

Iran's Influence and Activities in Venezuela and in the Region



Further information contact:
Norman A Bailey, PhD

normanabailey@aol.com

571-437-4684

Norman A Bailey, Inc.

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General Context

In the last 5 years, Iran has created a large network of entities and businesses in Venezuela and in the region, allowing the Islamic Republic to establish and develop a strong presence in the area. The broad range of activities includes: diplomatic, military, commercial, financial, industrial, energy, petrochemical, and many others. The estimated amount of these investments is 20 billion US dollars, as of 2009.



This effort has been possible thanks to the important collaboration of Hugo Chavez, the President of Venezuela. One of the state policies he has implemented consists in giving the Iranians all the necessary tools to use the country as its main operations base in the region, and from there to expand its influence and activities to other countries.



We have identified significant facts that show that most of those activities are designed to cover illegal and criminal endeavors that not only involve the Iranian government, but also terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, and drug cartels from Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

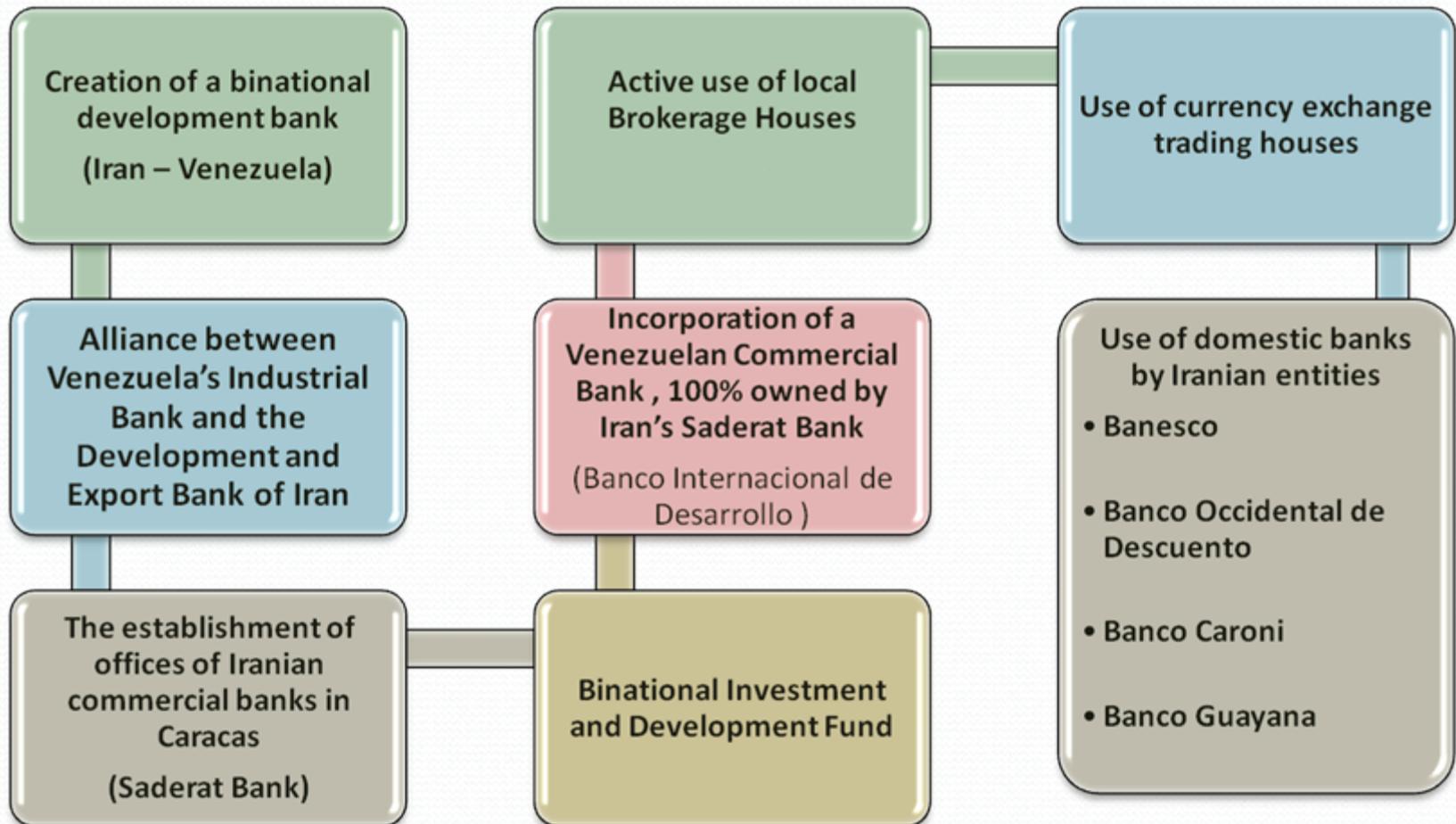


Sectors in which Iran has an active presence in Venezuela

- Financial and Trade Services
- Industrial (Light and Heavy)
- Food Industry
- Transportation
- Energy and Chemical
- Construction Industry
- Technical Assistance
- Diplomacy
- Military



Financial and Trade Sectors





Industrial Sector

Tractor Factory

- VENEIRAN (Bolivar State)

Cement Plant

- Edhasse Sanat (Monagas State)

Car Assembly Plant

- VENIRAUTO (Aragua State)

Bicycle Factory

- FANABI (Cojedes State)

Gold Mine

- Minerven (Bolivar State)



Food Industry

Tuna Processing Plant – Eveba (Sucre State)

Corn Processing Plants – La Veguita
(Barinas, Yaracuy and Guárico States)

Dairy Products Plant (Zulia State)



Transportation Industry



Weekly Flight
Air Iran-Conviasa
(Caracas, Damasco, Teheran)



Container Direct Shipping Route
IRISL
(Iran/Venezuela)





Energy and Petrochemical

Joint Venture for the exploration, appraisal and development of the Ayacucho 7 Block

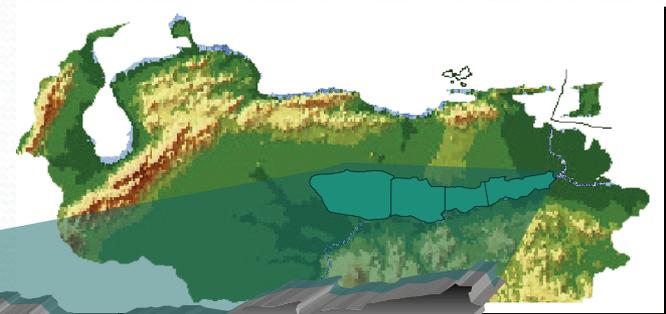
Anzoátegui State, in the Orinoco Oil Belt

