

KASOWITZ, BENSON, TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP

1633 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019-6799

212-506-1700

FACSIMILE: 212-506-1800

HECTOR TORRES

PARTNER

212-506-1730

HTORRES@KASOWITZ.COM

ATLANTA

HOUSTON

MIAMI

NEWARK

SAN FRANCISCO

September 21, 2012

VIA E-MAIL

settysoutham.wordpress.com
E-mail: settysoutham@gmail.com
c/o Steven Bodzin
E-mail: s@stevenbodzin.com
Santiago, Chile

**Re: Derwick Associates Corporation, et al. v.
Venezolano de Credito, S.A., Banco Universal, et al.**

Dear Mr. Bodzin:

We represent plaintiffs Derwick Associates Corporation, Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez and Pedro Trebbau Lopez ("Plaintiffs") in the above action (the "Action").

As alleged in the Complaint (Exhibit A hereto), defendants Venezolano De Credito, S.A., Banco Universal, Oscar Garcia Mendoza, Rafael Alfonzo Hernandez and John Does 1-10 ("Defendants") are exploiting the Internet website www.Wikianticorruptcion.com (the "WAC Website") to disseminate false and defamatory information concerning Plaintiffs for the unlawful and malicious purpose of attempting to harm Plaintiffs' personal, professional and business reputations. The Complaint further alleges that, through the WAC Website, Defendants wrongfully and maliciously accuse Plaintiffs of, among other things, committing serious crimes, including, but not limited to, money laundering, fraud, extortion and the theft of hundreds of millions of dollars. Plaintiffs have asserted claims against Defendants for defamation, tortious interference, deceptive and unfair trade practices, civil conspiracy, and are seeking damages and injunctive relief.

On June 2, 2012 you re-posted on your website, <http://settysoutham.wordpress.com>, a snapshot of a October 10, 2011 article entitled "The Mysterious Contractors for Power Plants in Venezuela" (Exhibit B hereto) (the "Article"), that originally was posted on the website <http://devilsexcrement.com> (the "DE Website"). The Article -- which contains certain of the false and defamatory statements concerning Plaintiffs that appear on the WAC Website and are the subject of the Action -- remains accessible on your website and can be found at settysoutham.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/devils-deleted-post.pdf.

settrysoutham.wordpress.com

c/o Steven Bodzin

September 21, 2012

Page 2

The original author of the article already has removed that page from the DE Website after being informed that the page was littered with false and defamatory information about Plaintiffs. Accordingly, we request that you also immediately remove the Article.

This matter is particularly time-sensitive because the damages being caused by Defendants are ongoing and increasing. As a result, Plaintiffs intend to take all steps necessary and appropriate to protect their legal, financial, and other rights, including, but not limited to, seeking any appropriate injunctive relief. In making these requests, Plaintiffs do not waive any of their legal rights or remedies, all of which are preserved.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Hector Torres

Enclosures

EXHIBIT A

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO. _____

12-36297 CA 11

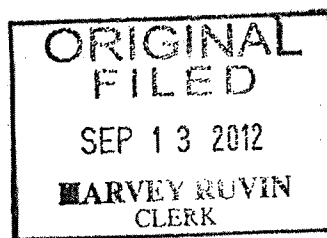
DERWICK ASSOCIATES CORPORATION,
LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT
LOPEZ and PEDRO TREBBAU LOPEZ,

Plaintiffs,

v.

VENEZOLANO DE CREDITO, S.A.,
BANCO UNIVERSAL, OSCAR GARCIA
MENDOZA, RAFAEL ALFONZO
HERNANDEZ and JOHN DOES 1-10,

Defendants.



COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Derwick Associates Corporation (“Derwick”), Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez (“Betancourt”) and Pedro Trebbau Lopez, (“Trebbau”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), by and through their attorneys, Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP, for their Complaint against defendants Venezolano De Credito, S.A., Banco Universal (“Banco Venezolano”), Oscar Garcia Mendoza (“Garcia Mendoza”), Rafael Alfonzo Hernandez (“Alfonzo Hernandez”) and John Does 1-10 (collectively, “Defendants”), allege, upon personal knowledge as to themselves and otherwise upon information and belief, as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This action arises from Defendants’ egregiously false and defamatory statements concerning Plaintiffs, which are being posted on the Internet website www.Wikianticorruccion.org (the “WAC Website”), for the intentional, unlawful and malicious

purpose of attempting to injure and destroy Plaintiffs' personal, professional and business reputations.

2. Defendants, conspiring and acting in concert, have engaged and continue to engage in an intentional, unlawful and malicious public Internet campaign to defame and damage Plaintiffs by disseminating knowingly false information about Derwick's two principal shareholders and directors, Betancourt and Trebbau, Derwick's other directors, and Derwick's business practices. Defendants' egregious disinformation campaign falsely and maliciously accuses Plaintiffs of committing serious crimes, including but not limited to, money laundering, fraud, extortion, theft of hundreds of millions of dollars and partnering with corrupt politicians to profit from "illicit businesses."

3. In addition to falsely accusing Plaintiffs of engaging in such serious crimes, Defendants' defamatory and malicious statements and conduct, includes, among other things, the publication of Betancourt's photograph, personal address and passport number on the WAC Website -- and similar personal information of Derwick's other board members -- in connection with the dissemination of such Defendants' egregious falsehoods. Defendants also have disseminated false and malicious rumors widely in the market in the United States, Europe and South America, including, for example, rumors that, as a result of their numerous "crimes," Plaintiffs' are being pursued by law enforcement authorities in the United States. Those defamatory statements have been repeated literally hundreds of times on other Internet sites, Twitter and various news outlets, including an August 10, 2012 two-page article in *Reporte Diario de la Economia*, a well-respected and widely read Venezuelan financial newspaper.

4. The mastermind of this defamatory campaign is defendant Garcia Mendoza. Garcia Mendoza is the President, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee,

and a significant shareholder of defendant Banco Venezolano. Garcia Mendoza, among other things, secretly initiated and has provided the financing for the WAC Website and, acting in concert with his co-conspirators, the other Defendants in this action, controls and directs its defamatory and destructive content.

5. Defendant Garcia Mendoza, through his intermediaries, expressly and recently threatened to use his vast resources and influence and any means necessary to destroy Derwick, Betancourt, Trebbau and anyone else associated with Derwick.

6. One of Garcia Mendoza's co-conspirators, defendant Alfonso Hernandez, a Banco Venezolano director, has joined Garcia Mendoza in the conspiracy to disseminate false and defamatory information in furtherance of Defendants' malicious attempt to injure and destroy Plaintiffs.

7. Garcia Mendoza, Alfonso Hernandez and the other defendants also are intentionally exploiting the vast corporate resources of defendant Banco Venezolano and its affiliated entities to conduct and facilitate their unlawful, defamatory conspiracy by, among other things, using Cesar Briceño Lopez ("Briceño Lopez"), Secretary of Banco Venezolano's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, to serve as the WAC Website's webmaster.

8. Defendants' defamatory statements are palpably false and are clearly intended to defame and publicly humiliate Plaintiffs and to destroy their current and prospective business and banking relationships, which are indispensable to the operation, expansion and success of Derwick. Defendants' defamatory conspiracy, as willfully intended by Defendants, has caused substantial, irreparable and clear damage and harm to Plaintiffs' reputation and business.

9. Defendants are liable for their tortious, false and defamatory statements concerning Plaintiffs' business and reputation and for all the damages proximately caused to

their reputation and business by Defendants' egregious misconduct. While the full extent of those damages will be established at the trial of this action, those damages exceed \$200 million. Plaintiffs are also entitled to injunctive relief enjoining Defendants from continuing their malicious defamatory conspiracy and campaign.

THE PARTIES

10. Plaintiff Derwick Associates Corporation ("Derwick") is incorporated under the laws of Barbados and is in the business of offering and providing engineering, procurement and construction ("EPC") services to power plant companies in Venezuela and other countries in South America. Those services include, among other things, the direct or indirect procurement of power plant equipment, such as turbines, from major U.S. and European companies, including General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls Royce, Wood Group and ProEnergy Services. Derwick employs over 100 professionals, and its contractors and subcontractors employ over 2,000 people.

11. Derwick's Board of Directors includes Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, Pedro Trebbau Lopez, Edgard Romero Lazo, Iker Candina, Orlando Alvarado and Domingo Xavier Guzman Lopez.

12. Plaintiff Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez ("Betancourt") is the co-founder and President of Derwick and resides in Venezuela. Betancourt holds a Bachelor's degree in international economics from Suffolk University in Massachusetts.

13. Plaintiff Pedro Trebbau Lopez ("Trebbau") is the co-founder and Vice-President of Derwick and resides in Venezuela. Trebbau graduated with honors and a degree in Biochemistry from Boston College.

14. Defendant Venezolano De Credito, S.A., Banco Universal (“Banco Venezolano”) is incorporated under the laws of Venezuela and its principal place of business is Caracas, Venezuela. Banco Venezolano has transacted business in Florida, directly or indirectly, for over a decade. In 2001, Banco Venezolano sought and obtained authorization to transact business in Florida through an international representative office, and from 2001 through at least 2006, maintained a business address at 1111 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1575, Miami, Florida 33131. Banco Venezolano also incorporated a broker-dealer, Venecredit Securities Inc. (“Venecredit”), under the laws of the State of Florida in 2001, and from 2001 through at least 2006, operated Venecredit as a wholly-owned affiliate of Banco Venezolano. Venecredit continues to maintain a business address at 1111 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1575, Miami, Florida 33131. Banco Venezolano and Venecredit currently do business through a web of companies, including VBT Holdings Ltd. and VBT Bank & Trust Ltd.

15. Defendant Oscar Garcia Mendoza (“Garcia Mendoza”) is Banco Venezolano’s President, Chairman of Banco Venezolano’s Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and a significant shareholder of Banco Venezolano. Garcia Mendoza resides in Venezuela and maintains substantial business interests in Florida, including, but not limited to: (a) serving as a director of Florida-based Novopayment Inc., a prepaid card service provider, which is located at 1111 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1580, Miami, Florida 33131, the same address as Banco Venezolano and Venecredit; and (b) serving as a director of Florida-based Campo Claro Investments Inc., which was incorporated in Florida on May 12, 2011, purchased real estate in Miami in July 2011, and maintains a registered office at 1200 S. Pine Island Road, Plantation, Florida 33324.

16. Defendant Rafael Alfonso Hernandez (“Alfonzo Hernandez”) is a shareholder and director of Banco Venezolano. Alfonso Hernandez resides in Venezuela and maintains substantial business interests in Florida, including, but not limited to: (a) serving as a manager of Alfistais LLC, which was incorporated in Florida on October 11, 2010, and is located at 3801 Bridgewood Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33434, and (b) owning real estate in Florida, including property located at 1105 West Cypress Drive, Pompano Beach, FL 33069.

17. Defendants John Does 1-10 are unknown defendant co-conspirators who, in addition to the above-named Defendants, participated in the conspiracy and campaign to disseminate false and defamatory information about Plaintiffs on the WAC Website. Because the names of Defendants John Does 1-10 currently are unknown, Plaintiffs assert the claims against those Defendants under such fictitious names. As soon as Plaintiffs learn the actual identities of those persons, Plaintiffs will amend or, if necessary, seek leave to amend this Complaint and add them as Defendants in this action.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter because the amount in controversy exceeds \$15,000, exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys’ fees.

19. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court, pursuant to § 48.193(1)(b), Fla. Stat., because Defendants committed tortious acts in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

20. Jurisdiction and venue are also proper in this Court pursuant to § 48.193(2), Fla. Stat., because, among other things, Defendants, individually and through their agents, are engaged in substantial and not isolated activities within the State of Florida and they own, manage, direct, operate and/or control several Florida entities and/or own real and personal property in Florida.

FACTS

A. Overview of Derwick

21. In or about June 2007, Betancourt and Trebbau co-founded Derwick. Each owns a 50% share in the company. Betancourt serves as Derwick's President, Trebbau serves as Derwick's Vice-President, and both serve on Derwick's Board of Directors.

22. Betancourt manages a team of over one hundred professionals who are operating in connection with fifteen different projects throughout Venezuela. He also is responsible for the origination, structuring and execution of all Derwick projects, and has primary responsibility for the management of Derwick's relationships with its clients, suppliers and regulators.

23. Betancourt has many years of professional experience in energy sales, extensive deal experience, and engineered some of the largest and most complex energy/EPC transactions in Venezuela. Before co-founding Derwick, Betancourt served as a Director for BGB/GESCA, a Venezuela-based affiliate of Japan-based Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., one of the world's largest manufacturers of heavy equipment. During his tenure at BGB/GESCA, Betancourt was involved in the purchase, sale and installation of more than thirteen turbines throughout Venezuela, generating over US\$ 20 million in revenue. Betancourt also has been appointed an external consultant for Gazprom and Gazprombank for their operations in the Andean Region.

24. In or about January 2007, Betancourt left BGB/GESCA to launch his own company for purposes of engaging in the EPC services business serving the Venezuelan and foreign energy markets.

25. Betancourt subsequently recruited plaintiff Trebbau. Trebbau has extensive experience in the energy industry in Venezuela, including the procurement and sale of electrical equipment capable of generating in excess of 2,000 megawatts of energy. Trebbau has primary

responsibility for the supervision of operations of all projects, and is directly responsible for the execution of large EPC contracts in Venezuela. Trebbau is also responsible for establishing strategic alliances with international engineering, procurement and construction firms and, together with Derwick's Chief Financial Officer, Orlando Alvarado ("Alvarado"), managing the day-to-day relationships with Derwick's international banks.

26. Before joining Derwick, Trebbau was Product Researcher and Project Manager for Procter & Gamble de Venezuela. Trebbau was the project leader for Procter & Gamble's first global initiative for Latin America.

27. Other members of Derwick's core management team have many years of leadership experience in EPC, construction, private financing and related energy services businesses. Derwick's Directors of Operations, Edgard Romero Lazo ("Romero Lazo") and Iker Candina ("Candina"), have more than 30 combined years of experience in the Venezuelan energy sector. Romero Lazo formerly served as Director of Operations for Petrolago (one of the largest EPC firms in Latin America), the President of Petrosuministros (a general EPC contractor with over 20 years of experience developing civil and energy related projects), and as a Director of Energy and Petroleum for the Chamber of Engineers in Venezuela. Candina, among other things, formerly served for more than seven years with the Venezuelan national oil company, and served in a senior position working in the largest oil refinery in Venezuela.

28. Derwick's Chief Financial Officer, Alvarado, has extensive structured and leveraged finance experience. He was responsible for structuring over US\$ 10 billion in bond underwriting for corporate and governmental entities. Alvarado has worked on over thirty capital markets, syndicated loans, structured and bilateral loans and acquisition finance transactions across the region, advised and financed some of the highest profile energy

acquisitions in Latin America in 2006 and 2007, and was responsible for recommending the approval and supervising the day-to-day management and surveillance of over US\$ 2 billion in loans to Latin American companies.

B. Derwick's Strategy and Initial Success

29. When Derwick commenced operations in Venezuela, there was an increasing demand for thermal energy equipment as a result of the accelerated increase in energy consumption within the country that could not be met by the country's hydroelectric power plants. The original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs") of the thermal energy plant equipment, large multi-national corporations, however, generally refused to conduct business directly with the Venezuelan-controlled entities that controlled the Venezuelan energy industry because of the credit risk and a refusal to accept the payment terms of those entities. Under those payment terms, the energy companies typically would pay only 10% of the value of the equipment as a down payment and would not pay the remaining 90% until approximately one year after delivery of the equipment.

30. Because it was a new entrant in the energy market, Derwick conducted a comprehensive analysis of the market and its competitors and developed a strategy specifically tailored to attempt to develop and increase its industry market share. As a result, Derwick formulated and submitted aggressively-priced bids for contracts from the different government-controlled entities in the energy industry and also agreed, as part of the bid package, to assume credit risks that discouraged many of its competitors from bidding on projects.

31. Derwick's strategy, while successful, involved considerable risks. To participate in these transactions, Derwick first needed to procure the energy equipment, directly or indirectly, from one of the few major OEMs with the capability and capacity to supply the

necessary equipment. To place an order to “reserve” a standard turbine from one of the those OEMs, Derwick generally was required to purchase and provide the OEM a surety bond for approximately US\$ 500,000 in exchange for a one-month exclusivity period. During that period, Derwick contractually was required either to sell the equipment to a third-party or, if unable to obtain a purchaser before expiration of the one-month deadline, forfeit the \$500,000 amount of the surety bond. Derwick often was required to purchase the bond and reserve the equipment during the time that its bid was being evaluated by the government-controlled entities and before it had any assurance that it would be awarded the contract. With respect to each transaction, therefore, Derwick faced a risk of losing \$500,000 from the surety bond and the amount invested to purchase that bond.

32. In addition, Derwick invested substantially in developing the capacity to expand the scope of its services to include EPC and operation and maintenance work. Thus, another important element of Derwick’s strategy was to offer and provide installation services for all of the equipment that it procured and sold. Very few of Derwick’s competitors agreed to provide similar services to clients after the sale of the equipment. This was a critical and invaluable service for clients for many reasons. Among other things, it obviated the need for additional discussions or negotiations concerning warranties and guarantees for the equipment.

33. These services also provided increased certainty regarding performance of the equipment, which is critical in large-scale energy projects. Typically, if the sale and installation services are provided by different companies and a problem arises, it is difficult to identify the genesis of the problem. The seller of the equipment may blame the installer, and the installer of the equipment may blame the seller. Derwick recognized that the nature of the market presented

an opportunity to provide EPC services that would supply substantial and unparalleled value for the client.

34. Additionally, because capital and financing from banks and other financial institutions was difficult to obtain when Derwick was formed, Betancourt raised the funds required to operate the business and implement the Derwick strategy by mortgaging a large percentage of the Betancourt family's real estate and personal assets.

35. In short, Derwick's considerable success in obtaining several significant energy equipment contracts was attributable to, among other things, the preparation and submission of creative and highly-competitive bids that were tailored specifically to each contract, more competitive lead times and Derwick's willingness to assume risks that many of its other competitors avoided.

