

**NICARAGUA'S THREAT:**

# Too Good For A Neoliberal COMMIE DEMOCRACY

With patented angst, in Noam Chomsky's own words, Nicaragua poses a threat of a good example to the US empire. Nicaragua is the second poorest country next to Haiti in the hemisphere. According to the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign which interfaces with British Trade Unions, since Ortega's return election victory in 2006, the Sandinista accomplishments include:

- + **Second highest** economic growth rates and most stable economy in Central America.
- + **Only country** in the region producing 90% of the food it consumes.
- + Poverty and extreme **poverty halved**; country with the greatest reduction of extreme poverty.
- + Reaching the UN Millennium Development Goal of **cutting malnutrition** by half.
- + **Free** basic healthcare and education.
- + Illiteracy **virtually eliminated**, down from 36% in 2006.
- + Average **economic growth** of 5.2% for the past 5 years (IMF and the World Bank).
- + **Safest country** in Central America (UN Development Program) with one of the lowest crime rates in Latin America.
- + **Highest level** of gender equality in the Americas (World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2017).
- + **Did not** contribute to the migrant exodus to the US, unlike neighboring Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
- + Unlike its neighbors, **kept out** the drug cartels and pioneered community policing.
- + The World Bank, IMF, and EU countries **have certified** Nicaragua for its effective use of international loans and grants; funds were spent for the purposes they were given, not siphoned off into corruption.
- + We can ask, "why a police force that in 39 years **had not repressed** the Nicaraguan people would suddenly go berserk?" Videos clearly show the violence of the more militant opposition.
- + Ortega won in 2006 with a 38% plurality, in 2011 with 63%, and 72.5% in 2016. The Organization of American States **officially accompanied** and certified the vote.

Get it? Before April 18, Nicaragua was among the most peaceful and stable countries in the region. The otherwise inexplicable violence that has suddenly engulfed Nicaragua should be understood in the context of it being targeted by the US for regime change for the good things it's done, not the bad. Noam Chomsky is indicative of a tendency in the North American left to accept a bit too readily the talking points of imperialist propaganda regarding the present-day Sandinistas. The Nicaraguan Party has bred its own Trotskyites who readily communicate with American leftists. (See Max Blumenthal on the Sandinista Renovation Movement (MRS) in Greenfuse # 186)

Chomsky's urging Nicaraguans on *Democracy Now!* to replace Ortega with new elections is not consistent with his forceful advocacy against US imperialist depredations in the Americas. Having such elections in Nicaragua would not only be unconstitutional but would further destabilize a profoundly destabilized situation. And in the end, given the unpopularity and disunity of the opposition facing the unity and organizational strength of the Sandinistas, Ortega would likely win.

The US sanctions enemies like Nicaragua until they submit to an idealistic list of certification steps which if obeyed would take the US financial boot off their throat and accept them to servile client state status. Things like having free elections, promoting democracy, strengthening rule of law, respecting freedom of expression, combating corruption, protecting the rights of **journalists, trade unionists, human rights defenders** and the **political**

**opposition.** None of these of course are acceptable to our own elites. The hypocritical kicker is the last line: *The President may waive such requirements in the U.S. national interest.* So if Ortega can scare up a couple billion bucks to buy our weapons the Sandinistas will be welcomed into the Community of Nations.

**Roger Harris**

is on the board of the *Task Force on the Americas*, an anti-imperialist human rights organization.

**Investigation.com**



Fourteen sailors from the nuclear reactor department of the aircraft carrier **Ronald Reagan** face disciplinary action in connection to LSD abuse, Navy officials confirmed this week. Two sailors from the reactor department of the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan are already heading to court-martial for using, possessing and distributing LSD, while three are waiting to see whether they will be charged as well, according to 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley. The remainder of the sailors with the Japan-based ship were administratively disciplined on LSD-related charges. Keiley said that a 15th sailor was also disciplined, but that person was not assigned to the carrier's reactor department, which has more than 400 personnel.

Accused sailors were removed from all duties pending the findings of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service probe. "Out of an abundance of caution, Ronald Reagan leadership reviewed the work previously performed by the accused sailors and no improper work was identified," Keiley said in an email to Navy Times.

Keiley declined to detail the ranks, ratings or charges that the administratively disciplined personnel faced, except the two actually charged. One is a Machinist's Mate Nuclear 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, charged with using, possessing and trafficking LSD. The second was an Electrician's Mate Nuclear 2<sup>nd</sup> Class also charged with distribution of LSD and for possessing nandrolone decanoate, an anabolic steroid. Japanese authorities were also investigating to discover whether the American sailors were *selling* or *getting* their LSD from local citizens. The *Ronald Reagan* is America's only aircraft carrier to be stationed outside the United States.

**Geoff Ziezulewicz**

A senior staff reporter for Military Times, focusing on the Navy. He covered Iraq and Afghanistan extensively and was most recently a reporter at the Chicago Tribune. He welcomes any and all kinds of tips at [geoffz@militarytimes.com](mailto:geoffz@militarytimes.com).

## Fletcher Law Offices

417 2nd Street, Suite 204, Eureka, CA 95501

[fletcher@lawca.us](mailto:fletcher@lawca.us)

(707) 502-2642



Fred Fletcher

Founder of the Humboldt Lawyer Apprentice Program

### SOLAR SUITES

Redway

- Massage / Body work
- Dance Studio
- Hypnotherapy
- Watershed Restoration
- Web Design
- Solar Supply
- Family Counseling

*Suites for the Sweet*  
1155 Redway Drive

**THE LOST FRENCHMAN**  
WOOD FIRED PIZZA

HUMBOLDT COUNTY CALIFORNIA

Wood fired Pizza, Paninis  
Juices & Smoothies

Fresh, Organic & Local  
(707) 923-2030  
Call in orders

3350 Redwood Drive Redway, Ca  
COME GET LOST

**CHAUTAUQUA**  
NATURAL FOODS

Open Mon-Sat 9am-7pm • Sundays 10am-5pm

Organic Foods • Vitamins • Herbs  
Body Care Products  
**(707) 923-2452**  
783 Locust St. Garberville, CA 95542