media campaign, with television ads funded partly by Soros' Open Society Foundations group, were required to convince opponents of legalization» (cfr. <http://world.time.com/2013/08/05/high-times-in-montevideo-uruguay-enters-brave-new-world-of-pot-legalization/#ixzz2bTb9R19C>)

¹¹ Debray, Régis, Chopard-Lallier, Elisabeth, F. Maspero, Paris, 1971. The original text here: <http://etoilerouge.chez-alice.fr/docrevinter5/mlnt.pdf>

The Tupamaros, founded by the current President of Uruguay, represented a turning point in Latin America bringing the Terror firmly inside the cities with spectacular actions that gave them worldwide visibility: "The Tupamaros attracted a great deal of attention in the world media , but in final analysis the only result of their operations was the destruction of freedom in a country that is almost alone in Latin America, had an unbroken democratic tradition, however imperfect."¹²

More, the Tupamaros extolled the primacy of the intellectual propaganda, summed up in their slogan: "Las palabras nos separan, the acción nos une" (Words divide us, the action unites us)¹³. The ideology of Tupamaros was never presented in any single official document. In fact the Tupamaros actions, nor political statement or ideological platform, "were the way most important for the creation of a revolutionary consciousness".¹⁴

For their goals the Tupamaros argued it should be used every means, even the use of the violence, in their words, "a legitimate means, the more powerful tool and more effective way to gain power."¹⁵

Violence never indiscriminate or excessive to not frighten the public opinion in which they sought sympathy and support.

The Tupamaros, former or epigones, nowadays to set off a "revolutionary collective consciousness" seems to prefer the use of marijuana but with the foresight to put, at least nominally, some limitations.

This to avoid to be defeated, as happened in Italy, Sweden and the United States, by the popular reaction to the suffering, moral degradation and violence subsequent to the legalization laws pro "personal" drug use during the '60 and '70.

¹² Laquer, Walter, *The New Terrorism: Fanaticism and the Arms of Mass Destruction*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2000, p. 24

¹³ Huidobro, Eleuterio Fernandez, *Actas Tupamaras*, TAE Editorial, Madrid, 1989, p.36.

¹⁴ Porzecanski, Arturo, *Uruguay's Tupamaros, The Urban Guerrilla*, Praeger Publisher, New York, 1973, p.1.

¹⁵ Ivi, p.6.

The unprecedented attack to the International Law, and the disregards of the uruguayan people will, have obtained the same worldwide clamor of the violent actions of the Tupamaros led by, the now President, Mujica,

Imposing the production and sale of drugs as a Common Good to be protected by law is unquestionably, for all its possible consequences, the more "revolutionary" act never accomplished by Tupamaros in respect of International law, Human Rights and Core Democratic Values.

But the drug legalization is a key factor who anyone want a deep revolution inside a civil society. Legalize marijuana it's an important step, the Radical Party leader, Marco Pannella, told at the founding meeting of the International League Antiprohibitionist (LIA) in 1987, "as has been the introduction of the Divorce and Abortion laws"¹⁶.

That's because, the then European Commissioner, and now italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emma Bonino admitted: "in fact, on the question of drugs (old, new or brand new) you play one fundamental game. A challenge between two opposing political and cultural models. A comparison between two different kind of societies to be built. "

Pope Francis: “Do not let yourselves be robbed of hope!” Fight the drug legalization !

Pope Francis, following in predecessors footsteps, gave a warning about the danger of marijuana legalization in a speech during the Brazil Apostolic Journey: "The scourge of drug-trafficking, that favours violence and sows the seeds of suffering and death, requires of society as a whole an act of courage. A reduction in the spread and influence of drug addiction will not be achieved by a liberalization of drug use, as is currently being proposed in various parts of Latin America".¹⁷

In the same speech, the Holy Father invited all of us to consider that there is “a sure future, set against a different horizon with regard to the illusory enticements of the idols of this world, yet granting new momentum and strength to our daily lives” ([Lumen Fidei](#), 57).

¹⁶ Bernabei, Fabio, Cannabis Medica, Sugarco, Milan, 2012, p. 114.

¹⁷ Visit to Hospital San Francis of Assisi, Address of Pope Francis, Rio de Janeiro, 24 July 2013: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco_20130724_gmg-ospedale-rio_en.html

To all of you, I repeat: Do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! Do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! And not only that, but I say to us all: let us not rob others of hope, let us become bearers of hope!"¹⁸

Let us not "be robbed of hope" of a future that has "a different perspective" from the "illusory enticements of the idols" of the Tupamaros and High Finance and the Antiprohibitionist utopias.

In his Pastoral Handbook, the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care wrote on that topic: "We need to be able to identify and recognise the importance of drug lobbies, as well as the pressure they place on civil authorities and within the whole society, in order to fight them with the various weapons at our disposal: political, economic, and judicial; and, at national, regional and international levels.

In particular, it would be wise for all civil authorities, to set in place laws and norms to effectively fight at all levels the networks of drugs, refusing to decriminalise any use of them. Decriminalisation opens the door to total liberation, leading only to the perpetuation of drug addiction".¹⁹

Let us "become bearers of hope", and push stronger the fight against any kind of sale, free or for profit, authorized or illegal, of any drugs!

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¹⁸ Ivi.

¹⁹ "Church: drugs and drug addiction", Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, 2002, p. 69.