36. Based on the careful implementation and execution of its strategy, Derwick was awarded twelve competitively-bid EPC contracts beginning in 2008.

C. The Venezuelan Energy Crisis of 2009

37. Venezuela is one of the world's largest generators of -- and historically has been heavily dependent on -- hydroelectric energy. In 2009, one of the worst droughts in decades crippled the power plants that supplied most of Venezuela's energy, plunging cities into darkness and forcing severe rationing to avert nationwide blackouts and paralysis. That crisis further increased the need and demand for the development of new thermal energy power plants. The development of such plants, however, was hindered by the complex, regulatory process governing the submissions of bids, and the granting of contracts, for the engineering, procurement and construction of those new plants.

38. In response to this national crisis, on February 8, 2010, the Venezuelan government declared an “energy emergency” and enacted a special decree known as Gaceta Oficial 39.363, which, among other things, relaxed certain of the existing onerous and time-consuming bidding procedures and regulations that governed all purchases of power equipment by the government-controlled entities. At that time, Derwick was uniquely positioned to assist in ameliorating the energy crisis because it had developed a strong track record in the Venezuelan energy market, a strong relationship of trust with the OEMs in the United States and Europe, and also had developed extensive experience in the procurement of thermal plant turbines and related energy equipment on a reliable and expeditious basis.

39. During this time, Derwick participated in the competitive bidding process with respect to EPC of thermal power plants as well as the operation and maintenance of those plants. Because of its significant competitive advantage, including, among other things, the strength of its execution in connection with the provision of procurement services and absence of many competitors capable or willing to provide the full range of engineering, procurement and construction services, Derwick was successful during that bidding process. Between 2009 and 2010, Derwick submitted more than 25 bids on EPC projects and received EPC contracts on twelve of those projects.

40. Derwick’s strategy with respect to the EPC bids was an extension of its successful earlier strategy with respect to its procurement work: Derwick offered the clients competitively priced bids, accepted the credit risk and payment terms associated with the contracts, and included broad warranties and guarantees with respect to sales and installation of power equipment. In addition, Derwick’s completion rate with respect to EPC contracts is one of the highest in the industry in Venezuela.

41. Despite its relatively recent entry into the market, Derwick is now widely recognized as one of the top EPC contractors in the country.

D. The Defamatory WAC Campaign

42. Defendants' conspiracy and campaign to spread false and defamatory information concerning Derwick, Betancourt and Trebbau, began as isolated attacks on Facebook, Twitter and e-mail, but rapidly escalated to a highly-organized and aggressive conspiracy and campaign to defame Plaintiffs and anyone associated with Derwick.

43. On or about August 2, 2012, an article containing numerous false and defamatory statement concerning Plaintiffs was posted on the WAC Website.

44. The WAC Website -- which has no affiliation with the "Wikipedia" website -- was initiated, founded and is financed, operated and controlled by defendant Garcia Mendoza and the defendant co-conspirators. To ensure further Defendants' direction and control over the content of the WAC Website, Garcia Mendoza installed Briceño Lopez, the Secretary of the Board of Directors for Banco Venezolano and its Executive Committee, to serve as the WAC Website's webmaster. The webmaster of a website exercises virtually complete control of the content over the website and also in many instances manages the administrative access, which effectively enables the webmaster to restrict those who may have access to the website for any purposes.

45. The WAC Website is being hosted in a virtual server operated by Page.ly, which is located in a data center owned by Firehost.com, a cloud-hosting company based in Dallas, Texas. Page.ly is owned by Obu Web Technologies, Inc. The WAC Website was registered through GoDaddy.com.

46. The WAC Website is being exploited by the Defendants to disseminate anonymously their egregiously false and defamatory information against Plaintiffs on the

Internet with the clear expectation that they will be able to escape all responsibility and accountability for the enormous harm they willfully are inflicting upon Derwick, Betancourt and Trebbau.

47. Defendant Garcia Mendoza and the other co-conspirator defendants, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries such as the webmaster Briceño Lopez, write, review and post the defamatory articles to the WAC Website, whose sole and unlawful purpose is to attempt to destroy the reputation, integrity and business of Plaintiffs.

48. The defamatory statements made publicly by Defendants about Plaintiffs on the WAC Website (a copy of which, including an English translation, is attached hereto as Exhibit A) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Plaintiffs “*launder[ed] the money originating from oil and electricity corruption¹ and join[ed] illegal financial deals*” through their “*associat[ion] ... with Caesar Camejo to purchase Casa Propia.*” (bold emphasis in original)
- (b) After Casa Propia closed in 2010, Plaintiffs “*found another Venezuelan financial entity through which they continued to launder the money that was the product of their crimes.*”
- (c) Plaintiffs “*were involved in the theft of 500 million dollars*” from another Venezuelan corporation, Corporacion Venezolana de Guayana (CVG). (emphasis in original)
- (d) Plaintiffs have “*stole[n] the amount of one point three billion dollars (\$1.3 BILLION)*” from CVG. (bold emphasis in original)
- (e) Plaintiffs are part of a “*criminal group*” that have amassed a “*pot ... [of] up to about two billion dollars (US\$ 2.0 billion) ... through which [they] launder money by making investments.*”
- (f) Betancourt, as “*the gang’s boss, would be the owner of the most so-called pot, circa \$800 million, which he has put into international banks....*”
- (g) “*At the present time, [Plaintiffs] are out of the country, as it seems that they are being investigated by the intelligence agencies. However, because of*

¹ All emphasis is supplied, unless otherwise stated.

[Plaintiffs'] relationships with high government officials and the Public Prosecutor's Office, and also due to the immense amount of money that they have available for bribes, this investigation would appear to be frozen. That's is [sic] not the case with the U.S. intelligence agencies, which follow the trail."

- (h) Plaintiffs, "*without a tender*" improperly obtained "contracts for over 3 billion dollars."
- (i) Plaintiffs profited from numerous "*obscene illegal business.*"
- (j) Plaintiffs are part of "[a] *new group of private sector criminals* in association with corrupt government employees..."
- (k) Plaintiffs have engaged in "*illegal activities*" that have generated "*illegal earnings* for the brokers, among them, relatives of Betancourt" that may amount to "close to 60 million dollars."
- (l) "This entire fortune was made in less than three years and with absolutely high profile, trampling on and *threatening even journalists with total impunity*, while [Betancourt] was supported by his good relationships with police officers, public prosecutors, governors and ministers."
- (m) Plaintiffs *committed "crimes"* by operating two companies at the same time and "buy[ing] [oil] shipments below international prices..."
- (n) Betancourt purchased a hunting estate for "**\$24 million dollars** ... through the same company that he *scammed the country* with during the electricity emergency: **Derwick Associates!**" (emphasis in original)
- (o) A "gang led by [Betancourt] ... [i]n the most public manner, as if it concerned a legal business ... is *trafficking in coltan.*" (Mining the mineral coltan, a vital raw material for high-tech manufacturers worldwide, is illegal in Venezuela.)
- (p) "Through the **Listo Shipping Co 1 s.a.** ... [Plaintiffs] purchased a cargo ship which not only transported diesel to the Caribbean islands for illegal sale, but it also smuggled shipments of coltan [tantalite] from Guyana."

(Together, the statements identified in sub-sections (a) through (p) of this paragraph are referred to as the "WAC Defamatory Statements.")

49. Each of the WAC Defamatory Statements is patently and egregiously false.

50. The WAC Website is publicly visible and accessible from any Internet search engine on every web browser, and has been accessed by users in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Each of Defendants' WAC Defamatory Statements is accessible by every Internet user, including users in Miami-Dade County, and companies and individuals critical to Derwick's business, including OEMs, suppliers and banks in the United States and Europe and Derwick's current and future employees, contractors and employees.

E. **Defendants' False and Defamatory Statements Are Continuing and Spreading**

51. On August 10, 2012, Reporte Diario de la Economia, a financial Venezuelan newspaper, dedicated two full pages of the newspaper to repeating and further disseminating Defendants' WAC Defamatory Statements. Those statements now have been disseminated beyond the anonymous blogosphere to the general population and the U.S. (including Miami-Dade County) and international media. (A copy of Reporte Diario de la Economia's article, including an English translation, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.)

52. On August 10, 2012, Daniela Portugnuolo, the wife of Briceño Lopez, Secretary of Banco Venezolano's board and WAC Website's webmaster, repeatedly "tweeted" a virtual recitation of certain of the WAC Defamatory Statements under the assumed Twitter account name "daniporta." (A copy of Ms. Portugnuolo's Tweets, including an English translation, is attached hereto as Exhibit C.)

53. Garcia Mendoza similarly has used his Twitter account to defame Plaintiffs. For example, since the initial publication of the WAC Defamatory Statements, Garcia Mendoza repeatedly has sent Tweets defaming Plaintiffs and containing a link to the WAC Website to some of the most important international business leaders. (A copy Garcia Mendoza's Tweets, including an English translation, is attached hereto as Exhibit D.)

54. Since the WAC Website's posting, Defendants' false and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiffs have remained available to millions of Internet users and any person who runs a search on any Internet search engine using the names of any of the Plaintiffs.

55. Defendants' use of the WAC Website to defame third parties violates the express terms of the Usage Policies of Page.ly, Firehost.com and GoDaddy.com. Defendants' posting and tweeting of defamatory information from the WAC Website also violates the express terms of the Usage Policy of Twitter.

56. Plaintiffs have no means of removing these egregiously false and defamatory statements from the WAC Website and the Internet.

57. This unlawful conduct already has caused substantial harm to Derwick. Solely as a result of these false and defamatory statements, certain of the banking relationships of Derwick, its directors and shareholders have been materially affected. Defendants' unlawful and malicious overall objective is to attempt to disrupt Derwick's important banking relationships and to prevent Derwick from continuing to conduct business and to fulfill its contractual obligations and thereby attempt to destroy the company.

58. As a direct result of Defendants' outrageous, unlawful and malicious conduct and absent the intervention of this Court: (a) Plaintiffs' well-earned goodwill, reputation, business relationships and prospective business relationships will continue to be harmed, if not destroyed, (b) Plaintiffs' rights will continue to be violated, and (c) Derwick will continue to suffer the loss of substantial business and its prospective business opportunities will be irreparably harmed.

COUNT I

(DEFAMATION OF DERWICK)

59. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

60. Defendants published false and defamatory statements about Derwick.

61. The false and defamatory statements concerning Derwick, including the WAC Defamatory Statements, constitute defamation and/or defamation *per se*.

62. The false and defamatory statements published by Defendants regarding Derwick, as reasonably understood, impugn the integrity and competence of Derwick, discredit Derwick's business methods, undermine the confidence of the public and Derwick's clients and prospective clients in Derwick's business, discourage Derwick clients and prospective clients from seeking Derwick's services, injure Derwick in its business.

63. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that the statements, including each of the WAC Defamatory Statements, were false at the time they were posted to the WAC Website, and continue to be false and Defendants have no evidence to the contrary.

64. The WAC Defamatory Statements were made maliciously, knowingly, willfully and in conscious disregard of Derwick's rights, and were specifically intended to -- and did -- cause damage to Derwick's reputation and business.

65. Derwick has suffered, and continues to suffer, immediate and substantial damages as a result of these defamatory statements.

66. By reason of the foregoing, Derwick is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$200 million.

67. Derwick also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to § 768.72, Fla. Stat.

COUNT II
(DEFAMATION OF BETANCOURT)

68. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

69. Defendants published false and defamatory statements about Betancourt.

70. The false and defamatory statements concerning Betancourt, including the WAC Defamatory Statements, constitute defamation and/or defamation *per se*.

71. The false and defamatory statements published by Defendants regarding Betancourt, as reasonably understood, impugn the integrity and competence of Betancourt, discredit Betancourt's method of conducting business, undermine the confidence of the public and Derwick's clients and prospective clients in Betancourt and his business as President of Derwick, discourage Derwick clients and prospective clients from seeking Derwick's services, injure Betancourt's reputation and thereby Derwick in its business.

72. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that the statements, including each of the WAC Defamatory Statements, were false at the time they were posted to the WAC Website, and continue to be false and Defendants have no evidence to the contrary.

73. The WAC Defamatory Statements were made maliciously, knowingly, willfully and in conscious disregard of Betancourt's rights, and were specifically intended to -- and did -- cause damage to Betancourt's character, reputation and business.

74. Betancourt has suffered, and continues to suffer, immediate and substantial damages as a result of these defamatory statements.

75. By reason of the foregoing, Betancourt is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$50 million.

76. Betancourt also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to § 768.72, Fla. Stat.

COUNT III

(DEFAMATION OF TREBBAU)

77. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

78. Defendants published false and defamatory statements about Trebbau.

79. The false and defamatory statements concerning Trebbau, including the WAC Defamatory Statements, constitute defamation and/or defamation *per se*.

80. The false and defamatory statements published by Defendants regarding Trebbau, as reasonably understood, impugn the integrity and competence of Trebbau, discredit Trebbau's method of conducting business, undermine the confidence of the public and Derwick's clients and prospective clients in Trebbau and his business Derwick's Director of Operations, discourage Derwick clients and prospective clients from seeking Derwick's services, injure Trebbau's reputation and thereby Derwick in its business.

81. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that the statements, including each of the WAC Defamatory Statements, were false at the time they were posted to the WAC Website, and continue to be false and Defendants have no evidence to the contrary.

82. The WAC Defamatory Statements were made maliciously, knowingly, willfully and in conscious disregard of Trebbau's rights, and were specifically intended to -- and did -- cause damage to Trebbau's character, reputation and business.

83. Trebbau has suffered, and continues to suffer, immediate and substantial damages as a result of these defamatory statements.

84. By reason of the foregoing, Trebbau is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$50 million.

85. Trebbau also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to § 768.72, Fla. Stat.

COUNT IV

(TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACT)

86. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

87. Beneficial contractual relationships exist between Derwick and, among others, its clients, suppliers and banks, under which Derwick has legally enforceable rights.

88. Defendants knew of such beneficial contractual relationships between Derwick and these third-parties.

89. By publishing the WAC Defamatory Statements and using Banco Venezolano's resources, including but not limited to appointing the Secretary of Banco Venezolano's board as the WAC Website's webmaster, Defendants intentionally and unjustifiably sought to interfere with Derwick's beneficial contractual relationships by impugning its integrity and competence, discrediting Derwick's business methods, undermining the confidence of the public and Derwick's clients and prospective clients in Derwick's business, deterring Derwick clients and prospective clients from using Derwick's services and injuring Derwick in its business.

90. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful interference with Derwick's contracts with its clients, suppliers and banks, and various other counterparties,

Derwick, Betancourt and Trebbau have suffered, and continue to suffer, immediate and substantial damages, including but not limited to having certain of their banking relationships materially affected, hindering their ability to conduct business and fulfill their present and future contractual obligations.

91. By reason of the foregoing, Derwick is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$200 million.

92. Plaintiffs also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to § 768.72, Fla. Stat.

COUNT V

(TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS)

93. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

94. Plaintiffs have developed and maintain ongoing and existing business relationships with their clients, suppliers, banks and counterparties. Plaintiffs also maintain prospective relationships with potential clients.

95. Defendants had knowledge and are expressly aware of these existing and prospective business relationships.

96. By publishing the WAC Defamatory Statements and using Banco Venezolano's resources, including but not limited to appointing the Secretary of Banco Venezolano's board as the WAC Website's webmaster, Defendants intentionally and unjustifiably sought to interfere with Plaintiffs' business relationships by impugning their integrity and competence, discrediting Plaintiffs' business methods, undermining the confidence of the public and Plaintiffs' clients and

prospective clients in Plaintiffs' business, deterring Plaintiffs' clients and prospective clients from using Plaintiffs' services, and by injuring Plaintiffs in their business.

97. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful interference with Plaintiffs' business relationships and prospective business relationships with their clients, suppliers, banks, counterparties and potential clients, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer immediate and substantial damages.

98. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$200 million.

99. Plaintiffs also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to § 768.72, Fla. Stat.

COUNT VI

(DECEPTIVE AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES) (Fla. Stat. § 501.201-213 (2012))

100. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

101. By publishing the WAC Defamatory Statements, Defendants committed deceptive acts and unfair practices under § 501.201-213, Fla. Stat. by interfering with Plaintiffs' business contracts and relationships, impugning their integrity and competence, discrediting Plaintiffs' business methods, undermining the confidence of the public and Plaintiffs' clients and prospective clients in Plaintiffs' business, deterring Plaintiffs' clients and prospective clients from using Plaintiffs' services, and by injuring Plaintiffs in their business.

102. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants malicious and deceptive acts and unfair practices, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, immediate and substantial damages.

103. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs are entitled compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$200 million.

COUNT VII
(CIVIL CONSPIRACY)

104. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

105. Each of Defendants, together with the others, conspired with respect to Counts I through VI and acted in concert to commit unlawful acts. Defendants conspired to engage in these actions with the unlawful objective of interfering with Plaintiffs' business relationships by impugning their integrity and competence, discrediting Plaintiffs' business methods, undermining the confidence of the public and Plaintiffs' clients and prospective clients in Plaintiffs' business, deterring Plaintiffs' clients and prospective clients from using Plaintiffs' services, and injuring Plaintiffs in their business. Each of Defendants understood the objectives of the scheme, accepted them, and was an active and knowing participant in the conspiracy.

106. Defendants' conspiracy was carried out by the commission of various wrongful and overt acts, including but not limited to, publication of the WAC Defamatory Statements and using Banco Venezolano's resources to finance the operation and maintenance of the WAC Website.

107. As a direct and proximate result of operation and execution of the conspiracy committed by Defendants, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer immediate and substantial damages.

108. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$200 million.

109. Plaintiffs also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to § 768.72, Fla. Stat.

COUNT VIII

(PRELIMINARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION)

110. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

111. Defendants have engaged, and will continue to engage, in this deliberate, extensive and wrongful campaign to defame and damage Plaintiffs by disseminating deliberately false claims on the WAC Website, including the WAC Defamatory Statements, for the willful and malicious purpose of attempting to destroy concerning Plaintiffs' business, business relationships and prospective business relationships.

