

The film tries to show two central theories: a) That there is a confrontation between a poor and mixed-blood majority, supported by president Chávez, and a rich and white minority, backed by the US government; b) That this white and rich minority carried out a coup, with the aid of the American government, on April 11, 2002, that was repudiated by the poor people, who reinstated Chávez in office.

- To “prove” the racial and class conflict, the filmmakers used a simple method: from a massive opposition with a diverse racial, social, ethnical and cultural composition, further including a massive and diverse immigration, they only showed small and isolated groups of white and well dressed people.

- Among a multitude of oral available statements, they only chose those that suited their twisted idea of a class struggle motorized by a privileged and reactionary segment. They took great care in hiding the opinion of the most important writers, artists, scientists, thinkers, jurists, and professionals of the country, as well as the presence of millions of women and men of the working class in the opposition rallies, poor people who believed in Chávez and have been disappointed by his government. They did not show any open image of these rallies, the magnitude, peacefulness and creativity of which have astonished the world since the year 2002.

- Regarding the participation of the US government in a “coup d’état”, the film simply presents testimonies of second and third order officers, omitting other statements and conducts of that government that would reorient the view of the film.

Venezuelans consider it imperative to denounce the distortions in the Revolution Will Not Be Televised. Bartley and O’Brien have ignored the details which created the crisis and which required international arbitration in Venezuela, including the creation of a negotiations forum by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, César Gaviria and the creation of a Group of Friends comprised of representatives of the governments of Spain, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Portugal and the United States.

The film “*The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*” is an accomplished edition of real events, ordered and constructed in a truculent manner, omitting several crucial facts of the political process that happened in Venezuela in April 2002, with the main goal of discrediting the struggle of millions of Venezuelans for their democracy, threatened by the authoritarian project of President Hugo Chávez.

**Sources:**

- Wolfgang Shalk  
[http://www.11abril.com/index/especiales/chavezthe\\_film.asp](http://www.11abril.com/index/especiales/chavezthe_film.asp)
- El Gusano de Luz  
[www.gusanodelaluz.com](http://www.gusanodelaluz.com)
- [http://www.11abril.com/index/especiales/TripticoD\\_ocumental.pdf](http://www.11abril.com/index/especiales/TripticoD_ocumental.pdf)  
Prepared by: Maritza Ramirez de Agena, Group 11abril.com, Alexandra Beech, veninvestor.

**Edited by:**

**AVENDED**  
Association of Venezuelans in Defense of Democracy

[www.avended.org](http://www.avended.org)



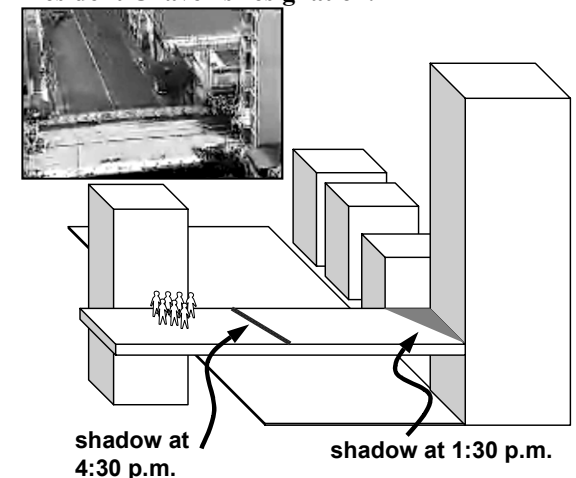
<mailto:contact@avended.org>

# VENEZUELA

## A RENDEZVOUS WITH THE TRUTH



On April 11<sup>th</sup> 2002, the images of a journalistic team showing a group of supporters of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, shooting from the Llaguno Bridge to an opposition rally became famous. In the film “*The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*” that you are about to see, images from an amateur video taken from a different angle, taped hours prior to the massacre, show “Chavistas” shooting at an “empty street” with no rally walking underneath the bridge. The shadows projected in the “empty street” do not correspond with the shadows projected on Llaguno Bridge, where the pro-government groups opened fire against a multitude congregated to request President Chavez’s resignation.