**PDVSA
PETROPARS**

Synthetic Chemical Plastic Plant

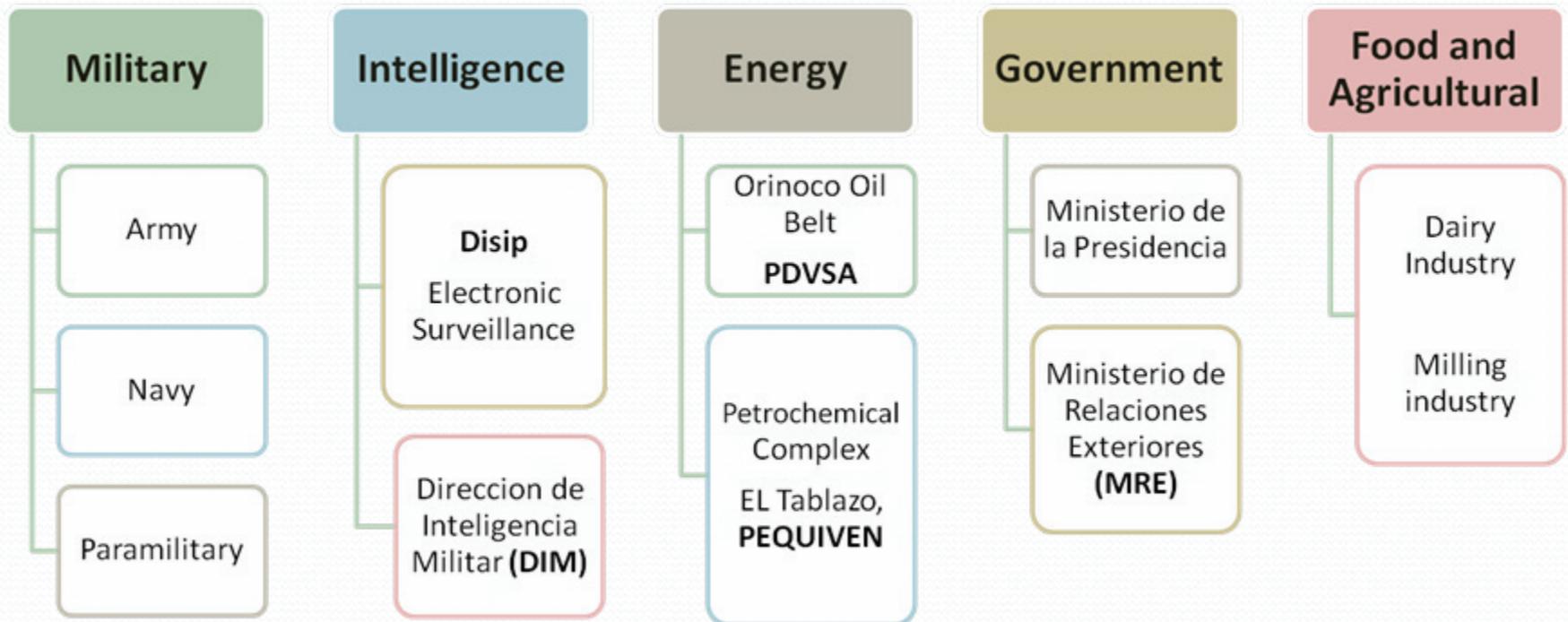
El Tablazo, Zulia State

**PEQUIVEN
National Petrochemical Company Iran**





Technical Assistance





Diplomacy

Iran has increased its diplomatic relations in the region, as never before. Among the countries where Iran has opened a diplomatic representation or increased the number of diplomats we find Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Cuba, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In some of the embassies, such as the one in Nicaragua, Iran has a very large number of personnel. We have information that a large number of those “diplomats” are members of the Iranian Intelligence Service (Vevak).

Panama does not have diplomatic relations with Iran, but is frequently visited by members of the Iranian Embassy in Nicaragua.



Military

Training of the Venezuelan Armed Forces in asymmetric war and techniques to sabotage the energy infrastructure.

Army, Navy and Militias

Agreement to build an explosive plant in Carabobo State

Cavim

Infrastructure and machinery to build weapons, Bolivar State.