112. As a result of Defendants' egregiously unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs' business and reputation has been and continues to be irreparably harmed. Derwick is losing or is being threatened with the loss of business, goodwill, and other harm, each of which cannot be adequately remedied by money damages because of the difficulty of quantifying the damages that have been caused and will continue to be caused by Defendants' defamatory, false and malicious conduct.

113. Plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants from their wrongful conduct.

114. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

115. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully seek a judgment against Defendants as follows:

(a) preliminarily and permanently ordering Defendants to remove all material concerning Plaintiffs from the WAC Website;

(b) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants from making any public statements that falsely disparage or defame Plaintiffs, their business and/or their reputation, on the WAC Website or through any other medium;

(c) awarding Plaintiffs compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial plus interest and costs, but not less than \$300 million;

(d) awarding Plaintiffs the costs and disbursements of this action, together with attorneys' fees; and

(e) granting such other and further relief as is equitable, just and proper.

(f) Plaintiffs also will seek leave to plead punitive damages pursuant to §


768.72, Fla. Stat.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

KASOWITZ, BENSON, TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP

By: 

Maria H. Ruiz
Florida Bar No. 182923

1441 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1420
Miami, Florida 33131
Telephone: (305) 377-1666
Facsimile: (305) 377-1664
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

OF COUNSEL:

KASOWITZ, BENSON, TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP
Hector Torres
Brian S. Kaplan
David D. Holahan
1633 Broadway
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: (212) 506-1700

Pro Hac Vice Admission Pending

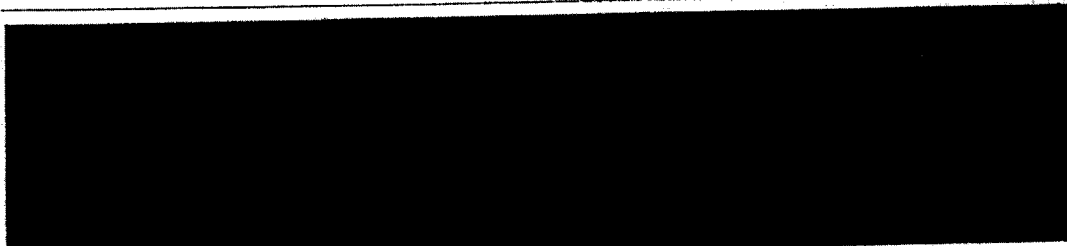
In accordance with Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.080 (as amended effective September 1, 2012) and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516 (as enacted effective September 1, 2012), Plaintiffs' counsel hereby designate their Primary e-mail addresses and request that copies of all orders, process, pleadings, and other documents filed or served in this matter be served on them at the Primary E-mail addresses listed below, with such service by e-mail complying with Rule 2.516(b)(1)(E). Where service of hard copies is to be made in addition to the e-mail service required by new Rule 2.516(b)(1)(A), counsel requests that the copies be served upon them at the physical address listed above.

Maria H. Ruiz: MRuiz@Kasowitz.com
Hector Torres: HTorres@Kasowitz.com
Brian S. Kaplan: BKaplan@Kasowitz.com
David D. Holahan: DHolahan@Kasowitz.com

Dated: September 13, 2012

Exhibit A

Google translate view this page in: English Translate Turn off for: Spanish Optio



- [Start](#)
- [Who Are We?](#)
- [Cooperate](#)
- [Cases](#)
- [News](#)

The Latest

- [WALID MAKLED CASE](#)
- [MORIS BERACHA CASE](#)
- [FRANCISCO ILLARAMENDI CASE](#)
- [DAVID J. OSIO MONTEIL CASE](#)
- [LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT LOPEZ CASE](#)
- [CASTILLO BOZZO CASE](#)
- [PDVSA CASE](#)
- [GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL TRADERS: ALWAYS GETTING RICHER](#)

Links of Interest

- [Corruption](#)
- [Terrorism](#)
- [Venezuela Legal System](#)
- [Conventions and other International Documents](#)
- [Related Sites](#)
-

Free Subscription

Email _____
 First Name _____
 Last Name _____

<http://wikianticorruption.org/2012/08/ni-iguanas-ni-rabipeladoses-la-corrupcion-parte-2/>

9/7/2012

Google translate View this page in: English Translate Turn off for: Spanish Options

Submit

Follow Us



Search for:

Search

Home > Cases > LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT LOPEZ CASE

LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT LOPEZ CASE

Twitter The Latest 08/02/2012

Wikianticorruption

Venezuela is a blessed land. A wonderful climate, a privileged geographical location and natural resources that many other countries would want: abundant water, oil, gas, iron, gold, diamonds, and if all this weren't enough, now we also have ...coltan [tantalite]!

The so-called *blue gold* is a blend of the minerals columbite and tantalite, from which it gets its name: col-tan.

It is an indispensable strategic resource in the production of advanced electronic components. It stopped being a simple mineral curiosity to become, thanks to advances in technology, one of the most sought-after metals.

80% of the world's known reserves of coltan [tantalite] are in Congo. It is said that it is the reason for the terrible war that is afflicting this African country, which has already generated over 2 million deaths. Other countries with reserves are Sierra Leone and Brazil.

Deposits were discovered in Venezuela in the first decade of this century. The country found out, in the most casual way, through one of Hugo Chavez' speeches.

<http://wikianticorruption.org/2012/08/ni-iguanas-ni-rabipeladoses-la-corrupcion-parte-2/>

9/7/2012

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)



Leopoldo Alejandro
Betancourt Lopez, boss
of the ChavezKids

Venezuela still has not passed laws on this subject. All mining activity has been prohibited in Amazonas since 1989. The Desarrollo Minero del Amazonas (Demina) company obtained a license in 2001 only in Bolivar to explore and mine coltan [tantalite], among other minerals, but it is now facing a court case, after the Government rescinded this single license which the State had granted, in 2010. Extracting, keeping or transporting black stones became a crime starting from that time. Judicial records reveal that the National Guard seized almost two tons (1,800 kg.) of coltan [tantalite] from 2009 to 2011.

However, none of this stops or concerns the gang led by Alejandro Betancourt Lopez. In the most public manner, as if it concerned a legal business, the group is trafficking in coltan [tantalite].

Through the Listo Shipping Co 1 s.a. apparently registered in Panama, but with offices in Caracas and Puerto Ordaz, they purchased a cargo ship which not only transported diesel to the Caribbean islands for its illegal sale, but it also smuggled shipments of coltan [tantalite] from Guyana.

The company's business offers are carried out publicly through the internet.

The company's profile and its business offer appears on the site with the evocative name alibaba.com:

Google translate View this page in: English Translate Turn off for: Spanish Options

The screenshot shows the Alibaba.com interface for a company profile. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Buy', 'Sell', 'Community', 'My Alibaba', 'My Favorites', and 'Help'. Below this is the Alibaba.com logo and a search bar. The main header includes 'Home', 'Products', 'Company Profile', and 'Contacts'. The 'Company Profile' section is active, displaying 'Company Introduction'. A message states: 'This supplier has not provided a Company Introduction yet.' Below this, there is a 'Basic Information' table with the following data:

Basic Information	
Company Name	listo shipping co ltd
Business Type	Trading Company
Main Products	oil

Below the table, there is a 'Contact the supplier' section with a 'Phone' field containing '0086 182 182 182 182' and a 'Tel' field containing '0086 182 182 182 182'. A 'Messages' section is also visible, containing a list of messages with details like 'Company Name', 'Business Type', 'Main Products', and 'View Details'.

Listo Shipping Ltd. company information

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) [Turn off for: Spanish](#) [Opti](#)

The screenshot shows an Alibaba.com product page for 'tantalite' from the company 'Listo shipping co l s.a.'. The page is in Spanish. The company is listed as an 'Unverified Member'. The product details include:

Product Details	
Price of Order	Venezuela
Payment & Shipping Terms:	
Price	FOB USD 150 / kilogram
Minimum Order Quantity	25000 Kilograms/Kilograms
Lead Time	10 days
Delivery Date	10 days
Payment Terms	T/T
Trade Assurance	42000 Kilograms/Kilograms per Month

Additional information on the page includes a search bar, navigation tabs (Home, Products, Company Profile, Contacts), and a 'Detailed Product Description' section at the bottom.

Offer of coltan [tantalite] by Listo Shipping Ltd.

In it, Carlos Betancourt, Listo Shipping Ltd.'s contact person, offers coltan [tantalite] with 33% to 38% tantalite, at 150 dollars a kilogram as a base price for minimum sales of 25 tons a month, with the capacity to ship up to 40 tons a month from a Venezuelan port in ten days.

On the Vorras.com site, the offer that Carlos Betancourt makes on behalf of Listo Shipping can be read:

<http://wikianticorruption.org/2012/08/ni-iguanas-ni-rabipeladoses-la-corrupcion-parte-2/>

9/7/2012

Google translate View this page in: English Translate Turn off for: Spanish Options

carlos betancourt

Post Response

<- END: Posted by -><-Date->yfdyfdDate: Thu Aug 4 12:46:40 2011
yfd Good day friend, yfd Coltan [tantalite] is available in Guyana. 5,000 kg. If you are interested please contact via email yd

yfd I AM SELLING 33% PURE COLTAN [TANTALITE]...yfd I CAN PLACE IT IN THE PORT OF ANY COUNTRY, \$110/KG. TO DO BUSINESS OR ANY QUESTIONS...yfd CALL: yfd 0414 444 52 85 yfd WRITE VIA TWITTER: yfd REGARDS....

Another trafficker named Enrique (we don't know if he is connected to Listo Shipping) even offers samples of Venezuelan coltan [tantalite] with PDVSA's guarantee.

Re: [] [] [] [] [] Coltan [Tantalite]!!! [] I BUY COLTAN [TANTALITE]!! I REALLY buy

Posted by: enrique
Date: Sat Feb 25 16:46:40 2012

Post Response

In Response to: RE: [] [] [] [] [] Coltan [Tantalite]!!! [] I BUY COLTAN [TANTALITE]!!! I REALLY buy

[] Sir, I am writing to you to see if you are interested...and are willing to do business... we have found COLTAN [TANTALITE] here [] in Venezuela in sufficiently large quantities to sell. This mineral is very sought-after by companies that manufacture microprocessors and electricity conductors, it resists high temperatures and conducts electricity much better than copper does. []

Laboratory samples can be sent (certified by PDVSA laboratories) and a physical sample of the mineral can also be sent. []

If you want more information on prices, mineral quantity or samples we are at your disposal. Write to us. We are at your disposal.

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) | [Translate](#) | [Turn off for: Spanish](#) | [Options](#)

To sum up: it seems that the obscene illegal business carried out by the ChavezKids on the electrical utility of all Venezuelans, which brought several hundreds of millions of dollars to each one, was not enough. The greed of this new generation of pseudo-entrepreneurs is unlimited.

Contributions from Collaborators

Several diligent and well-informed collaborators sent us more data to complete our previous report on corruption in the electricity industry. *Not iguanas or opossums: It's corruption!* has been only the tip of the iceberg in a case that extends its tentacles through several Government ministries and companies.

Our teams of specialists are already working on making this case. However, due to the extent and diversification of the range of action of this new gang of pseudo-entrepreneurs and corrupt government employees, we are stating the information received below in order for you to help us expand the data.

NOT IGUANAS OR OPOSSUMS: IT'S CORRUPTION! PART 2

A new group of private sector criminals in association with corrupt government employees, created at least three or four years ago, have raided PDVSA, basic and mining industries and the electricity sector.



Nervis Villalobos, ex-deputy minister of Energy and ex-director of Cadafe

Some call the gang the “BoliBoys” others “the namesakes” and others, “the mafiosos of the V.”

At WaC, we prefer to call them the “ChavezKids” since they became millionaires during Hugo Chavez’ government and because of the young age of most of their members, who on average are not over age 30.



Javier Alvarado Ochoa

Google translate

View this page in: [English](#)

[Translate](#)

[Turn off for: Spanish](#)

[Options](#)

The ChavezKids' gang includes:

Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, ID Card 15.394.396, Passport B0383721 (he also holds an Italian passport), boss of the organization.

Alejandro Ceballos, front man and owner of the **Grupo 7C CA** construction company (company laundering ill-gotten money). These two men are called the *namesakes*, the two Alejandros.

The boss' brothers and cousins: **Gonzalo Guzman Lopez** (brother of Betancourt Lopez), **Francisco Convit Guruceaga** (cousin of Betancourt Lopez) and **Pedro Trebbau Lopez Derwick** (cousin of Betancourt Lopez). Other accomplices: **Edgar Romero Navas** (son), **Javier Alvarado**, president of Bariven.

Javier Alvarado (son), **Nervis Villalobos** (ex-deputy minister of Energy and ex-director of Cadafe), **Luis Carlos Leon** and **Esther Holcblat de Margulis**, ex-president of FOGADE (1995-2000), **charged with illegal enrichment in 2003**, who in the past also advised **Gonzalo Tirado** in the negotiation for the Electricidad de Caracas [Caracas Electricity] bonds.



Edgar
Romero
Lazo

This group controls negotiations of companies in different sectors. With **Rodolfo Sanz** as the Miban Minister (**now the Ministry of Industries**) and President of CVG, they carried out the following illegal business deals, among others:

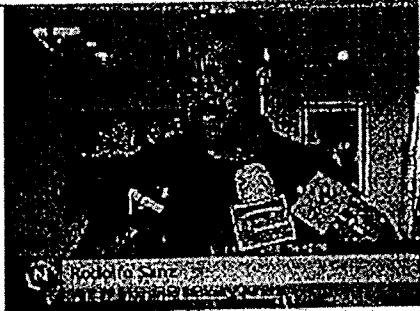
1. Construction of an **electrical plant for Sidor** for an amount higher than 700 million dollars, through the Derwick LTD company (a shell company registered in Barbados, with scant capital).

This plant, which should have gone into operation in May 2010, that is to say, two years ago, still has not started up. Alejandro Betancourt, Derwick's president, reported last Friday in what appears to be his personal blog that he was **"content and satisfied" with the progress of the works.**

According to reports by technicians who are familiar with the project, the Sidor electrical plant is made up of rebuilt turbines and used equipment. There was a overcharge of 280 million dollars on the deal.

2. In another deal with a Chinese company for which more information is being sought at this time, a contract for one billion dollars in tons of iron and slabs. It appears that this contract, in which all the advantages went to the Chinese group, thus harming the CVG's interests, reported 12% (120 million dollars) just as honoraria for the group: **Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez**, **Alejandro Ceballos**, **Ester de Margullis** (legal-financial advisor of Minister Rodolfo Sanz and Ceballos), **Francisco Convit Gurruciaga**

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) | [Translate](#) | [Turn off for Spanish](#) | [Options](#)



Rodolfo Sanz, current secretary-general of ALBA

4. They also dealt in gold, in complicity with **Luis Herrera Mendoza, president of Minervén**, dismissed for corruption and mismanagement in June 2011.

Among the illegal acts committed by **Herrera Mendoza**, in addition to padding the payroll with unproductive staff for propaganda purposes (under his management, they went from 900 to 2,300) and failure to comply with the BCV's standards, there are other more serious complaints which were made by the workers themselves and the community councils of El Callao, on Herrera Mendoza's illegal activities, along with his accomplices, the ChavezKids: phantom works and services, purchases which were made with overcharges, and the most serious, future sales of gold and the sale of gold at special prices to the members of the same group, which was later resold at international prices, generating illegal earnings for the brokers, among them, relatives of Betancourt Lopez, who are goldsmiths. There is talk of amounts close to 60 million dollars just for this last item.

Other, less profitable deal such as procurement for the CVG's companies were controlled by **Lina Marcano** and centralized by Alejandro Betancourt and Alejandro Ceballos, partner and front man for Rodolfo Sanz, as well as the placement of the institution's resources in banks and the negotiation of insurance policies with **Aristides Maza's Grupo Caroni**.

In a yet to be confirmed version, this gang was also associated with the monopoly on steel rods and **Luis Velasquez**, alias *The King of Steel Bars*, currently on trial for crimes of collusion by a public employee with a contractor, willful embezzlement, specific misappropriation due to evasion of a bidding procedure, dealing in iron materials and criminal association.



Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) [Turn off for: Spanish](#) [Options](#)

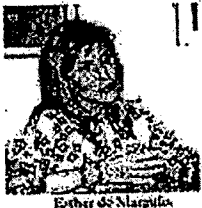
As already reported by journalist Cesa Batiz in his Latest News report "*Cable Crossed in Electricity*", the ChavezKids were involved in the theft of 500 million dollars of metal produced by CVG, money that never reached its coffers since it was diverted to an account at **Gazprom Bank of Lebanon**, owned by the buyer, the Russian company of the same name.

It is calculated that just during **Rodolfo Sanz's** management as Mibam Minister and CVG President, the ChavezKids stole the amount of **one point three billion dollars (\$1.3 BILLION)**.

As we already stated in **Part 1 of this case, Derwick Ltd.**, obtained by appointment, without a tender and without weighing the company's history, contracts for over 3 billion dollars to deal with the electricity crisis that is causing so much damage to the country, granted by CVG-SIDOR.

CVG's workers and technicians maintain that all the contracts granted to the ChavezKids had overcharges of about 40% (especially through extensions of the original contracts) bringing the cost of the megawatt to one million three hundred thousand dollars, most with rebuilt equipment and turbines, while at that time a megawatt was quoted at seven hundred thousand dollars with new equipment. This generated a profit on income to be distributed of **one point two billion dollars (US \$1.2 BILLION)**.

Workers from PDVSA East report that through the **Listo Shipping Ltd.** firm, a Panamanian shipping company, the Lopez brothers and cousins and **Francisco Convit Gurruciaga** bought a small tanker and are dedicating themselves to smuggling diesel to the Caribbean islands, loading the tanker twice a month, paying the domestic price and selling it in the islands at the international price. Only for this item, the gang pocketed about fifteen million dollars last year.



Esther de Margulis
ex-president,
FOGADE

Who favors the ChavezKids at PDVSA?

Through representation by Central American Line and Tuscany Petroleum Ltd., companies trading in oil and derivatives, registered with the oil company, they buy shipments below international prices (Spot shipments), violating PDVSA's standards, according to which the same person cannot operate two companies registered with it at the same time. These companies are used to participate in auctions and thus obtain greater discounts and more shipments.

