

Smear Campaign Targets LaRouche and Colonel Seineldín in Argentina

by Cynthia R. Rush

Precisely as Argentine President Eduardo Duhalde is said to be considering releasing Malvinas War hero Mohamed Alí Seineldín from prison—where he has been serving a life sentence since 1991, on trumped-up charges stemming from his involvement in the Dec. 3, 1990 uprising against the Army high-command—a dirty, internationally led campaign to slander and discredit the former Army colonel as a coup-plotter, Nazi torturer, and even drug-trafficker has gone into high gear.

With the Argentine nation now threatened with physical extinction, as a result of a decade of the International Monetary Fund's murderous policies, the Anglo-American usurers who have overseen Argentina's destruction, are determined that Seineldín will never walk out of the Campo de Mayo military prison where he is now incarcerated. They fear that the former Army colonel, widely respected inside and outside Argentina for his unflinching defense of national sovereignty and the institutions of the nation-state, could serve as a rallying point for patriotic forces who want to end the IMF reign that has, literally, murdered a nation.

The campaign to smear Seineldín has also accelerated, at a time when the collaboration between him and 2004 Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., is growing in importance, both in Argentina, and in the Southern Cone region as a whole.

Centered in the now-institutionalized Argentine-Brazilian "Moment of Truth" seminars—jointly organized by the Movement for National Identity and Ibero-American Integration (MINeII), of which Seineldín is the guiding influence, and LaRouche's co-thinkers in the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA)—this collaboration threatens to present to the region's political forces with a viable alternative to the imposition of more IMF genocide.

By focusing on the global nature of the financial crash, and specifying the role the region can play in the Eurasian Land-Bridge—LaRouche's proposal to rebuild the world economy—the seminars offer the Argentines, Brazilians, and others who have attended, a coherent way to address the causes and solutions to the crisis.

Most revealing of the international impetus behind the smear campaign, was the March 11 ceremony in which President Eduardo Duhalde granted the country's highest honor, the Order of May, to Richard Heideman, the President of B'nai B'rith International. The B'nai B'rith has, in the

past, pressured the Argentine government to keep Seineldín imprisoned. On a previous occasion when the political prisoner's freedom was also under discussion—in July 1996—the Argentine chapter of B'nai B'rith surfaced with a press release implying that Seineldín—without naming him—represented a "totalitarian" threat to the country's democratic institutions.

Witch-Hunt

Was Heideman sent to lean on Duhalde to keep Seineldín in jail? A close friend of U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Heideman was given the Argentina award purportedly for speaking on Argentina's behalf and organizing aid to the country from among the international community. The ceremony followed by three days, an 8,000-person march in Buenos Aires, demanding Seineldín's freedom, after which Mrs. Marta Labeau de Seineldín delivered a letter from her husband to the Presidential Palace, and reiterated her request to meet with Duhalde. To date, the President has not responded to her numerous requests for a meeting. Was the award to Heideman his answer?

The Heideman affair culminated months of rumors, innuendo, and slanders, both of LaRouche and of Seineldín. The tenor of the campaign was set in a signal piece appearing prominently in the Jan. 28 edition of *Ambito Financiero*, Argentina's leading financial newspaper, which spoke of an "Unheard-of Marriage of 'Lilita' and Seineldín." 'Lilita' refers to Congresswoman Elisa Carrió, who, in a Jan. 6 speech before Congress, had shocked the nation—not to mention its international creditors—by calling for a national bank, a new inconvertible currency, and a debt moratorium, citing Lyndon LaRouche as her authority on these matters. An hysterical *Ambito Financiero* lied that "LaRouche is a sinister leader of the U.S. right wing . . . [who] preaches a racism akin to that of neo-Nazi groups." Moreover, *Ambito Financiero* fulminated, "Seineldín, like Carrió, closely follows the economic ideas of LaRouche."

On Feb. 17, the Argentine daily *Clarín* issued a worried report that President Duhalde was considering an amnesty for Seineldín. Then, on Feb. 27, the *Financial Times*, the voice of the City of London, shamelessly tried to implicate Seineldín in alleged coup plans. In an article which prominently featured a large color photo of Seineldín under the headline "Argentine Economic Crisis Shakes Faith in Democracy,"

City of London, IMF Threaten Argentina

London's *Financial Times* on March 17 threatened Argentina and Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín for the second time in March—this time militarily—under the headline “A Temptation To ‘Save the Nation’ Lingers in the Barracks.” The paper lied that the imprisoned hero of the 1982 Malvinas War is plotting a coup which threatens the Malvinas (“Falklands”) Islands Britain holds.

