



## More Iran in Venezuela

**OE Watch Commentary:** Grand Opening in Caracas! A huge department store filled with all kinds of Iranian goods priced and sold in dollars. The accompanying article, provided by a legacy Caracas opinion outlet (now generally opposed to the Bolivarian regime) offers insight into its significance. Several years ago, in order to address shortages of basic consumer goods, especially food, the Bolivarian regime instituted the CLAP (Comité Local para Abastecimiento y Producción or Local Committee for Production and Supply). The acronym is used colloquially for a basic package of goods, a local group of managers, and, as in this report, a distribution facility. CLAP is a link in a larger socialist restructuring of the Venezuelan economy. Then President Hugo Chávez began expropriating businesses, starting with a few foreign owned companies including the one that owned a huge supermarket at the location in focus. After a series of failures at socialist enterprise and the total collapse of the Bolivarian currency, the place has now been turned over to the Iranians, the building renovated, former employees fired, and the operation no longer linked to the CLAP. The purpose is now evidently to provide goods for regime loyalists. For those analysts who follow the money, this story is a clue about how money laundering evolves into economic structure. It might also provide insight regarding the potential of the Iranians avoidance of economic sanctions. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**

*“...abundant quantity of unknown Iranian brands...”*

**Source:** Carlos Seijas Meneses, “Tienda iraní Megasis vende en dólares hasta productos ‘hechos en socialismo’ (Iranian store Megasis sells in dollars, even products ‘made in socialism’),” *Tal Cual*, 2 August 2020. <https://talcualdigital.com/megasis-es-el-primer-supermercado-en-venezuela-en-poner-las-etiquetas-en-dolares/>

*“...On entering the Megasis supermarket, that an Iranian company inaugurated on 29 July in Caracas, the first thing a buyer sees after passing the cabin of disinfectants are mountains of products he knows well: Mary rice, traditional PAN Flour...[other local food staples]... But when he gets further into the store, he gets lost in the abundant quantity of unknown Iranian brands and of rare articles uncommon in Venezuela, like carrot marmalade...”*

*The price tags of all the products are expressed only in United States currency, but without the dollar sign of that money...*

*Originally, one of the first Éxito Hypermarkets operated in in the location, property of the company Cativen, of French-Colombian capitalization. It was from here that in 2010 Hugo Chávez announced the expropriation of the chain and its conversion into the first outlet of the Bicentennial Provisions Network, subscribed to the Nutrition Mission, system that the ex-president put in motion in April of 2003. On 9 May 2019, the outlet, Bicentennial Terrazas del Ávila, closed its doors and left 200 workers in the street to convert itself into the CLAP Stores, that also closed eight months later...”*

### Fangs of the Lone Wolf

Chechen Tactics in the Russian-Chechen Wars  
1994-2009

Dodge Billingsley  
with Lester Grau

*Fangs of the Lone Wolf* is about combat experience in urban, mountain and fairly open terrain. It is not a comprehensive history of conflict. This book is a series of snapshots — of vignettes — describing the difficulty, the hardship, the victories and the defeats of the participants. It is an examination of the raw data of combat in a foreign land, and is aimed to advance the professional military study of conflict.

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