Naturally, the dollars which are the product of all these crimes are not included in the BCV (of the companies' sales abroad) and are then sold at a free dollar rate, violating the law of Exchange Crimes and the rules of the Central Bank of Venezuela, providing the group's members with juicy additional earnings.

<http://wikianticorupcion.org/2012/08/ni-iguayas-ni-rabipeladoses-la-corrupcion-parte-2/>

9/7/2012

In the past the ChavezKids also got into the financial business, becoming part of the banking fever that occurred among pseudo-bankers in 2009. They associated themselves with Cesar Camejo to purchase CasaPropia with the objective of having a vehicle to launder the money originating from oil and electricity corruption, as well as joining in illegal financial deals based on the exchange rate differential.

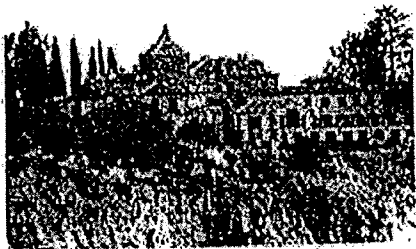
Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, Javier Alvarado (father and son), Nervis Villalobos, Francisco Convit Gurruciaga, Pedro Trebbau Lopez Derwick and Alejandro Ceballos entered this business.

CasaPropia was placed under administration in 2010, but it is absolutely certain that the ChavezKids had already found another Venezuelan financial entity through which they continued to launder the money that was the product of their crimes.

Other properties and *investments* by the gang:
A Falcon airplane (\$40 million), a Bell helicopter (\$6 million).

Properties in Paris, New York and Miami are attributed to them.

Specifically, in Spain, and only for the recent and well-publicized purchase of a 1,600 hectare hunting lodge in Toledo, Alejandro Betancourt Lopez paid 24 million dollars, precisely through the same company that he scammed the country with during the electricity emergency: **Derwick Associates!**
El Alamin Palace, today



Betancourt Lopez paid \$24 million for "El Alamin" through Derwick Associates

At this time they are constructing three buildings on the main avenue in Caracas' La Castellana district at a cost of \$29 million.

They also have a farm in Valencia, Carabobo (cost: 7 million dollars) a few meters away from the Plaza de Toros, of over 500 hectares, alongside the Los Aguacates horse ranch, called *Maruria*, where they have fighting bulls and their own private bullring, a place where they take their accomplices to entertain them and finalize *negotiations*.

In Venezuela, Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez has offices at Torre Kira in El Rosal, a mansion at the Lagunita Country Club and an apartment building at Lomas de Santa Rosa de Lima.

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) | [Translate](#) | Turn off for: [Spanish](#) | [Options](#)

At the present time, almost of this gang's members are out of the country, as it seems that they are being investigated by the intelligence agencies. However, because of their relationships with high government officials and the Public Prosecutor's Office, and also due to the immense amount of money they have available for bribes, this investigation would appear to be frozen. That's is not the case with the U.S. intelligence agencies, which are following the trail.

The loot for all the criminal group's members adds up to about two billion dollars (US\$ 2.0 billion) which they keep in a sort of communal *pot*, through which they launder money by making investments.

According to financial sources, Alejandro Betancourt, as the gang's boss, would be the owner of most of the so-called *pot*, circa \$800 million, which he has put into international banks such as **JP Morgan, Julius Baer (Switzerland) and Gazprombank (Lebanon)**.

Like the good ChavezBourgeois that he (of course!) is, Betancourt Lopez has a share in the Caracas Country Club with paso and other horses.

This entire fortune was made in less than three years and with an absolutely high profile, trampling on and threatening even journalists with total impunity, while he was supported by his good relationships with police officers, public prosecutors, governors and ministers.

It appears that the group might have signed a new contract with Bariven for the electricity sector, in the amount of **\$1.5 billion**, information that we have been unable to confirm.

Note from the WaC team: Believe us, this is a report that we would have preferred not to write. After all, as Venezuelans, it pains us to learn of so many corruption cases. All of them are painful but this case is especially so. It saddens and worries us even more because it involves young people, sons and grandsons of respectable people (Convit, Trebbau), with values, who worked honestly and enthusiastically so that they could study at the best educational institutions, also setting the best possible example for them in their homes, thinking that they were training men who would help Venezuela become a better country, more just, more developed. It was not so and this forces us to ponder Venezuelan society and the deep social and moral crisis it is experiencing.

There are those who say that we are a sick society. We confess that today is one of those days that we agree with this statement. The dawn will come and we will see.

Tags: [Alejandro Betancourt Lopez](#), [Alejandro Ceballos](#), [Aristides Maza](#), [Carlos Betancourt](#), [Central American Line](#), [Cesar Camejo Blanco](#), [Corpoelec](#), [CVG](#), [Derwick Associates](#), [Edgar Romero Navas](#), [Esther de Margulis](#), [Esther Holcblat de Margulis](#), [Francisco Convit Guruceaga](#), [Gazprom Bank](#), [Gonzalo Guzman Lopez](#), [Gonzalo Tirado](#), [Grupo 7C ca](#), [Javier Alvarado](#), [Jorge Rojas](#), [JP Morgan](#), [Julius Bae Bank](#), [Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez](#), [Lidia Lopez](#), [Lina Marciano](#), [Listo Shipping Co. 1 sa](#), [Luis Carlos Leon](#), [Luis Herrera Mendoza](#), [Luis Velasquez](#), [Maruria](#), [Minerven](#),
[line cut off]

Google translate view this page in: [English](#) ; [Translate](#) | [Turn off for: Spanish](#) | [Options](#)

Leave a Reply

_____ Name (required)

_____ Email (will not be published) (required)

[Send Comment]

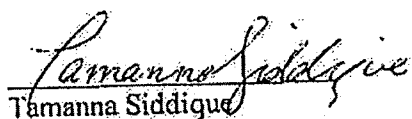
© 2012 Wiki Anti Corrupción



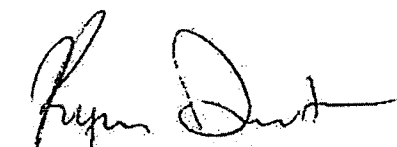
TRANSPERFECT

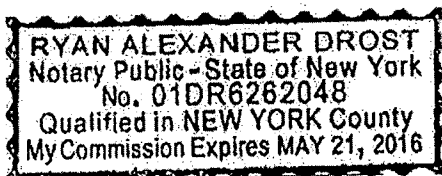
City of New York, State of New York, County of New York

I, Tamanna Siddique, hereby affirm that the document "Wiki Anti-Corruption Blog" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate translation from Spanish into English.


Tamanna Siddique

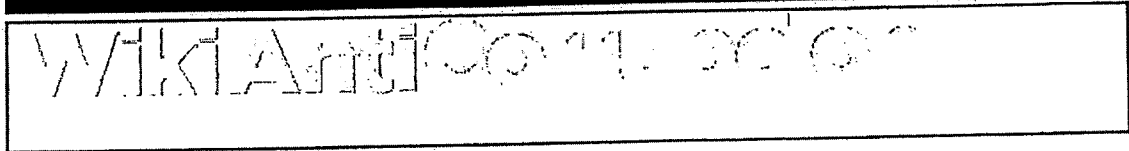
Sworn to before me this
12th of September, 2012


Signature, Notary Public



Stamp, Notary Public
State of New York

Google translate View this page in: [English](#)



- [Inicio](#)
- [¿Qué Somos?](#)
- [Colabora](#)
- [Casos](#)
- [Noticias](#)

Lo Último

[CASO WALID MAKLED](#)

[CASO MORIS BERACHA](#)

[CASO FRANCISCO ILLARAMENDI](#)

[CASO DAVID J. OSÍO MONTIEL](#)

[CASO LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT LÓPEZ](#)

[CASO CASTILLO BOZO](#)

[CASO PDVSA](#)

[OPERADORES FINANCIEROS DEL GOBIERNO: CADA VEZ MÁS RICOS](#)

Enlaces de Interés

- [Corrupción](#)
- [Terrorismo](#)
- [Marco Legal de Venezuela](#)
- [Convenciones y Otros Documentos Internacionales](#)
- [Sitios Relacionados](#)

Suscripción Gratuita

Email

Nombre

Apellido

Google translate

View this page in: [English](#)

[Translate](#)

[Turn off for: Spanish](#)

[Options](#)

Síguenos



Search for:

[Home](#) > [Casos](#) > CASO LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT LÓPEZ

CASO LEOPOLDO ALEJANDRO BETANCOURT LÓPEZ

Lo Ultimo 02/08/2012

Wikianticorrupción

Venezuela es una tierra bendita. Un clima maravilloso, ubicación geográfica privilegiada y recursos naturales que ya quisieran poseer muchos otros países: agua en abundancia, petróleo, gas, hierro, oro, diamantes y, por si todo ello fuera poco, ahora también tenemos ...coltán!

El denominado *oro azul* es una mezcla de los minerales columbita y tantalita, de allí su nombre: coltan.

Se trata de un recurso estratégico imprescindible en la fabricación de componentes electrónicos avanzados. Dejó de ser considerado una simple curiosidad mineralógica para convertirse, gracias a los avances tecnológicos, en uno de los metales más buscados.

El 80% de las reservas mundiales conocidas de coltán están en el Congo. Se dice que es la causa de la terrible guerra que azota a esa nación africana que ya ha ocasionado más de dos millones de muertes. Los otros países con reservas son Sierra Leona y Brasil.

Fue en la primera década de este siglo cuando se descubrieron yacimientos en Venezuela. El país se enteró, de la manera má informal, a través de una de las alocuciones de Hugo Chávez.

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)



Leopoldo Alejandro
Betancourt López jefe de
los chavechicos

Venezuela aún no ha legislado en torno al tema. Cualquier actividad minera está prohibida en Amazonas desde 1989. Sólo en Bolívar la empresa Desarrollo Minero del Amazonas (Demina) obtuvo una concesión en el año 2001 para explorar y explotar coltán, entre otros minerales, pero ahora enfrenta el caso en tribunales, luego de que el Gobierno rescindiera en 2010 esa única licencia que el Estado había otorgado. Extraer, guardar o transportar piedras negras se convirtió en delito a partir de entonces. Los registros judiciales revelan que la Guardia Nacional incautó casi dos toneladas (1800 kilos) de coltán entre 2009 y 2011.

Sin embargo, nada de esto detiene ni preocupa a la banda dirigida por Alejandro Betancourt López. De la manera más pública, cual si se tratara de un negocio legal, el grupo está traficando coltán.

A través de la empresa **Listo Shipping Co 1 s.a** aparentemente registrada en Panamá pero con oficinas en Caracas y Puerto Ordaz, adquirieron un carguero que no solo transporta diesel a las islas del Caribe, para su venta ilegal, sino que además trafica con cargamentos de coltán desde Guayana.

La oferta de negocios de la empresa se realiza públicamente a través de internet.

En el sitio de sugestivo nombre **alibaba.com** aparece el perfil de la empresa y su oferta de negocios:

Google translate View this page in: English Translate Turn off for: Spanish Options

Welcome to Alibaba.com, Join Free | Sign In Buy Sell Community My Alibaba My Favorites Help

Alibaba.com
Global trade starts here.

Home > Buy > listo shipping co 1 s.a

Unverified Member listo shipping co 1 s.a

Home Products Company Profile Contacts

search our products

Company Overview
- Introduction
Company Capability
- Trade Capacity

Company Introduction

This supplier has not provided a Company Introduction yet

Contact Supplier

Basic Information

Company Name	listo shipping co 1 s.a
Business Type	Trading Company
Main Products	collar

Email to this supplier

From: Enter email or Member ID.

To: Mr. carlos betancourt

Message:

Enter your inquiry details such as:

- Request introduction
- Request specifications
- Inquire about price/ MOQ
- View sample

Send

Datos empresa Listo Shipping Ltd

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)

The screenshot shows the Alibaba.com interface for a product listing. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Buy', 'Sell', 'Community', 'My Alibaba', 'My Favorites', and 'Help'. Below that is the Alibaba.com logo and a search bar. The main header identifies the user as an 'Unverified Member' for 'listo-shipping co 1 s.a.'. The product is 'tantalite', with a search bar above it. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Unverified Company' information, including the company name, location (Venezuela), and a note that there are no substantiated complaints in the last 90 days. The main content area shows 'Product Details' such as 'Place of Origin: Venezuela', 'Price: FOB USD 150 / Kilogram', and 'Minimum Order Quantity: 25000 Kilogram/Kilograms'. At the bottom, there's a 'Detailed Product Description' which starts with 'we have coltan 33 to 38 % tantalum we can offer 25 ton by month.'.

Oferta de coltan de Listo Shipping Ltd

En la misma, Carlos Betancourt, persona-contacto de Listo Shipping Ltd., ofrece coltán con un 33 a 38% de tantalita, a 150 dólares el kg como precio base para ventas de mínimo 25 toneladas al mes, con capacidad de despachar hasta 40 toneladas mensuales desde un puerto venezolano en diez días.

En el sitio Vorras.com se puede leer otra oferta que realiza Carlos Betancourt a nombre de Listo Shipping:

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) [Turn off for: Spanish](#) [Options](#)

carlos betancourt

[Colocar Respuesta](#)

<!-- END: Posted by --><!-- Date --> yfd yfd Fecha:

Thu Aug 4 12:46:40 2011

yfd Buenas amigo. yfd Hay disponible coltan en guayana. 5000 kg. Si esta interesado favor contactar via email yfd

yfd VENDO COLTAN 33% DE PUREZA... yfd LO COLOCO EN EL PUERTO DE CUALQUIER PAIS, 110\$ EL KIL
HACER NEGOCIO O ALGUNA DUDA.. yfd LLAMAR A: yfd 0414 444 52 85 yfd yfd ESCRIBIR POR TWITTER: yfd
yfd SALUDOS...

Otro traficante de nombre Enrique (no sabemos si relacionado con Listo Shipping) inclusive ofrece muestras de coltán venezolano con garantía de Pdvsa.

Re: coltan .!!! COMPRO COLTAN .!! REALMENTE compro

Colocado por: **enrique**

[Colocar Respuesta](#)

Fecha: **Sat Feb 25 16:46:40 2012**

En Respuesta a: Re: coltan .!!! COMPRO COLTAN .!! REALMENTE compro

sr. les escribo para ver si les interesa... y estan dispuestos a hacer negocios...
hemos encontrado COLTAN aqui en Venezuela en cantidades suficientemente
grandes para vender. Este mineral es muy buscado por empresas fabricantes de
microprocesadores y conductores de electricidad, resiste altas temperaturas y
conduce electricidad mucho mejor que el cobre.

Se pueden mandar muestras de laboratorios (certificadas por laboratorios de
pdvsa) e incluso se puede mandar una muestra fisica del mineral.

Si quiere mas informacion de precios, cantidad de mineral o muestras estamos
a la orden escribanos. estamos a la orden

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) [Turn off for: Spanish](#) [Options](#)

Resumiendo: al parecer los obscenos negocios ilegales realizados por los chavechicos en torno al servicio eléctrico de todos los venezolanos, que les reportaron varios cientos de millones de dólares a cada uno, no fue suficiente. La codicia de esta nueva generación de pseudoempresarios no tiene límites.

Aportes de los colaboradores

Varios diligentes y bien informados colaboradores, nos enviaron más datos para completar nuestra nota anterior sobre la corrupción en el sector eléctrico. *Ni iguanas, ni rabipelados: ¡Es la corrupción!* ha resultado ser sólo la punta del iceberg de un caso que expande sus tentáculos por varios ministerios y empresas del Estado.

Nuestros equipos de especialistas ya trabajan en la conformación de este caso. Sin embargo, por lo extenso y diversificado del radio de acción de esta nueva banda de pseudoempresarios y funcionarios corruptos, exponemos a continuación la info recibida para que nos ayuden a ampliar los datos.

NI IGUANAS, NI RABIPELADOS: ¡ES LA CORRUPCIÓN! PARTE 2

Un nuevo grupo de delincuentes del sector privado en asociación con funcionarios corruptos conformado, por lo menos, desde hace tres o cuatro años, ha tomado por asalto a Pdvsa, las empresas básicas y de minería y el sector eléctrico.



Nervis Villalobos ex viceministro de Energía y ex director de Cadafe

Algunos los llaman la banda de “los bolichicos”, otros “los tocayos” y otros, “los mafiosos de la V”.

En WaC preferimos denominarlos como “los chavechicos”, ya que se hicieron millonarios durante el gobierno de Hugo Chávez y por la juventud de la mayoría de sus miembros, que en promedio no sobrepasan los 30 años.



Javier Alvarado Ochoa

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)

La banda de los chavechicos está integrada por:

Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, C.I. 15.394.369, pasaporte B0383721 (también posee pasaporte italiano), jefe de la organización.

Alejandro Ceballos, testaferro y dueño de la empresa constructora **Grupo 7C CA** (lavadora del dinero malhabido). Estos dos son los llamados *tocayos*, los dos Alejandros.

Los hermanos y primos del jefe: **Gonzalo Guzmán López** (hermano de Betancourt López), **Francisco Convit Guruceaga** (primo de Betancourt Lopez) y **Pedro Trebbau López Derwick** (primo de Betancourt López). Otros cómplices: **Edgar Romero Navas** (hijo), **Javier Alvarado** presidente de Bariven.

Javier Alvarado (hijo), **Nervis Villalobos** (ex viceministro de Energía y ex director de Cadafe,) **Luis Carlos León** y **Esther Holeblat de Margulis**, ex presidenta de FOGADE (1995-2000), **imputada en 2003 por enriquecimiento ilícito**, quien en el pasado también asesoró a **Gonzalo Tirado** en la negociación de los bonos de la Electricidad de Caracas.