Tractor Factory Veneiran



Iran's Main Activity Areas

1. Financial Infrastructure

2. Tractor Factory

3. Cement Plant

4. Gold Mine

5. Energy Sector

6. Chemical Plant

7. Car Assembly Plant

8. Bicycle Factory

9. Tuna Processing Plant

10. Dairy Products Plant

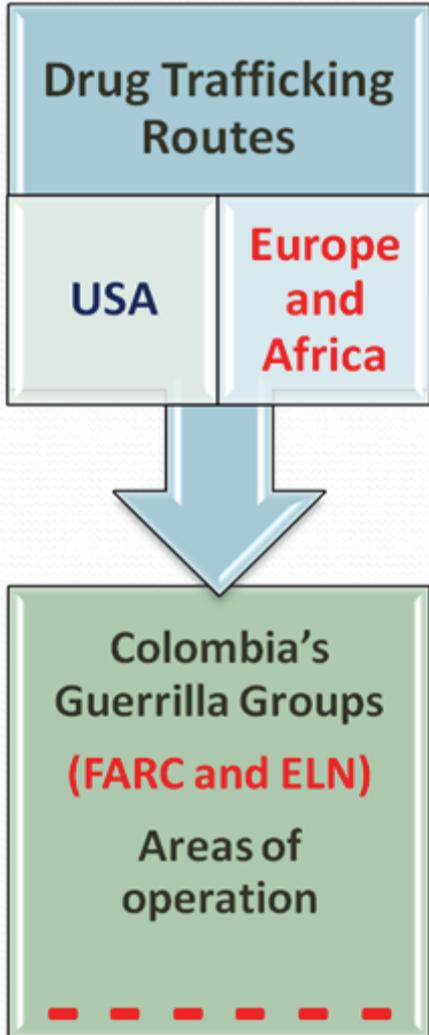
11. Corn Flour Plant

12. Housing Development





Iran's Presence in the Drug Trafficking Routes





Iran's Connections in the Region

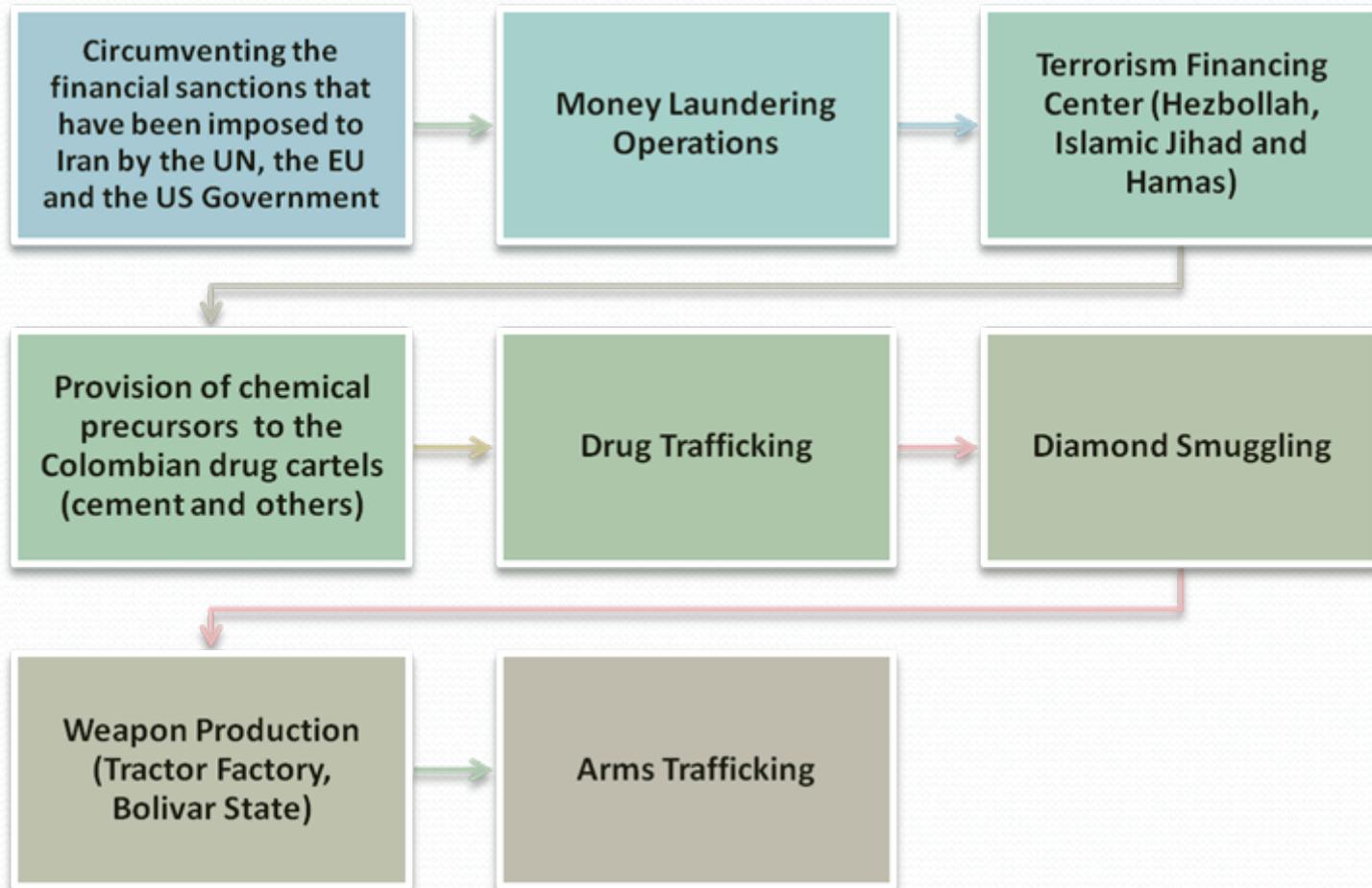


Latin America





Illegal and Criminal Activities in which Iran is involved in Venezuela and in the Region





Conclusion

The Islamic Republic of Iran has successfully accomplished its plan to establish a strategic and important presence in the Western Hemisphere.

With the information we have collected up to date, it is clear that the Iranian activities in the region are different from what both governments have announced publically.

The US and other governments should implement immediate actions to confront the threat that those activities represent to our national security.

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