**Look for this fraud in the film**

## The Revolution will not be televised: The fiasco

After months of study, the filmmakers Wolfgang Shalk (BBC of London studies) and Thaelman Urguelles have denounced the ethical violations committed by the Irish producers Kim Bartley and Donnacha O'Brien during the production of the documentary, *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*. Their research reveals evidence that compromises the impartiality, precision, veracity, editorial integrity and ideological independence of the documentary.

*The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* was financed by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), the ZDF of Germany, the Irish RTE, ARTE of France and the NPS/COBO from the Netherlands.

**We kindly ask you to read the following information regarding this film**

**The edition of the film is full of images and even complete scenes that have been changed in time and space, in order to narrate a different story than the one that actually happened:**

- The scene at Llaguno Bridge, where Chavistas are shooting at an “empty street”, was taped *hours* prior to the massacre of unarmed civilians. Why were the Chavistas shooting at an empty street? Why were the Chavistas posted around the presidential palace hours prior to the arrival of unarmed antigovernment protestors? The area surrounding the presidential palace was controlled by the government’s political police and security military agents. Why were the *pro-government* armed groups not dispersed or detained by the authorities?

- This distortion of time is particularly atrocious in the sequences corresponding to April 11, 12, and 13. The film irresponsibly alters the timing of events in order to build a foundation for its communicational project. For example, it situates the statement of a group of generals and admirals at 3 pm of April 11, when it really happened at 6:21 pm, after the massacre started at 4:30 pm.

- To show crowds of people, presumably belonging to the working classes, before the presidential palace on April 11, the film uses images of a rally that occurred on a different day in a different city, where people are shown happily singing with children. In reality, on that day, government officials were aggressively calling on people to “defend the Revolution”. Some scenes later, the film shows, for that same date, a clearly different stage platform erected in front of the presidential palace.



**The background banner at this scene is NOT in the images of April 11 events**

**Look for this fraud in the film**

**When omitting crucial facts of the political process that happened in Venezuela in April 2002, “*The Revolution will not be Televised*” creates a completely different story. What would you think of a “research documentary” under the pretense of depicting “historical events”, ignoring the following facts?**

- On April 11, between 3:45 and 5:27 pm, president Chávez linked all radio and TV transmissions to speak, while around the presidential palace some 21 Venezuelans were being killed and more than 150 wounded. These “cadenas”, consist in forcing all open signal TV stations and all radio stations, AM and FM, to link to the government channel (VTV, Channel 8) and broadcast the same content. The private TV stations decided to split the screen in two to show, simultaneously with the image (and sound) of the President talking on one side, the tragic happenings on the other. The government promptly jammed the signals of the private stations. This crucial fact was considered needless to be included by the filmmakers.



- The filmmakers also omitted another important “cadena”, broadcasted at 2:15 pm on April 11. In it, General Lucas Rincón Romero, the country's highest ranking military officer, surrounded by his Army Commanders, delivered a speech backing President Chávez. At that moment, the colossal opposition rally was on its way to the presidential palace. Including this fact resulted inconvenient when trying to present the story of a military coup.

- At 3:20 in the early hours of April 12, the military high command, again led by General in Chief Lucas Rincón Romero broadcast a statement on another radio and TV “cadena” in which he announced that “... (the) President was required to resign office, to which he agreed...” This statement, of undeniable importance in the reconstruction of what really happened that day, was simply ignored in the film, because it contradicts the thesis that the president never resigned office. General Rincón is currently Secretary of Domestic Affairs of Chávez; therefore, he cannot be accused of being a “coup monger”.



- The filmmakers also omitted the recording of the radial communication between Chávez and several generals, when he ordered the so-called “Ávila” Plan, a contingency operation to be performed by military forces against the hundreds of thousands of civilians that had taken to the streets by that time. Chavez' order was not obeyed by most of the generals.

- As a matter of fact, the referred disobedience of the generals – outraged by the massacre occurring near the presidential palace – were the seed of the crisis of authority that, hours later led to Chávez' resignation and peaceful surrender to the military commanders. A most complex situation that the film simplifies and transforms into a classic Latin American “coup d'état”.