Edgar
Romero
Lazo

Este grupo controla las negociaciones de empresas de diferentes ramos. Con **Rodolfo Sanz** como Ministro de Miban (ahora Ministerio de Industrias) y Presidente de CVG, realizaron los siguientes negocios ilícitos, entre otros:

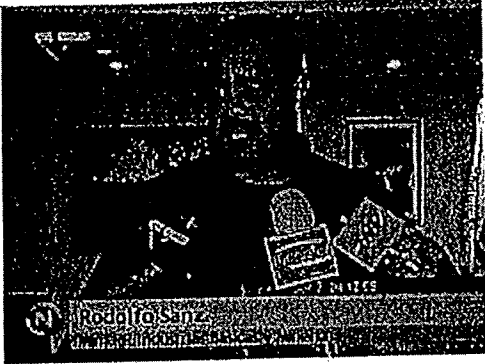
1.- Construcción de una planta eléctrica para Sidor por un monto superior a 700 millones de dólares, a través de la empresa Derwick LTD (empresa de maletín registrada en Barbados, con escaso capital).

Esta planta que debía haber entrado en funcionamiento en mayo de 2010, es decir, hace dos años, todavía no ha arrancado. Alejandro Betancourt, presidente de **Derwick** informó en lo que pareciera ser su blog personal el viernes pasado, que estaba “contento y satisfecho” con el avance de las obras.

Según informes de técnicos que conocen el proyecto, la planta eléctrica de Sidor está conformada por turbinas reconstruidas y equipos usados. En su negociación hubo un sobreprecio de 280 millones de dólares.

2. En otra negociación con una empresa china de la que se busca más información en estos momentos, se suscribió un contrato por 1.000 millones de dólares en toneladas de hierro y planchones. Al parecer, dicho contrato en el que todas las ventajas fueron para el grupo chino, perjudicando así los intereses de la CVG, reportó un 12% (120 millones de dólares) sólo por concepto de *honorarios* para el grupo: **Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt López**, **Alejandro Ceballos**, **Esther de Margullis** (asesora legal financiera del Ministro Rodolfo Sanz y de Ceballos), **Francisco Convit Gurruciaga**

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) [Turn off for: Spanish](#) [Options](#)



Rodolfo Sanz actual sec. gnal. de ALBA

4.-También hicieron negociaciones con oro, en complicidad con Luis Herrera Mendoza, presidente de Minerven, destituido por corrupción y mala administración en junio de 2011.

Entre los actos ilegales cometidos por **Herrera Mendoza**, además del abultamiento de la nómina con un personal no productivo con fines proselitistas (de 900 pasaron durante su gestión a 2300) e incumplimiento de las normativas del BCV, figuran otras denuncias más graves realizadas por los propios trabajadores y los consejos comunales de El Callao, acerca de las ilegales actividades de Herrera Mendoza junto con sus cómplices los chavchicos: obras y servicios fantasmas, compras con sobreprecio y, lo más grave, ventas de oro a futuro y venta de oro a precios especiales a miembros del mismo grupo, que luego era revendido a precios internacionales, generando ganancias ilegales a los intermediarios, entre ellos, familiares de Betancourt López que se dedican a la orfebrería. Se habla de montos cercanos a los 60 millones de dólares sólo por este último concepto.

Otros negocios menos rentables como la proveeduría de las empresas de CVG, eran controladas por **Lina Marciano** y centralizadas por Alejandro Betancourt y Alejandro Ceballos, socio y testaferro de Rodolfo Sanz, así como también las colocaciones de los recursos de la institución en bancos y la negociación de las pólizas de seguros con el grupo **Caroní de Arístides Maza**.

En una versión no confirmada aún, también se relacionó a esta banda con el monopolio de las cabillas y Luis Velásquez alias *el rey de la cabilla*, actualmente procesado por los delitos de concertación de funcionario público con contratista, peculado doloso propio, malversación específica por evasión de procedimiento licitatorio, tráfico de material ferroso y asociación para delinquir.



Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)

Como ya denunciara el periodista César Batiz en su nota de Últimas Noticias *Cable pelao en la electricidad*, los chavchicos están involucrados en el robo de 500 millones de dólares por concepto del metal producido en la CVG, dinero que nunca llegó a sus arcas ya que fue desviado a una cuenta del Gazprom Bank de Libano, propiedad de la compradora, la empresa rusa del mismo nombre.

Se calcula que sólo durante la gestión de **Rodolfo Sanz** como Ministro de Mibam y Presidente de CVG, los chavchicos robaron la cantidad de un mil trescientos millones de dolares (\$1.300 MM).

Como ya expusimos en la Parte 1 de este caso, Derwick Ltd, obtuvo a dedo, sin licitación y sin sopesar la trayectoria de la empresa, contratos por valor de más de 3.000 millones de dólares para enfrentar la crisis eléctrica que tanto daño le está produciendo al país, otorgados por CVG-SIDOR.

Trabajadores y técnicos de la CVG sostienen que en todos los contratos otorgados a los chavchicos se manejaron sobrepuestos por el orden del 40 % (sobre todo a través de extensiones de los contratos originales) llevando el costo del megavatio a un millón trescientos mil dólares, en su mayoría con equipos y turbinas reconstruidas cuando en ese entonces se cotizaba el megavatio a setecientos mil dólares con equipos nuevos. Esto generó al grupo un ingreso de utilidad a repartir de un mil doscientos millones de dólares (US\$ 1.200 MM)

Trabajadores de PDVSA Oriente reportan que a través de la empresa **Listo Shipping Ltd**, empresa naviera panameña, los hermanos y primos López y **Francisco Convit Gurruciaga** compraron un tanquero pequeño y están dedicados al contrabando de diesel en las islas del Caribe, cargando el tanquero dos veces al mes, pagando a precio nacional y vendiendo a las islas a precio internacional. Sólo por este concepto, la banda se embolsó el año pasado unos quince millones de dólares.



Esther de Margulis

Esther de Margulis
ex presidenta
FOGADE

¿ Quién favorece a los chavchicos en Pdvsa?

Con la representación de **Central American Line** y **Tuscany Petroleum Ltd**, empresas trading de petróleo y derivados, inscritas en la petrolera, compran cargamentos por debajo de los precios internacionales (embarques Spot), violando las normas de PDVSA según la cual una misma persona no puede operar dos empresas inscritas al mismo tiempo. Estas empresas son usadas para participar en las subastas y así conseguir mayores descuentos y más cargamentos.

Por supuesto, los dólares producto de todos estos delitos no son encajados en el BCV (de las ventas de las empresas al exterior) y son vendidos luego a dólar libre, violando la ley de Ilícitos Cambiarios y las reglas del Banco Central de Venezuela, proporcionando a los integrantes del grupo jugosas ganancias adicionales.

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)

En el pasado, los chavichicos también incursionaron en el negocio financiero, formando parte de la fiebre bancaria que cundió entre los seudo banqueros en 2009. Se asociaron con **César Camejo** para comprar **CasaPropia** con el objeto de tener un vehículo para lavar el dinero proveniente de la corrupción petrolera y eléctrica, así como incorporarse a los negocios financieros ilegales en base al diferencial cambiario.

En ese negocio entraron **Alejandro Betancourt Lopez**, **Javier Alvarado (padre e hijo)**, **Nervis Villalobos**, **Francisco Convit Gurruciaga**, **Pedro Trebbau Lopez Derwick** y **Alejandro Ceballos**.

CasaPropia fue intervenida en 2010 pero con toda seguridad los chavichicos ya encontraron otra entidad financiera venezolana a través de la cual seguir lavando el dinero producto de sus delitos.

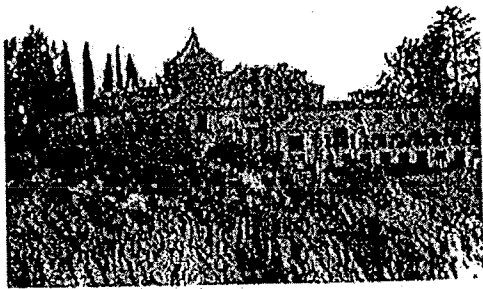
Otras propiedades e *inversiones* de la banda:

Un avión Falcon (\$40 millones), un helicóptero Bell (\$6 millones).

Se le atribuyen propiedades en París, Nueva York, Miami.

Particularmente en España, y solamente en la reciente y muy publicitada compra de una finca de caza en Toledo de 1.600 hectáreas, Alejandro Betancourt López pagó **24 millones de dólares** precisamente a través de la misma compañía con la que estafó a la nación en la emergencia eléctrica: **Derwick Associates!**

Palacio del Alamin, hoy en día



Betancourt López pagó \$24 millones por "El Alamin" a través de Derwick Associates

En estos momentos construyen tres edificios en la avenida principal de urbanización La Castellana de Caracas a un costo de \$29 millones.

También tienen una finca en Valencia, Carabobo (costo 7 millones de dólares) a pocos metros de la Plaza de Toros de más de 500 hectáreas, al lado del aras Los Aguacates, llamada *Maruria*, donde tienen toros de lidia y su propia plaza de toros privada, sitio a donde levan a sus cómplices para agasajarlos y concretar *negociaciones*.

En Venezuela, Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez tiene oficinas en Torre Kira de El Rosal, una mansión en la Lagunita Country Club y un edificio de apartamentos en Lomas de Santa Rosa de

Google translate View this page in: [English](#) [Translate](#) Turn off for: [Spanish](#) [Options](#)

En la actualidad, casi todos los integrantes de esta banda se encuentran fuera del país, ya que, al parecer, estarían siendo investigados por los organismos de inteligencia. Sin embargo, dadas sus relaciones con miembros del alto gobierno y de la Fiscalía, y debido también a la inmensa cantidad de dinero de la que disponen para sobornos, dicha investigación estaría congelada. No así la de organismos de inteligencia de EEUU, que le siguen la pista.

El botín de todos los integrantes del grupo delincencial suma unos dos mil millones de dólares (US\$2.000 millones) que mantienen en una especie de *pote* común, desde el cual lavan dinero haciendo inversiones.

Según fuentes financieras, Alejandro Betancourt, como jefe de la banda, sería el dueño de la mayor parte del denominado *pote*, unos \$800 millones, los cuales tiene colocados en bancos internacionales como el JP Morgan, Julius Baer (Suiza) y Gazprombank (Líbano).

Como buen chaveburgués que se merezca (no faltaba más!), Betancourt López tiene una acción en el Caracas Country Club, con caballos de paso y demás.

Toda esta fortuna fue hecha en menos de tres años y con absoluto alto perfil, atropellando y amenazando con absoluta impunidad, inclusive a periodistas, apoyándose en sus buenas relaciones con policías, fiscales, gobernadores y ministros.

Al parecer, el grupo habría suscrito un nuevo contrato con Bariven para el sector eléctrico por un monto de \$1.500 millones, información que no hemos podido confirmar.

Esperamos los comentarios e informaciones de nuestro colaboradores para completar la información.

Nota del equipo de WaC: Créannos, esta es una nota que no hubiéramos querido escribir. Al fin y al cabo, como venezolanos, nos duele conocer de tantos casos de corrupción. Todos son dolorosos pero éste lo es en especial. Nos entristece y preocupa aún más ya que involucra a gente joven, hijos y nietos de personajes respetables (Convit, Trebbau), con valores, que trabajaron con honestidad y entusiasmo para que pudieran estudiar en los mejores centros educativos, dándoles también el mejor ejemplo posible en sus hogares, pensando que estaban formando hombres que ayudarían a que Venezuela fuera un país mejor, mas justo, más desarrollado. No fue así y eso nos obliga a meditar acerca de la sociedad venezolana y la profunda crisis social y moral que atraviesa.

Hay quienes dicen que somos una sociedad enferma. Les confesamos que éste es uno de esos días en los que estamos de acuerdo con esa afirmación. Amanecerá y veremos.

Etiquetas: [Alejandro Betancourt López](#), [Alejandro Ceballos](#), [Aristides Maza](#), [Carlos Betancourt](#), [Central American Line](#), [César Camejo Blanco](#), [Corpoelec](#), [CVG](#), [Derwick Associates](#), [Edgar Romero Navas](#), [Esther de Margulis](#), [Esther Holcblat de Margulis](#), [Francisco Convit Guruceaga](#), [Gazprom Bank](#), [Gonzalo Guzmán López](#), [Gonzalo Tirado](#), [Grupo 7C ca](#), [Javier Alvarado](#), [Jorge Rojas](#), [JP Morgan](#), [Julius Bae Bank](#), [Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt López](#), [Lidia López](#), [Lina Marcano](#), [Listo Shipping Co 1 sa](#), [Luis Carlos León](#), [Luis Herrera Mendoza](#), [Luis Velásquez](#), [Maruria](#), [Minerven](#),

Google translate View this page in: [English](#)

Deja una Respuesta

Nombre (requerido)

Email (No será publicado) (requerido)

© 2012 Wiki Anti Corrupción

Exhibit B

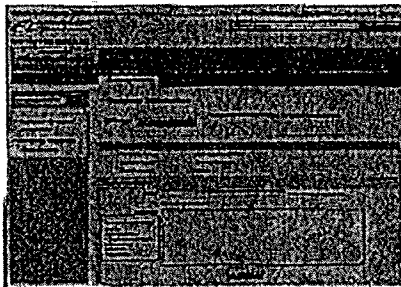
Special, Wikianticorruption. Venezuela is a blessed land. A wonderful climate, a privileged geographical location and natural resources that many other countries would want: abundant water, oil, gas, iron, gold, diamonds, and if all this weren't [word missing] now we also have ...coltan [tantalite]! The so-called *blue gold* is a blend of the minerals columbite and tantalite, from which it gets its name: col-tan.

It is an indispensable strategic resource in the production of advanced electronic components. It stopped being a simple mineral curiosity to become, thanks to advances in technology, one of the most sought-after metals.

80% of the world's known reserves of coltan [tantalite] are in Congo. It is said that it is the reason for the terrible war that is afflicting this African country, which has already generated over 2 million deaths. Other countries with reserves are Sierra Leone and Brazil.

Deposits were discovered in Venezuela in the first decade of this century. The country found out, in the most casual way, through one of Hugo Chavez' speeches. Venezuela still has not passed laws on this subject. All mining activity has been prohibited in Amazonas since 1989. The Desarrollo Mínero del Amazonas (Demina) company obtained a license in 2001 only in Bolivar to explore and mine coltan [tantalite], among other minerals, but it is now facing a court case, after the Government rescinded this single license which the State had granted, in 2010. Extracting, keeping or transporting black

Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez
The ChavezKids....



Picture 1: Listo Shipping Ltd. company information

carlos betancourt

Post Response

<- END:Posted by ->[-Date->yfdyfd
Date: Thu Aug 4 12:46:40 2011
yfd Good day friend, yfd Coltan [tantalite] is available in Guyana. 5,000 kg. If you are interested please contact via email yfd yfd I AM SELLING 33% PURE COLTAN [TANTALITE]...yfd I CAN PLACE IT IN THE PORT OF ANY COUNTRY, \$110/KG. TO DO BUSINESS OR ANY QUESTIONS...yfd CALL: yfd 0414 444 52 85 yfd yfd WRITE VIA TWITTER: yfd REGARDS....

Picture 3

stones became a crime starting from that time. Judicial records reveal that the National Guard seized almost two tons (1,800 kg.) of coltan [tantalite] from 2009 to 2011. However, none of this stops or concerns the gang led by Alejandro Betancourt Lopez. In the most public manner, as if it concerned a legal business, the group is trafficking in coltan [tantalite]. Through the Listo Shipping Co l s.a. firm, apparently registered in Panama, but with offices in Caracas and Puerto Ordaz, they purchased a cargo ship which not only transported diesel to the Caribbean island for its illegal sale, but it also smuggled shipments of coltan [tantalite] from Guyana. The company's business offers are carried out publicly through the internet.

The company's profile and its business offer appears on the site with the evocative name

alibaba.com: (See pictures 01 and 02).

In it, Carlos Betancourt, Listo Shipping Ltd.'s contact person, offers coltan [tantalite] with 33% to 38% tantalite, at 150 dollars a kilogram as a base price for minimum sales of 25 tons a month, with the capacity to ship up to 40 tons a month from a Venezuelan port in ten days.

On the Vorras.com site, another offer that Carlos Betancourt makes on behalf of Listo Shipping can be read: (See picture 03).

Another trafficker named Enrique (we don't know if he is connected to Listo Shipping) even offers samples of Venezuelan coltan [tantalite] with PDVSA's guarantee.

(See picture 04).

To sum up: it seems that the obscene illegal business carried out by the ChavezKids on the electrical utility of all Venezuelans, which brought several hundreds of millions of dollars to each one, was not enough. The greed of this new generation of pseudo-entrepreneurs is unlimited.

Contributions from Collaborators

Several diligent and well-informed collaborators sent us more data to complete our previous report on corruption in the electricity industry. Not iguanas or opossums: It's corruption! has been only the tip of the iceberg in a case that extends its tentacles through several Government ministries and companies.

Our teams of specialists are already working on making this case. However, due to the extent and diversification of the range of action of this new gang of

pseudo-entrepreneurs and corrupt government employees, we are stating the information received below in order for you to help us expand the data.

Not Iguanas or Opossums: It's Corruption! Part 2

A new group of private sector criminals in association with corrupt government employees, created at least three or four years ago, have raided PDVSA, basic and mining industries and the electricity sector.

Nervis Villalobos, ex-deputy minister of Energy and ex-director of Cadafe

Some call the gang the "BoliBoys" others "the namesakes" and others, "the mafiosos of the V."

At WaC, we prefer to call them the "ChavezKids" since they became millionaires during Hugo Chavez' government and because of the young age of most of their members, who on average are not over age 30.

The ChavezKids

-Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, ID Card 15.394.396, Passport B0383721 (he also holds an Italian passport), boss of the organization.

-Alejandro Ceballos, front man and owner of the Grupo 7C CA construction company (company laundering ill-gotten money).

These two men are called the namesakes, the two Alejandros.

-The boss' brothers and cousins: Gonzalo Guzman Lopez (brother of Betancourt Lopez), Francisco Convit Guruceaga (cousin of Betancourt Lopez) and Pedro Trebbau Lopez Derwick (cousin of Betancourt Lopez). Other accomplices: Edgar Romero Navas (son),

Javier Alvarado, president of Bariven.

