

RENACER

In August 2020 a document called Responsive Action in Nicaragua (RAIN) was leaked from the US Embassy in Managua. It set out a well-orchestrated plan to destabilise Nicaragua and to launch a further coup d'état attempt in advance of the elections due in the country in November this year.

With it looking increasingly likely that President Ortega and the FSLN will win the November elections (something which is borne out by recent independent polls), the US is now becoming desperate. In yet another attempt to try to sabotage the elections and prevent an FSLN victory, a bipartisan group of US Senators led by Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has introduced a bill that would apply more sanctions against Nicaragua on top of those in the 2018 Nica Act.

The stated purpose of the bill, which is entitled Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform, RENACER (which ironically is a Spanish word meaning 'To be reborn') is *"To advance the strategic alignment of United States diplomatic tools toward the realization of free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the people of Nicaragua, and for other purposes"*

In addition to imposing even more suffocating sanctions on Nicaragua, the bill would effectively block Nicaragua from international financial institutions and therefore from loans which are used for development and social programmes. Once again, it is the poorest in society who will suffer.

Most US Congress members have bought the striking media lies about Nicaragua in recent years. The US through USAID, NED and other government conduits has provided over 200 million dollars to the Nicaraguan opposition in recent years, much of it used both to further opposition lies to the media and to finance the attempted coup in 2018.

With this latest US initiative, concerns are growing that the US may try to impose a fake "interim president" as with Guaidó in Venezuela. At a recent event with right-wing Central American leaders, hosted by a US-government funded DC think tank, the Biden State Department's special envoy Ricardo Zúñiga referred to the opposition leader Cristiana Chamorro as President (before others replied 'Not yet! Not yet!')

Unlike its neighbours, very few people are leaving Nicaragua so it poses no migration problem for the US. It has the lowest homicide rate in Central America, no gangs or cartels. Multilateral funders (World Bank, IMF, Interamerican Development Bank, and the CABEL) have, without exception, praised the transparent management and the results of their loan portfolios. Yet it is Nicaragua that the US describes as an "unusual and extraordinary threat to US national security". This makes no sense. The vast majority of Nicaraguans want only to live in peace and to continue to enjoy the benefits such as free health, free education, affordable housing and decent jobs that they have enjoyed since Daniel Ortega and the FSLN were elected in 2007. They also want the right to elect the government of their own choosing rather than one imposed by the US.