“As they watch developments in Buenos Aires, the Falkland Islanders are worried that among those re-emerging on the political landscape include Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, an army officer who remains in jail for his part in three coup attempts at the end of the 1980s. . . . An extreme right-wing nationalist who had earned his medals in the dirty war against political dissidents, Seineldín inspired loyalty from his closest comrades-in-arms who were influenced by his rhetoric of a just war against British colonialism. . . .

“Today, a new generation of middle-ranking and senior-ranking officers in the armed forces may unwittingly be drawn back into politics if anarchy becomes a real possibility: the temptation to ‘save the nation’ lingers in the barracks. . . .

“Argentina’s capacity to put its own house in order remains in doubt, and that can only damage relations with Britain and the still-disputed Falklands. On the islands, the British have built a large military base, capable of accommodating a rapid reaction force if intelligence sources notice Argentine military maneuverings.”

At the same time, International Monetary Fund official Anoop Singh, a “tough guy” assigned by the Fund to deal with Argentina, publicly demanded that the Duhalde government overturn its own Economic Subversion Law, in effect since 1974, before the IMF would consider “aid” for Argentina. It is this law, under which several federal judges are now investigating a group of bank executives, including those working for foreign banks, on charges of illegal capital flight, money laundering, and other grand-scale stealing. As legislator Oscar González of the ARI party put it, “the IMF’s demand seeks impunity for those white-gloved thieves.”

the *Times* warned that the existing political vacuum “has stirred fears of a return to Argentina’s authoritarian past.” Seineldín, it baldly lied, “is in jail for leading a failed coup in 1990, has launched a campaign to become President.”

In a March 2 radio interview, Seineldín countered these lies with the charge that the real coup threat doesn’t come from Argentina’s armed forces, which have been destroyed, but from the “Anglo-American Establishment.” In fomenting a “controlled civil war,” and provoking significant numbers of deaths, this apparatus seeks to lay the basis for a foreign, UN-led intervention, he warned. He also charged that Colombia’s narco-terrorist FARC had intervened in the country, by providing 5,000 weapons to subversives in the country’s North, to foment social violence and upheaval.

Clarín’s March 5 edition quoted an unnamed, but clearly worried, U.S. State Department official scoffing at the idea, saying that, actually, “it helps a lot for someone like Seineldín to come out and say what he did. . . . What he said is so stupid, so far out, that it has the opposite effect than what he was seeking.”

Unsettled, *Ambito Financiero* on March 7 again warned that a pardon for Seineldín was under consideration.

Who Are the Real Nazis?

Then came the real filth. In early March, a so-called Committee to Free Seineldín popped up in the southern Brazilian state of Paraná. The group’s emergence is particularly strange, as its name is almost the same as that of the “Brazilian

Committee for the Freedom of Colonel Mohamed Alí Seineldín,” founded in October 2001 by Brazilian military patriots, Gen. Tasso Villar de Aquino, Rear Adm. Sergio Tasso Vázquez de Aquino, and Col. Pedro Schirmer. The original committee’s statement calling for Seineldín’s freedom, signed by over 200 retired Brazilian military and civilian activists, was also distributed at the March 8 “Free Seineldín” march in Buenos Aires, and its existence and organizing make clear that Seineldín’s support extends well beyond Argentina’s borders.

But the phony Paraná committee has a website called “Agua Verde,” which is linked to the “Red Kalki,” associated with an Argentine outright Nazi, Alejandro Biondini, the symbol of whose political grouping resembles a swastika. In the past, Biondini, frequently shown giving the fascist salute, has been linked to the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in Buenos Aires.

Filling out its profile as “Nazi-communist,” the Agua Verde site boasts of its support for the “Bolivarian Revolution,” lauding such proponents of mindless Jacobinism and narco-terrorism as Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez, Ecuador’s Col. Lucio Gutiérrez, and Cuba’s Fidel Castro.

The timing of the Agua Verde website’s emergence, and its crass attempt to tar Seineldín by linking him to the Nazi Biondini, immediately raises questions as to the real purpose of B’nai B’rith President Richard Heideman’s trip to Buenos Aires, particularly given that organization’s past role in organizing against Seineldín.