-Javier Alvarado (son), Nervis Villalobos (ex-deputy minister of Energy and ex-director of Cadafe), Luis Carlos Leon and Esther Holcblat de Margulis, ex-president of FOGADE (1995-2000), charged with illegal enrichment in 2003, who in the past also advised Gonzalo Tirado in the negotiation for the Electricidad de Caracas [Caracas Electricity] bonds.

This group controls negotiations of companies in different sectors. With Rodolfo Sanz as the MIBAM Minister (now the Ministry of Industries) and President of CVG, they carried out the following illegal business deals, among others:

1.- Construction of an electrical plant for Sidor for an amount higher than 700 million dollars, through the Derwick LTD company (a shell company registered in Barbados, with scant capital).

This plant, which should have gone into operation in May 2010, that is to say, two years ago, still has not started up. Alejandro Betancourt, Derwick's president, reported last Friday in what appears to be his personal blog that he was "content and satisfied" with the progress of the works.

According to reports by technicians who are familiar with the project, the Sidor electrical plant is made up of rebuilt turbines and used equipment. There was a overcharge of 280 million dollars on the deal.

2.-In another deal with a Chinese company for which more information is being

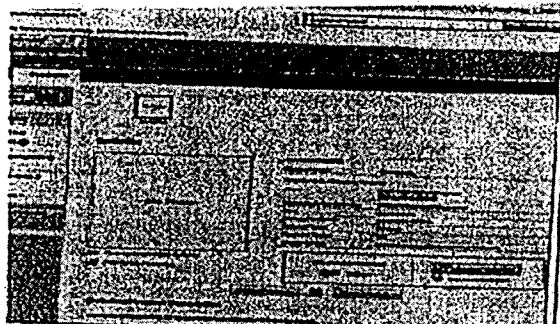
sought at this time, a contract for one billion dollars in tons of iron and slabs. It appears that this contract, in which all the advantages went to the Chinese group, thus harming the CVG's interests, reported 12% (120 million dollars) just as honoraria for the group: Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, Alejandro Ceballos, Esther de Margullis (legal-financial advisor of Minister Rodolfo Sanz and Ceballos), Francisco Convit Gurruciaga (Ceballos' right-hand man and cousin of Betancourt), Lina Marcano and Jorge Rojas.

4.- [sic: 3. -]They also dealt in gold, in complicity with Luis Herrera Mendoza, president of Minerven, dismissed for corruption and mismanagement in June 2011.

Illegal Acts

Among the illegal acts committed by Herrera Mendoza, in addition to padding the payroll with unproductive staff for propaganda purposes (under his management, they went from 900 to 2,300) and failure to comply with the BCV's standards, there are other more serious complaints which were made by the workers themselves and the community councils of El Callao, on Herrera Mendoza's illegal activities, along with his accomplices, the ChavezKids: phantom works and services, purchases which were made with overcharges, and the most serious, future sales of gold and the sale of gold at special prices to the members of the same group, which later

Who Favors the ChavezKids at PDVSA?



Re: ?????Coltan [Tantalite]!!! || I BUY COLTAN [TANTALITE]!! I REALLY buy
 ?? Posted by: enrique
 ?? Date: Sat Feb 25 16:46:40 2012 Post
 Response

In Response to: R E:????Coltan [Tantalite]!!!?I BUY COLTAN [TANTALITE]!!! I REALLY buy

?Sir, I am writing to you to see if you are interested...and are willing to do business...
 we have found COLTAN [TANTALITE] here ? in Venezuela in sufficiently large quantities to sell. This mineral is very sought-after by companies that manufacture microprocessors and electricity conductors, it resists high temperatures and conducts electricity much better than copper does.?
 ?
 Laboratory samples can be sent (certified by PDVSA laboratories) and a ph?ysical sample of the mineral can also be sent. ?
 ?
 If you want more informati?n on prices, mineral quantity or samples we are at your disposal. Write to us. We are at your disposal.
 Picture 4

Picture 2: Coltan [Tantalite] Offer by Listo Shipping Ltd.

was resold at international prices, generating illegal earnings for the brokers, among them, relatives of Betancourt Lopez, who are goldsmiths. There is talk of amounts close to 60 million dollars just for this last item.

Other, less profitable deal such as procurement for the CVG's companies were controlled by Lina Marcano and centralized by Alejandro Betancourt and Alejandro Ceballos, partner and front man for Rodolfo Sanz, as well as the placement of the institution's resources in banks and the negotiation of insurance policies with Aristides Maza's Grupo Caroni.

In a yet to be confirmed version, this gang was also associated with the monopoly on steel rods and Luis Velasquez, alias The King of Steel Bars, currently on trial for crimes of collusion by a public employee with a contractor, willful embezzlement, specific misappropriation due to evasion

of a bidding procedure, dealing in iron materials and criminal association.

As already reported by journalist Cesa Batiz in his Latest News report "Cable Crossed in Electricity", the ChavezKids were involved in the theft of 500 million dollars of metal produced by CVG, money that never reached its coffers since it was diverted to an account at Gazprom Bank of Lebanon, owned by the buyer, the Russian company of the same name.

It is calculated that just during Rodolfo Sanz's management as MIBAM Minister and CVG President, the ChavezKids stole the amount of one point three billion dollars (\$1.3 BILLION).

As we already stated in Part 1 of this case, Derwick Ltd., obtained by appointment, without a tender and without weighing the company's history, contracts for over 3 billion dollars to deal with the electricity crisis that is causing so much damage to the

country, granted by CVG-SIDOR.

Millions

CVG's workers and technicians maintain that all the contracts granted to the ChavezKids had overcharges of about 40% (especially through extensions of the original contracts) bringing the cost of the megawatt to one million three hundred thousand dollars, most with rebuilt equipment and turbines, while at that time a megawatt was quoted at seven hundred thousand dollars with new equipment. This generated a profit on income to be distributed of one point two billion dollars (US \$1.2 BILLION).

Workers from PDVSA East report that through the Listo Shipping Ltd. firm, a Panamanian shipping company, the Lopez brothers and cousins and Francisco Convit Gurruciaga bought a small tanker and are dedicating themselves to smuggling diesel

to the Caribbean islands, loading the tanker twice a month, paying the domestic price and selling it in the islands at the international price. Only for this item, the gang pocketed about fifteen million dollars last year.

Who Favors the ChavezKids at PDVSA?

Through representation by Central American Line and Tuscany Petroleum Ltd., companies trading in oil and derivatives, registered with the oil company, they buy shipments below international prices (Spot shipments), violating PDVSA's standards, according to which the same person cannot operate two companies registered with it at the same time. These companies are used to participate in auctions and thus obtain greater discounts and more shipments.

Naturally, the dollars which are the product of all these crimes are not included in the BCV (of the companies' sales abroad) and are then sold at a free dollar rate, violating the law of Exchange Crimes and the rules of the Central Bank of Venezuela, providing the group's members with juicy additional earnings.

They're also Pseudo-Bankers

In the past the ChavezKids also got into the financial business, becoming part of the banking fever that occurred among pseudo-bankers in 2009. They associated themselves with Cesar Camejo to purchase CasaPropia with the objective of having a vehicle to launder the money originating from oil and electricity corruption, as well as joining in illegal financial deals based on the exchange rate differential.

Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, Javier Alvarado (father and son), Nervis Villalobos, Francisco Convit Gurruciaga, Pedro Trebbau Lopez Derwick and

Alejandro Ceballos entered this business. CasaPropia was placed under administration in 2010, but it is absolutely certain that the ChavezKids had already found another Venezuelan financial entity through which they continued to launder the money that was the product of their crimes.

Other properties and investments by the gang:

A Falcon airplane (\$40 million), a Bell helicopter (\$6 million).

Properties in Paris, New York and Miami are attributed to them. Specifically, in Spain, and only for the recent and well-publicized purchase of a 1,600 hectare hunting lodge in Toledo, Alejandro Betancourt Lopez paid 24 million dollars, precisely through the same company that he scammed the country with during the electricity emergency:

Derwick Associates! Betancourt Lopez paid \$24 million for "El Alamin" through Derwick Associates.

At this time they are constructing three buildings on the main avenue in Caracas' La Castellana district at a cost of \$29 million.

They also have a farm in Valencia, Carabobo (cost: 7 million dollars) a few meters away from the Plaza de Toros, of over 500 hectares, alongside the Los Aguacates horse ranch, called Maruria, where they have fighting bulls and their own private bulring, a place where they take their accomplices to entertain them and finalize negotiations.

In Venezuela, Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt Lopez has offices at Torre Kira in El Rosal, a mansion at the Lagunita Country Club and an apartment building at Lomas de Santa Rosa de Lima.

They're Out of the Country

At the present time, almost of this group's members are out of the country, as it seems that they are being investigated by the intelligence agencies. However, because of their relationships with high government officials and the Public Prosecutor's Office, and also due to the immense amount of money they have available for bribes, this investigation would appear to be frozen. That is not the case with the U.S. intelligence agencies, which are following the trail.

The loot for all the criminal group's members adds up to about two billion dollars (US\$ 2.0 billion) which they keep in a sort of communal pot, through which they launder money by making investments.

According to financial sources, Alejandro Betancourt, as the gang's boss, would be the owner of most of the so-called pot, circa \$800 million, which he has put into international banks such as JP Morgan, Julius Baer (Switzerland) and Gazprombank (Lebanon).

Like the good ChavezBourgeois that he (of course!) is, Betancourt Lopez has a share in the Caracas Country Club with paso and other horses.

This entire fortune was made in less than three years and with an absolutely high profile, trampling on and threatening even journalists with total impunity, while he was supported by his good relationships with police officers, public prosecutors, governors and ministers.

It appears that the group might have signed a new contract with Bariven for the electricity sector, in the amount of \$1.5 billion, information that we have been unable to confirm.

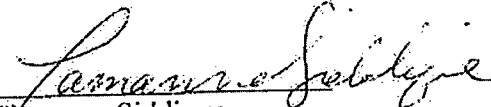
Wikianticorruption



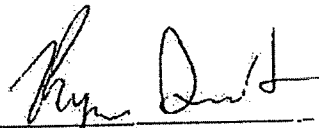
TRANSPERFECT

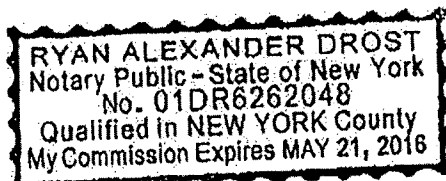
City of New York, State of New York, County of New York

I, Tamanna Siddique, hereby affirm that the document "Special, Wikianticorruption" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate translation from Spanish into English.


Tamanna Siddique

Sworn to before me this
12th of September, 2012


Signature, Notary Public



Stamp, Notary Public
State of New York

Especial, Wikianticorrupción. - Venezuela es una tierra bendita. Un clima maravilloso, ubicación geográfica privilegiada y recursos naturales que ya quisieran poseer muchos otros países: agua en abundancia, petróleo, gas, hierro, oro, diamantes y, por si todo ello fuera poco, ahora también tenemos... coltán!

El denominado oro azul es una mezcla de los minerales columbita y tantalita, de allí su nombre: col-tan.

Se trata de un recurso estratégico imprescindible en la fabricación de componentes electrónicos avanzados. Dejó de ser considerado una simple curiosidad mineralógica para convertirse, gracias a los avances tecnológicos, en uno de los metales más buscados.

El 80% de las reservas mundiales conocidas de coltán están en el Congo. Se dice que es la causa de la terrible guerra que azota a esa nación africana que ya ha ocasionado más de dos millones de muertes. Los otros países con reservas son Sierra Leona y Brasil.

Fue en la primera década de este siglo cuando se descubrieron yacimientos en Venezuela. El país se enteró, de la manera más informal, a través de una de las allocuciones de Hugo Chávez.

Venezuela aún no ha legislado en torno al tema. Cualquier actividad minera está prohibida en Amazonas desde 1989. Sólo en Bolívar la empresa Desarrollo Minero del Amazonas (Demina) obtuvo una concesión en el año 2001 para explorar y explotar coltán, entre otros minerales, pero ahora enfrenta el caso en tribunales, luego de que el Gobierno rescindiera en 2010 esa única licencia que el Estado había otorgado. Extraer, guardar o transportar piedras negras se convirtió en delito a partir de entonces. Los registros judiciales revelan que la Guardia Nacional incautó casi dos toneladas (1800 kilos) de coltán entre el 2009 y el 2011.

Sin embargo, nada de esto detiene ni preocupa a la banda dirigida por Alejandro Betancourt López. De la manera más pública, cual si se tratara de un negocio legal, el grupo está traficando coltán.

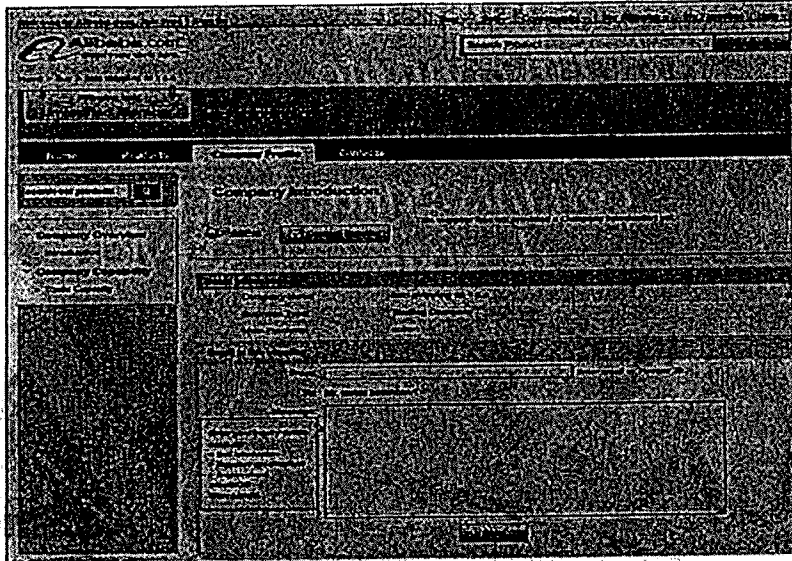
A través de la empresa Listo Shipping Co] se aparentemente registrada en Panamá pero con oficinas en Caracas y Puerto Ordaz, adquirieron un carguero que no solo transporta diésel a las islas del Caribe, para su venta ilegal, sino que además trafica con cargamentos de coltán desde Guayana.

La oferta de negocios de la empresa se realiza públicamente a través de internet.

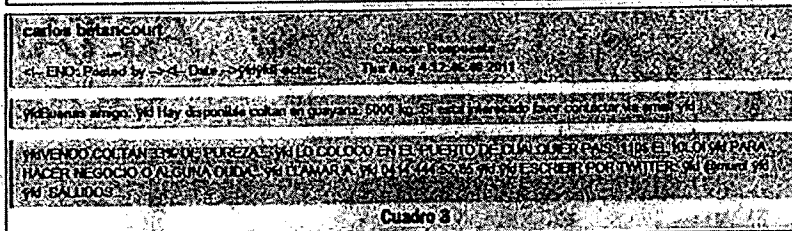
En el sitio de sugestivo nombre alibata.com aparece el perfil de la empresa y su oferta de negocios. (Ver cuadros 01 y 02)

En la misma, Carlos Betancourt, persona-contacto de Listo Shipping Ltd., ofrece coltán con un 33 a 38% de tantalita, a 150 dólares el kg. como precio base para ventas de mínimo 25 toneladas al mes, con capacidad de despachar hasta

Caso Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt López Los chavechicos....



Cuadro 1: Datos empresa Listo Shipping Ltd



Cuadro 2

40 toneladas mensuales desde un puerto venezolano en diez días.

En el sitio Vorras.com se puede leer una oferta que realiza Carlos Betancourt a nombre de Listo Shipping. (Ver cuadro 03)

Otro traficante de nombre Enrique (no sabemos si relacionado con Listo Shipping) inclusive ofrece muestras de coltán venezolano con garantía de PDVSA. (Ver cuadro 04)

Resumiendo, al parecer los obscenos negocios ilegales realizados por los chavechicos en torno al servicio eléctrico de todos los venezolanos, que les reportara varios cientos de millones de dólares a cada uno, no fue suficiente. La codicia de esta nueva generación de seudocompañeros no tiene límites.

Aportes de los colaboradores

Varios diligentes y bien informados colaboradores, nos enviaron más datos para completar nuestra nota anterior sobre la corrupción en el sector eléctrico. Ni guanas, ni rabipelados: ¡és la corrupción! ha resultado ser sólo la punta del iceberg de un caso que expande sus ten-

táculos por varios ministerios y empresas del Estado.

Nuestros equipos de especialistas ya trabajan en la conformación de este caso. Sin embargo, por lo extenso y diversificado del radio de acción de esta nueva banda de seudocompañeros y funcionarios corruptos, exponemos a continuación la info recibida para que nos ayuden a ampliar los datos.

Ni guanas, ni rabipelados: ¡és la corrupción! parte 2

Un nuevo grupo de delincuentes del sector privado en asociación con funcionarios corruptos conformado, por lo menos, desde hace tres o cuatro años, ha tomado por asalto a PDVSA, las empresas básicas y de minería y el sector eléctrico.

Nervis Villalobos ex viceministro de Energía y ex director de Cadafe

Algunos los llaman la banda de "los bolchichos", otros "los tocayos" y otros, "los mafiosos de la V".

En WaC preferimos denominarlos como "los chavechicos", ya que se hicie-

ron millonarios durante el gobierno de Hugo Chávez y por la juventud de la mayoría de sus miembros, que en promedio no sobrepasan los 30 años.

Los chavechicos

— Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt López, C.I. 15.394.369, pasaporte B0383721 (también posee pasaporte italiano), jefe de la organización.

— Alejandro Ceballos, testafiero y dueño de la empresa constructora Grupo 7C CA (lavadora del dinero malhabido). Estos dos son los llamados tocayos, los dos Alejandos.

— Los hermanos y primos del jefe: Gonzalo Guzmán López (hermano de Betancourt López), Francisco Convit Guiruceaga (primo de Betancourt López) y Pedro Trebbau López Derwick (primo de Betancourt López). Otros cómplices: Edgar Romero Navas (hijo), Javier Alvarado presidente de Bariven.

