

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد
بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Spartacus

20.11.2022

Interview with Iván Lozada, commander of the FARC-EP

"The problem is not an armed group, but the conditions that influenced this group to take up arms"



Sources: Spartacus

The following interview was conducted with Iván Lozada, colloquially called "Mordisco", top commander of the FARC-EP, at the end of October.

Lozada refers to the political moment that this organization is going through, the reconstruction after the demobilization promoted by the previous secretariat, as well as the bases to advance towards total peace sought by the current Petro-Márquez

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

government, focused on broad participation, political recognition of the organization and the identification of the structural causes generating the conflict.

What is the current moment of the guerrilla resistance that you lead?

Since 2016, the First Front has publicly expressed its differences with the direction that the so-called "peace process" was taking, mainly due to formal red lines such as not promoting a constituent assembly, not doing political proselytism while armed, creating concentration zones without civilians, that third parties chose the JEP tribunal, And also the real red lines, where there was zero discussion about military doctrine, zero discussion about the economic model, which were imposed by the national government. The disguised effective participation of Colombian society closed the doors to the discussion on the structural elements generating the conflict, showing that from then on nothing that was agreed would really mean a peace agreement.

When this fundamental difference with the national leadership of the FARC-EP is manifested, the task arises to rebuild the organization that comrades Manuel, Jacobo, Jorge and many other brave fighters strengthened for years, to rebuild the FARC-EP from the pretense of disappearance that the peace agreement meant. In this task we are, that is the moment we have gone through these last 6 years, a stage that we are already culminating, gathering throughout the national territory those discontents, counting on the experience of many guerrillas, guerrillas, militiamen, members of clandestine structures, in addition to the strength and disposition of many new people who in one way or another are linked to the organization.

How is the reorganization process going?

We have had the permission of history, so we could say that what has been built in these 6 years is the equivalent of what the FARC-EP built in its first 25 or 30 years of struggle. We have advanced in the formation of new structures: Columns, Companies and Fronts, the formation of joint commands and the projection of new ones. We have recovered our presence in more than 50% of the departments of the national territory, in addition to the frontal struggle against paramilitarism that by action or omission of the state forces was strengthened in recent years. Thanks to the coherence of our organization, we have managed to cohere day by day, allowing us to draw up plans on a national scale. We have a national leadership, which statutorily is called the Central General Staff. It could be said, in general terms, that we are in a process of continuous strengthening and ready to overcome the process of integral reorganization, which means the stabilization of our organization to continue with the

strengthening stage and advance towards the consolidation of a force capable of being determinant of national life.

What is your reading of the situation posed by the rise to power of the Petro-Márquez government?

We believe that the arrival of Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez to the presidency and vice presidency is the product of several things. The first is the articulation between the social struggle and the political-electoral struggle; the second, the evident weakening of the right in Colombia, mainly product of the legislative and violent aggression against the Colombian people, the abandonment of the state for many years; the third, the successful Petro-France formula that evokes the environmental debate of the moment and the importance of social leadership in the transformations that the country requires.

In these circumstances, the Petro-France government faces great challenges. One of them is to fulfill the bets raised in his campaign process and embodied in the progressive program in the midst of the difficulties that successive right-wing governments that limited and eliminated rights and freedoms in Colombia mean. Another great challenge is to generate structural transformations through the identification of the root causes and that are the generators of the conflict, which due to its persistence over time has profound signs of degradation of the conflict, which occurs in all armed groups, but has the highest expression in the promotion of paramilitarism from militarist and political sectors of the country.

What is your opinion, as a revolutionary organization, on the proposal for total peace?

It is an ambitious proposal that could definitely lead to the reduction or elimination of the war in Colombia. In its commitment to total peace, we hope that it will recognize all the actors of the conflict, all the visions, be able to characterize each of the groups in contention and reveal the complicity in the promotion of war in Colombia from the institutional framework.

In particular, there is concern about the lack of clarity that exists regarding our character. To this day, only the possibility of a political dialogue with the ELN is open. The other axis is submission or shelter for the FARC-EP, which is a revolutionary organization. This is nothing more than a declaration of war. We do not accept that as a mechanism to get out of the armed social conflict in the country, because the problem is not an armed group, but the conditions that influenced this group to take up arms. In our case, they are structural

causes focused on the exclusion of the Colombian rural population mainly, but that have been reproduced on the marginalized sectors of the cities.

We have an interpretation of the conflict in Colombia, in addition to a country commitment that we did not see reflected in the agenda, much less in the final documents of the peace process led by the previous secretariat. To that extent, the Petro government, which is a government of change, cannot close the doors to a sector of the Colombian population that assumed, more than six decades ago, armed struggle as a condition to preserve its life and carry out its political and social bets that to this day have not been resolved.

What mistakes of the previous processes, do you think you can not make again?

The participation of Colombian society cannot be turned into a privilege. We must move forward with the academic and intellectual sectors and the communities in the construction of a methodological proposal that recognizes, listens and converts positions into real, non-formal and superficial political bets of the country, that really affect the country's politics and that do not depend on the governments of the day.

It must be located, and the academy has been doing it for a long time, the structural elements that generate the conflict and from there, without worries, but spinning fine, create the instruments to dump society in the real construction of the transformations necessary to build peace with social justice.

We must keep in mind the type of government with which it is agreed, because we get used to the fact that agreements are made with the enemy. But in the Colombian context and its violent oligarchy, any pact or commitment to peace is for them nothing more than a tactic of war. The right-wing governments are not going to give in to the measures and the consolidation of the economic model that they violently imposed for years. That is why the arrival of Petro does generate expectations among the revolutionary sectors, since it is the first time in the history of violence in Colombia where it is proposed to talk about peace based on the recognition of the actors.

There can be no pressure or eagerness. Methodological development must be given to an agenda on the structural, without the electoral efforts or the efforts that a good or bad balance of government supposes, without being absorbed by the tensions of the militarist sectors or the extreme right who have never been interested in peace in Colombia.

This process of reconstruction of the FARC-EP demonstrates, once again, that the problem of the conflict is not the possession or not of a weapon. Weapons are obtained as long as they need to be on the side of the people to defend their interests. To this extent, the haste

on abandonment and/or delivery must take a back seat. It is, we insist, to advance on the solution of the structural. If there is an agenda, debates and participation with society on these elements, rest assured that the FARC-EP will not hesitate for a moment to silence the guns while demonstrating to the country that we are capable, together with the government, of getting in tune with the needs of the Colombian people.

Rebellion 19.11.2022