— Javier Alvarado (hijo), Nervis Villalobos (ex viceministro de Energía y ex director de Cadafe), Luis Carlos León y Esther Holcblat de Margulis, ex presi-

denta de FOGADE (1995-2000), imputada en 2003 por enriquecimiento ilícito, quien en el pasado también asesoró a Gonzalo Tirado en la negociación de los bonos de la Electricidad de Caracas.

Este grupo controla las negociaciones de empresas de diferentes ramos. Con Rodolfo Sanz como Ministro de MIBAM (ahora Ministerio de Industrias) y Presidente de CVG, realizaron los siguientes negocios ilícitos, entre otros:

1.- Construcción de una planta eléctrica para Sidor por un monto superior a 700 millones de dólares, a través de la empresa Derwick LTD (empresa de maletín registrada en Barbados, con escaso capital).

Esta planta que debía haber entrado en funcionamiento en mayo del 2010, es decir, hace dos años, todavía no ha avanzado. Alejandro Betancourt, presidente de Derwick informó en lo que pareciera ser su blog personal el viernes pasado, que estaba "contento y satisfecho" con el avance de las obras.

Según informes de técnicos que conocen el proyecto, la planta eléctrica de Sidor está conformada por turbinas reconstruidas y equipostizadas. En su negociación hubo un sobreprecio de 280 millones de dólares.

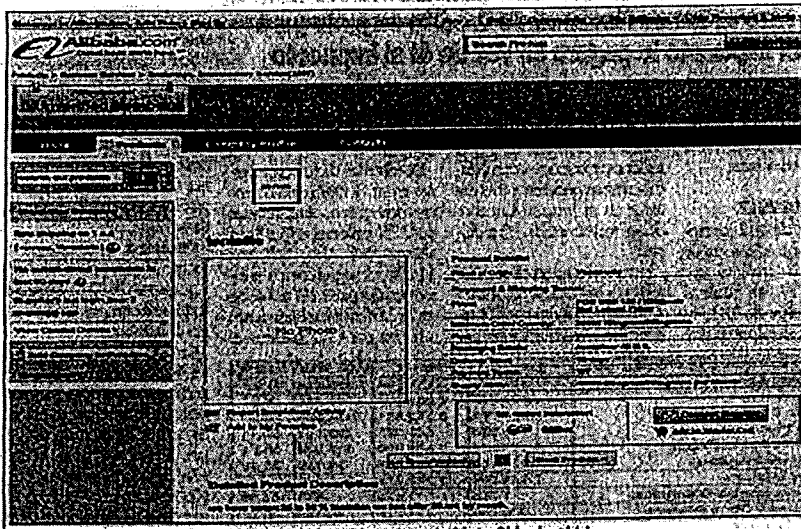
2.- En otra negociación con una empresa china de la que se busca más información en estos momentos, se suscribió un contrato por 1.000 millones de dólares en toneladas de licoro y planchones. Al parecer, dicho contrato en el que todas las ventas fueron para el grupo chino, perjudicando así los intereses de la CVG, reportó un 12% (120 millones de dólares) sólo por concepto de honorarios para el grupo: Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt López, Alejandro Ceballos, Esther de Margulis (asesora legal financiera del Ministro Rodolfo Sanz y de Ceballos), Francisco Convit Guiruceaga (mano derecha de Ceballos y primo de Betancourt), Lina Marciano y Jorge Rojas.

4.- También hicieron negociaciones con oro, en complicidad con Luis Herrera Mendoza, presidente de Minerven, deslindado por corrupción y mala administración en junio del 2011.

Actos legales

Entre los actos ilegales cometidos por Herrera Mendoza, además del abultamiento de la nómina con un personal no productivo con fines procellosos (de 900 pasaron durante su gestión a 2300) e incumplimiento de las normativas del BCV, figuran otras denuncias más graves realizadas por los propios trabajadores y los consejos comunales de El Callao, acerca de las ilegales actividades de Herrera Mendoza junto con sus cómplices los chavechicos: obras y servicios fantasmas, compras con sobreprecio y, lo más grave, ventas de oro a futuro y venta de oro a precios especiales a miembros del mismo grupo, que luego

¿Quién favorece a los chavechicos en PDVSA?



Cuadro 2: Oferta de coltan de Listo Shipping Ltd

Re: Colocación por: Enrique
 Fecha: Sab Feb 25 16:46:40 2012

Colocación por: Enrique

Colocar Respuesta

En Respuesta a: Re: Colocación por: Enrique

Est. les escribo para ver si les interesa... y estan dispuestos a hacer negocios... hemos encontrado COLTAN aquí en Venezuela en cantidades suficientemente grandes para vender. Este mineral es muy buscado por empresas fabricantes de microprocesadores y conductores de electricidad, resiste altas temperaturas y conduce electricidad mucho mejor que el cobre.
 Se pueden mandar muestras de laboratorios (certificadas por laboratorios de pdvsa) e incluso se puede mandar una muestra física del mineral.
 Si quiere más información de precios, cantidad de mineral o muestras estamos a la orden escribanos, estamos a la orden

Cuadro 4

era revendido a precios internacionales, generando ganancias ilegales a los intermediarios, entre ellos, familiares de Betancourt López que se dedican a la cribrería. Se habla de montos cercanos a los 60 millones de dólares sólo por este último concepto.

Otros negocios menos rentables como la proveeduría de las empresas de CVG, eran controladas por Lina Marciano y centralizadas por Alejandro Betancourt y Alejandro Ceballos, socio y testaferro de Rodolfo Sanz, así como también las colocaciones de los recursos de la institución en bancos y la negociación de las pólizas de seguros con el grupo Caroní de Aristides Maza.

En una versión no confirmada aún, también se relaciona a esta banda con el monopolio de las cabillas y Luis Velásquez alias el rey de la cabilla, actualmente procesado por los delitos de concertación de funcionario público con contratista, peculado doloso propio, malversación específica por evasión de procedimiento licitatorio, tráfico de material ferozo y asociación para delinquir.

Como ya denunciara el periodista César Batiz en su nota de Últimas Noticias Cable pella en la electricidad, los chavechicos están involucrados en el robo de 500 millones de dólares por concepto del metal producido en la CVG, dinero que nunca llegó a sus arcas ya que fue desviado a una cuenta del Gazprom Bank de Líbano, propiedad de la compañía, la empresa rusa del mismo nombre.

Se calcula que sólo durante la gestión de Rodolfo Sanz como Ministro de MIBAM y Presidente de CVG, los chavechicos robaron la cantidad de un mil

trescientos millones de dólares (US\$1.300 MM). Como ya expusimos en la Parte I de este caso, Derwick Ltd, obtuvo a dedo, sin licitación y sin sopesar la trayectoria de la empresa, contratos por valor de más de 3.000 millones de dólares para enfrentar la crisis eléctrica que tanto daño le está produciendo al país otorgados por CVG-SIDOR.

Miliones

Trabajadores y técnicos de la CVG sostienen que en todos los contratos otorgados a los chavechicos se manifiestan sobrepagos por el orden del 40% (sobre todo a través de extensiones de los contratos originales) llevando el costo del megavatio a un millón trescientos mil dólares, en su mayoría con equipos y turbinas reconstruidas cuando en ese entonces se cotizaba el megavatio a setecientos mil dólares con equipos nuevos. Esto generó al grupo un ingreso de utilidad a reparar de un mil doscientos millones de dólares (US\$1.200 MM). Trabajadores de PDVSA Oriente reportan que a través de la empresa Listo Shipping Ltd, empresa naviera panameña, los hermanos y primos López y Francisco Convit Gurruclaga compraron un tanquero pequeño y están dedicados al contrabando de diesel en las islas del Caribe, cargando el tanquero dos veces al mes, pagando a precio nacional y vendiendo a las islas a precio internacional. Sólo por este concepto, la banda se embolsó el año pasado unos quince millones de dólares.

¿Quién favorece a los chavechicos en PDVSA?

Con la representación de Central

American Line y Tuscany Petroleum Ltd, empresas trading de petróleo y derivados, inscritas en la petrolera, compran cargamentos por debajo de los precios internacionales (embarques Spot), violando las normas de PDVSA según la cual una misma persona no puede operar dos empresas inscritas al mismo tiempo. Estas empresas son usadas para participar en las subastas y así conseguir mayores descuentos y más cargamentos. Por supuesto, los dólares producto de todos estos delitos no son encajados en el BCV (de las ventas de las empresas al exterior) y son vendidos luego a dólar libre, violando la ley de ilícitos Cambiarios y las reglas del Banco Central de Venezuela, proporcionando a los integrantes del grupo jugosas ganancias adicionales.

También son seudobanqueros

En el pasado, los chavechicos también incursionaron en el negocio financiero, formando parte de la fiebre bancaria que cundió entre los seudobanqueros en el 2009. Se asociaron con César Camero para comprar Casa Propia con el objeto de tener un vehículo para lavar el dinero proveniente de la corrupción petrolera y eléctrica, así como incorporar a los negocios financieros legales en base al diferencial cambiario.

En ese negocio entraron Alejandro Betancourt López, Javier Alvarado (padre e hijo), Nervis Villalobos, Francisco Convit Gurruclaga, Pedro Trebbau Lopez, Derwick y Alejandro Ceballos. Casa Propia fue intervenida en el 2010 pero con toda seguridad los chavechicos ya encontraron otra entidad financiera venezolana a través de la

cual seguir lavando el dinero producto de sus delitos.

Otras propiedades e inversiones de la banda: Un avión Falcon (US\$40 millones), un helicóptero Bell (US\$6 millones). Se le atribuyen propiedades en París, Nueva York, Miami. Particularmente en España, y solamente en la reciente y muy publicitada compra de una finca de caza en Toledo de 1.600 hectáreas, Alejandro Betancourt López pagó 24 millones de dólares precisamente a través de la misma compañía con la que estafó a la nación en la emergencia eléctrica: Derwick Associates.

Betancourt López pagó US\$24 millones por "El Alamin" a través de Derwick Associates.

En estos momentos construyen tres edificios en la avenida principal de urbanización La Castellana de Caracas a un costo de US\$29 millones. También tienen una finca en Valencia, Carabobo (costó 7 millones de dólares) a pocos metros de la Plaza de Toros de más de 500 hectáreas, al lado del aras Los Aguacates, llamada Maruía, donde tienen toros de lidia y su propia plaza de toros privada, sitio a donde llevan a sus cómplices para agasajarlos y concretar negociaciones.

En Venezuela, Leopoldo Alejandro Betancourt López tiene oficinas en Torre Kara de El Rosal, una mansión en la Lagunita Country Club y un edificio de apartamentos en Lomas de Santa Rosa de Lima.

Se encuentran fuera del país

En la actualidad, casi todos los integrantes de este grupo se encuentran fuera del país, ya que, al parecer, estarían

siendo investigados por los organismos de inteligencia. Sin embargo, dadas sus relaciones con miembros del alto gobierno y de la Fiscalía, y debido también a la inmensa cantidad de dinero de la que disponen para sobornar, dicha investigación estaría congelada. No así la de organismos de inteligencia de EE.UU., que le siguen la pista.

El botín de todos los integrantes del grupo delincoencin suma unos dos mil millones de dólares (US\$2.000 millones), que mantienen en una especie de pote común, desde el cual lavan dinero haciendo inversiones.

Según fuentes financieras, Alejandro Betancourt, como jefe de la banda, sería el dueño de la mayor parte del denominado pote, unos US\$800 millones, los cuales tiene colocados en bancos internacionales como el JP Morgan, Julius Baer (Suiza) y Gazprombank (Líbano).

Como buen chavebangués que se merezca (no faltaba más!), Betancourt López tiene una acción en el Caracas Country Club, con caballos de paso y demás.

Toda esta fortuna fue hecha en menos de tres años y con absoluto zito perfil, atropellando y amenazando con absoluta impunidad, inclusive a periodistas, apoyándose en sus buenas relaciones con policías, fiscales, gobernadores y ministros.

Al parecer, el grupo habría suscrito un nuevo contrato con Bariven para el sector eléctrico por un monto de US\$1.500 millones, información que no hemos podido confirmar.

Wilfredo Carrasquero

Exhibit C



Daniela Portagnuolo
daniporta
What I like Fashion, Music, Running and Movies. What I love Venezuela and Divina Tentacion [clothing store]. Sebucan Mall - Galerias Los Narajos Mall - [illegible] Caracas Venezuela [illegible]

Follow
1,822
513
442

Follow Daniela Portagnuolo

Twists



Daniela Portagnuolo
To the BoliBoys who are pillaging our poor country they even appear in HOLA [magazine] [illegible]



Daniela Portagnuolo
Everyone, follow @wikicorruption if you want to find out about the BoliBoy thieves and all the corrupt people in this country! Report it! [illegible]



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT @wikicorruption. ChavezKids responsible for the energy crisis in Venezuela now also smuggle [illegible]



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT @wikicorruption Gang of ChavezKids smuggles diesel to Caribbean islands and certified tantatite for [illegible]



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT @wikicorruption Derwick, a company of Betancourt

Twists

Sign up





[illegible]

Daniela Portagnuolo
RT @wikicorruption Derwick, a company of Betancourt Lopez responsible for Sidor electric plant [illegible]

Daniela Portagnuolo
RT @wikicorruption Alejandro Betancourt's Derwick Group involved with ex-minister Rodolfo Sanz in theft of \$500 billion from CVG [illegible]

Daniela Portagnuolo
[illegible] thanks for this RT juani! When will we taste the long hoped-
for pizzas?? Whenever you want, invite me to a tasting heheh KISSES
[illegible]

Daniela Portagnuolo
@Alejandro_Vera Wow, what an honor! Thank you Meslenal! When
will Venezuela have the pleasure of having you here again?? Are you
going to run again this year? [illegible]

Daniela Portagnuolo
RT @Alejandro_Vera Only one [illegible] weekly is for @daniporta
young businesswoman who also cooperates by reporting corrupt people!

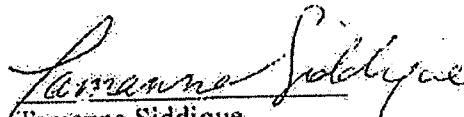
Daniela Portagnuolo
A super [illegible] to SaschaFitness with the best tips the best good will
and in addition it is put down with insults from losers! [illegible]



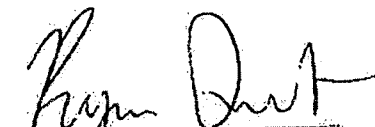
TRANSPERFECT

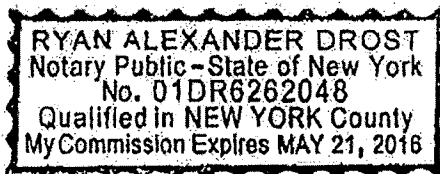
City of New York, State of New York, County of New York

I, Tamanna Siddique, hereby affirm that the document "Daniela Portagnuolo Tweets" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate translation from Spanish into English.


Tamanna Siddique

Sworn to before me this
12th of September, 2012


Signature, Notary Public



Stamp, Notary Public
State of New York

Search



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT **WATERBUCKION** Derwick empresa de Betancourt
López responsable planta eléctrica Sidor



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT **WATERBUCKION** un Grupo Derwick de Alejandro Betancourt
Involucrado con exministro Rodolfo Sanz en robo d \$500 mm a CVG
En y Haitian



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT **WATERBUCKION** gracias por ese RT Juan! Cuando probaremos las
tan esperadas pizzas?? Cuando queran me invitan a una
degustacion jeje BESOS



Daniela Portagnuolo
Alejandro Vera... Maa que honor!! Gracias mensual Cuando
tendra Vzia el placer de tenerte por aca otra vez?? Este ano vuelves
a correr?



Daniela Portagnuolo
RT Alejandro Vera... Un solo .ti semanal esta para **carroceria**
joven empresaria quien colabora tambien denunciando corruptos!



Daniela Portagnuolo
Un suppper .ti a **Sacramento** con los mejores tips la mejor
disposicion y ademas se cala los insultos de **carroceria**

Exhibit D

✕
Close

Embed this Tweet

Add this Tweet to your website by copying the code below. [Learn more](#)

- [HTML](#)
- [Shortcode](#)
- [Link](#)

Alignment

None • Left Right Center

Control position and text wrapping on the page.

[Follow](#) [Following](#) [Unfollow](#) [Blocked](#) [Unblock](#) [Pending](#) [Cancel](#)



Oscar Garcia Mendoza @ogarciamendoza 7 Apr

<http://wikianticorruccion.org/2012/04/caso-victor-vargas/> ... via [@wikicorruccion](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [Retweeted](#) [Retweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [Favorited](#) [Favorite](#)

- 6 Retweets
- 1 Favorite



2:37 PM - 7 Apr 12 via [Tweet Button](#) · [Embed this Tweet](#)



Oscar Garcia Mendoza @ogarciamendoza

<http://wikianticorruccion.org/2012/04/caso-victor-vargas/> ... via [@wikicorruccion](#)

[Expand](#) [Collapse](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [Retweeted](#) [Retweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [Favorited](#) [Favorite](#)

✕
Close

Embed this Tweet

Add this Tweet to your website by copying the code below. [Learn more](#)

- [HTML](#)
- [Shortcode](#)
- [Link](#)

Alignment
None • Left Right Center

Control position and text wrapping on the page:

[Follow](#) [Following](#) [Unfollow](#) [Blocked](#) [Unblock](#) [Pending](#) [Cancel](#)



[wikianticorruptcion @wikicorruptcion](#) 20 Apr

Aponte threw out more than 200 honest judges because they didn't obey his orders.
<http://bit.ly/13PWfi> Send their names to wikianticorruptcion@gmail.com.

Retweeted by [Oscar Garcia Mendoza](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [Retweeted](#) [Retweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [Favorited](#) [Favorite](#)

5:54 AM · 20 Apr 12 via web · [Embed this Tweet](#)



[wikianticorruptcion @wikicorruptcion](#) 20 Apr

Aponte threw out more than 200 honest judges because they didn't obey his orders.
<http://bit.ly/13PWfi> Send their names to wikianticorruptcion@gmail.com.

Retweeted by [Oscar Garcia Mendoza](#)

[Expand](#) [Collapse](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [Retweeted](#) [Retweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [Favorited](#) [Favorite](#)

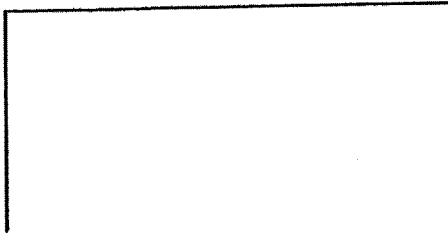
Don't miss any updates from Oscar Garcia Mendoza .Join Twitter today and follow what interests you!

Full name
Email
Password

[Sign up](#)

Text follow [ogarciamendoza](#) to [your carrier's shortcode](#)

- © 2012 Twitter
- [About](#)
- [Help](#)



Direct messages

[New message](#)

x

You don't have any messages yet.

Direct messages are 140 characters, private, and can be sent to any user who follows you on Twitter.

Tip: you can send a message to anyone who follows you. [Learn more](#)

[Direct messages](#) > with

x

Tweet text

140 [Send message](#)

Are you sure you want to delete this message?

[Delete message](#) [Cancel](#)

Tip: you can send a message to anyone who follows you. [Learn more](#)

[Direct messages](#) > New



Tweet text

140 [Send message](#)

Are you sure you want to delete this message?

[Delete message](#) [Cancel](#)

Tip: you can send a message to anyone who follows you. [Learn more](#)

[Close](#)

Go to a person's profile

Start typing a name to ju

[Close](#)

Retweet this to your followers?

[Cancel](#) [Retweet](#)

[Close](#)

Are you sure you want to delete this Tweet?

[Cancel](#) [Delete](#)

[Close](#)

Keyboard shortcuts

Enter Open Tweet details

G F Go to user...

? This menu

J Next Tweet

K Previous Tweet

Space Page down

/ Search

. Load new Tweets



• Add a location to your Tweets

When you tweet with a location, Twitter stores that location. You can switch location on/off before each Tweet and always have the option to delete your location history. [Learn more](#)

[Turn location on](#) [Not now](#)

- Search for a neighborhood
- Turn off location

[Close](#)

Profile summary



[Close](#)

Your lists

[Close](#)

Create a new list

List name

Description Under 100 characters, optional

Privacy
 Public · Anyone can follow this list
 Private · Only you can access this list

Save list

[Close](#)



[Close](#)

[Close](#)

Sign up for Twitter & follow @ogarciamendoza

Sign in to Twitter

Full name

Email
Password

Sign up

Username or email
Forgot your <u>username</u>?
Password
Forgot your <u>password</u>?

Sign in

<input type="checkbox"/> Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)
[Already using Twitter via text message?](#)

Not on Twitter? Sign up, tune into the things you care about, and get updates as they happen.

[Sign up »](#)
[Close](#)

Two-way (sending and receiving) short codes:

Country	Code	For customers of
United States	40404	(any)
Canada	21212	(any)
United Kingdom	86444	Vodafone, Orange, 3, O2
Brazil	40404	Nextel, TIM
Haiti	40404	Digicel, Voila
Ireland	51210	Vodafone, O2
India	53000	Bharti Airtel, Videocon, Reliance
Indonesia	89887	AXIS, 3, Telkomsel, Indosat, XL, Axiata
Italy	4880804	Wind
	3424486444	Vodafone

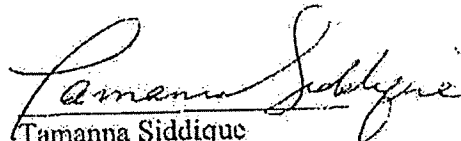
» [See SMS short codes for other countries](#)



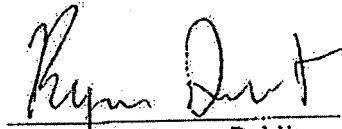
TRANSPERFECT

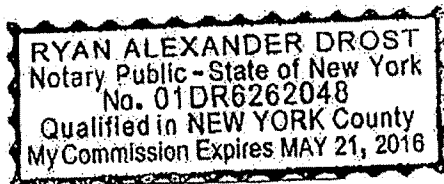
City of New York, State of New York, County of New York

I, Tamanna Siddique, hereby affirm that the document "Oscar Garcia-Mendoza Tweets" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate translation from Spanish into English.


Tamanna Siddique

Sworn to before me this
12th of September, 2012


Signature, Notary Public



Stamp, Notary Public
State of New York

x
Close

Embed this Tweet

Add this Tweet to your website by copying the code below. [Learn more](#)

- [HTML](#)
- [Shortcode](#)
- [Link](#)

Alignment

None • Left • Right • Center

Control position and text wrapping on the page.

[Follow](#) [Following](#) [Unfollow](#) [Blocked](#) [Unblock](#) [Pending](#) [Cancel](#)



Oscar Garcia Mendoza [@ogarciamendoza](#) 7 Apr

<http://wikianticorruptcion.org/2012/04/caso-victor-vargas/> ... via [@wikicorruptcion](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [RetweetedRetweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [FavoritedFavorite](#)

- 6 Retweets
- 1 Favorite



2:37 PM - 7 Apr 12 via [Tweet Button](#) · [Embed this Tweet](#)



7 Apr **Oscar Garcia Mendoza** [@ogarciamendoza](#)

<http://wikianticorruptcion.org/2012/04/caso-victor-vargas/> ... via [@wikicorruptcion](#)

Expand Collapse

- [Reply](#)
- [RetweetedRetweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [FavoritedFavorite](#)

×

Close

Embed this Tweet

Add this Tweet to your website by copying the code below. [Learn more](#)

- [HTML](#)
- [Shortcode](#)
- [Link](#)

Alignment

None • **Left** • Right • Center

Control position and text wrapping on the page.

[Follow](#) [Following](#) [Unfollow](#) [Blocked](#) [Unblock](#) [Pending](#) [Cancel](#)



[wikianticorrupcion](#) @wikicorrupcion 20 Apr

Aponte botó más de 200 jueces honestos por no acatar sus órdenes <http://bit.ly/I3PWfi> Envía sus nombres a wikianticorrupcion@gmail.com

Retweeted by [Oscar Garcia Mendoza](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [RetweetedRetweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [FavoritedFavorite](#)

5:54 AM - 20 Apr 12 via web · [Embed this Tweet](#)



20 Apr [wikianticorrupcion](#) @wikicorrupcion

Aponte botó más de 200 jueces honestos por no acatar sus órdenes <http://bit.ly/I3PWfi> Envía sus nombres a wikianticorrupcion@gmail.com

Retweeted by [Oscar Garcia Mendoza](#)

[Expand](#) [Collapse](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [RetweetedRetweet](#)
- [Delete](#)
- [FavoritedFavorite](#)

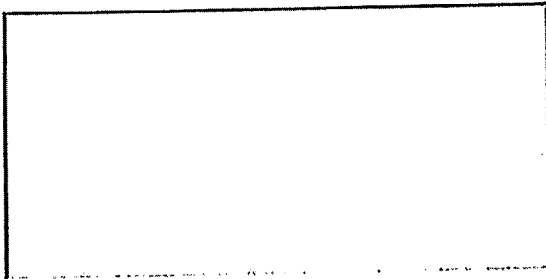
Don't miss any updates from Oscar Garcia Mendoza Join Twitter today and follow what interests you!

Full name
Email
Password

[Sign up](#)

Text **follow ogarciamendoza** to your carrier's shortcode

- [© 2012 Twitter](#)
- [About](#)
- [Help](#)



Direct messages

[New message](#)

x

You don't have any messages yet.

Direct messages are 140 characters, private, and can be sent to any user who follows you on Twitter.

Tip: you can send a message to anyone who follows you. [Learn more](#)

[Direct messages](#) > with

x

Tweet text

140 [Send message](#)

Are you sure you want to delete this message?

[Delete message](#) [Cancel](#)

Tip: you can send a message to anyone who follows you. [Learn more](#)

[Direct messages](#) > New

>



• @

Tweet text

140 [Send message](#)

Are you sure you want to delete this message?

[Delete message](#) [Cancel](#)

Tip: you can send a message to anyone who follows you. [Learn more](#)

[Close](#)

Go to a person's profile

Start typing a name to ju

[Close](#)

Retweet this to your followers?

[Cancel](#) [Retweet](#)

[Close](#)

Are you sure you want to delete this Tweet?

[Cancel](#) [Delete](#)

[Close](#)

Keyboard shortcuts

Enter Open Tweet details

G F Go to user...

? This menu

J Next Tweet

K Previous Tweet

Space Page down

/ Search

. Load new Tweets

•

• **Add a location to your Tweets**

When you tweet with a location, Twitter stores that location. You can switch location on/off before each Tweet and always have the option to delete your location history. [Learn more](#)

Turn location on Not now

-
- Search for a neighborhood
-
- Turn off location

Close

Profile summary



Close

Your lists

Close

Create a new list

List name

Description

Under 100 characters, optional

Privacy

Public · Anyone can follow this list **Private** · Only you can access this list

Save list

Close



Close

Close

Sign up for Twitter & follow @ogarciamendoza

Sign in to Twitter

Full name

Email
Password

Sign up

Username or email
Forgot your username ?
Password
Forgot your password ?

Sign in

<input type="checkbox"/> Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)

[Already using Twitter via text message?](#)

Not on Twitter? Sign up, tune into the things you care about, and get updates as they happen.

[Sign up »](#)

[Close](#)

Two-way (sending and receiving) short codes:

Country	Code	For customers of
United States	40404	(any)
Canada	21212	(any)
United Kingdom	86444	Vodafone, Orange, 3, O2
Brazil	40404	Nextel, TIM
Haiti	40404	Digicel, Voila
Ireland	51210	Vodafone, O2
India	53000	Bharti Airtel, Videocon, Reliance
Indonesia	89887	AXIS, 3, Telkomsel, Indosat, XL Axiata
Italy	4880804	Wind
	3424486444	Vodafone

» [See SMS short codes for other countries](#)

EXHIBIT B

This is Google's cache of <http://devilsexcrement.com/2011/10/10/>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 20 Mar 2012 22:39:54 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)

[Text-only version](#)

The Devil's Excrement

Observations focused on the problems of an underdeveloped country, Venezuela, with some serendipity about the world (orchids, techs, science, investments, politics) at large. A famous Venezuelan, Juan Pablo Perez Alfonzo, referred to oil as the devil's excrement. For countries, easy wealth appears indeed to be the sure path to failure. Venezuela might be a clear example of that.



Archive for October 10th, 2011

The Mysterious Contractors For Power Plants in Venezuela

October 10, 2011

Yesterday, Caracas papers had full page ads by a company called Derwick Associates:

October 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

« Sep Nov »

Search

THE DEVIL'S EXCREMENT

- » The Fonden Papers part VIII: Another Peek At The Dance Of Billions
- » Chavismo Fights Over Water With The Cat
 - » PDVSA and its Hong Kong Exchange Plans: Ignorance or Deception?
 - » How Chavismo Celebrated International Women's Day 2012

- » Venezuela And PDVSA Bonds Rally With Investors Betting On Change
- » ¡Fin de Mundo!: La revolución quiere privatizar parte de PDVSA
- » Capriles Visit In Caracas Disrupted By Armed Chavista Thugs
- » Why I Think PDVSA Plans To Sell Stock In One Heavy Crude Oil Project Via The Chinese Government
- » Chavismo Media Manipulation Not The Same Since Hugo Has Been Sick
- » PDVSA To Privatize Part Of A Unit???

FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Join 6,850 other followers

Follow

CATEGORIES

- » Digressions
- » DissidentMilitary
- » El Excremento del Diablo
- » GranmaLies
- » LatinAmerica
- » MaletagateTrial
- » Orchids
- » Pictures
- » Posters
- » Requena Files
- » RR Models
- » Stanford Bank
- » Tascon's Fascist list
- » Technology
- » The Fable
- » The Fonden Papers
- » The Opposition Candidates
- » Uncategorized
- » Venezuela



BLOGROLL

- » Alek
- » Alfredo
- » Caracas Gringo
- » Daniel
- » Excremento del Diablo
- » Feathers
- » Gustavo Coronel
- » Javier
- » Julia
- » Letter from Venezuela

DERWICK

DERWICK ASSOCIATES VENEZUELA

Gente que cumple

Somos una organización que presta servicios integrales para el desarrollo de proyectos de Ingeniería, Procura, Construcción, Operación y Mantenimiento de Plantas Eléctricas.

Cada proyecto constituye para Derwick Associates un reto, al que respondemos con soluciones integrales y tecnología de punta.

Arrancamos en 2003
Desde entonces no hemos parado de crecer. Vayamos creciendo.


Queremos seguir adelante
Tenemos un horizonte, hacer las cosas bien y crecer. Cumplir con nuestros clientes. Ser los mejores.

Trabajamos sin descanso para instalar entre 2011 y 2012, 12 plantas termoeléctricas capaces de generar más de 1402 Megawattios en beneficio de más de 850 mil familias en distintas regiones de Venezuela.

UNA EMPRESA RESPONSABLE CON EL PAÍS

I was a little surprised at the size of these ads by this American sounding company that builds power plants, even clipped El Nacional's ad that appeared on Sunday, as I was leaving Venezuela. I got home, was going to look into it, but had many things to do first. Then today my friend Toby from Veneconomy called and asked about the company and this brought the issue to the front of the line.

Despite the English sounding name, you look in the company's website and you quickly realize the company's only experience or operations are in Venezuela. There is no address or phone numbers, which in itself would make it suspicious.

- » Liberal Venezolano
- » Megaresistencia
 - » Mi Venezuela
 - » Pedro Mario
 - » Quico y Juan
 - » Recivex
- » 
- » to2blogs
 - » urru
- » Veneconomia

BLOGS BY VENEZUELANS

- » Bruni
- » Chorro de Escape
 - » Dolar Paralelo
- » The Venezuelan Libertarian
 - » to2blogs
 - » Veneblogs
 - » Venepiramides
 - » Venezuelafx

RECENT POSTS

- » The Fonden Papers part VIII: Another Peek At The Dance Of Billions
- » Chavismo Fights Over Water With The Cat
 - » PDVSA and its Hong Kong Exchange Plans: Ignorance or Deception?
- » How Chavismo Celebrated International Women's Day 2012
 - » Venezuela And PDVSA Bonds Rally With Investors Betting On Change

ARCHIVES

- » March 2012
- » February 2012
 - » January 2012
- » December 2011
 - » November 2011
 - » October 2011
 - » September 2011
 - » August 2011
 - » July 2011
 - » June 2011
 - » May 2011
 - » April 2011
 - » March 2011
 - » February 2011
 - » January 2011
 - » December 2010
 - » November 2010
 - » October 2010
 - » September 2010
 - » August 2010
 - » July 2010
 - » June 2010
 - » May 2010

But then you find that these ads are simply meant to deflect accusations made against the company by Ultimas Noticias investigative reporter Cesar Batiz, who is making a very good name for himself by looking into electric contracts. Quico already pointed out one of his articles. This case is bigger and as mysterious and quite iffy if you ask me.

Essentially, this company has received 12 contracts in 14 months to build some 1,400 MW of power generation in Venezuela. Its first contract began even before the company formally existed in the country. Costs are known for only two power plants, one in Picure with capacity of 134 MW for US\$ 130 million and another in Guarenas with capacity of 156 MW and at a cost of US\$ 211 million. If costs are similar for all the plants, we are talking that this company has received over US\$ 1.5 billion in contracts, despite its lack of experience, no partners and no record before 2009.

The company is apparently owned by a bunch of 30 year olds, with no known experience in the field, according to Catiz. According to Ultimas Noticias article, the company was registered in Barbados in 2009. National Assembly Deputy Enrique Marquez from the opposition has called for an investigation of the company and the contracts. He claims that these projects are assigned without competition to inexperienced companies and some of the plants are not even needed. Thus, the ads by Derwick Associates seem to be a silly attempt to gain credibility.

This piqued my interest even further and I found a telephone number for the company in Florida, thus I looked in the Florida registry of companies and it turns out the US company was created only on December 2nd. 2010, and transferred to its current owners six days later. The new owners are two of those named by Ultimas Noticias in the article and a third person. The first two have an address in Campo Alegre, Caracas, indicating and confirming that this is really a Venezuelan based and owned firm, despite the bombastic name to make it appear foreign.

I looked up the address in google maps and was surprised at the location of the office, at one end of the Ft. Lauderdale airport. Thus, I called a reader of the blog that lives near there and asked him to go take a look. Here is the picture of the sign in front of the office building:

- » April 2010
- » March 2010
- » February 2010
- » January 2010
- » December 2009
- » November 2009
- » October 2009
- » September 2009
 - » August 2009
 - » July 2009
 - » June 2009
 - » May 2009
 - » April 2009
 - » March 2009
 - » February 2009
 - » January 2009
- » December 2008
- » November 2008
- » October 2008
- » September 2008
 - » August 2008
 - » July 2008
 - » June 2008
 - » May 2008
 - » April 2008
 - » March 2008
 - » February 2008
 - » January 2008
- » December 2007
- » November 2007
 - » October 2007
- » September 2007
 - » August 2007
 - » July 2007
 - » June 2007
 - » May 2007
 - » April 2007
 - » March 2007
- » February 2007
- » January 2007
- » December 2006
- » November 2006
 - » October 2006
- » September 2006
 - » August 2006
 - » July 2006
 - » June 2006
 - » May 2006
 - » April 2006
 - » March 2006
- » February 2006
- » January 2006
- » December 2005
- » November 2005
 - » October 2005
- » September 2005
 - » August 2005
 - » July 2005
 - » June 2005



As you can see, the building is occupied by the Customs Office of the Ft. Lauderdale Airport, the TSA office and some suites that are rented mostly to aircraft related companies. In fact, the telephone number listed under Derwick Associates, 954-359-1157 is registered under the name Airport Services International and not under Derwick's name, which goes to show how flimsy this whole thing is.

Clearly, this is no way to assign billion dollar contracts. This company probably hired someone else to do all the work, was likely formed for the job and made a lot of money for some people.

Such are the ways of the Bolivarian revolution.

Posted in Venezuela | 52 Comments »