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Reducing poverty is the greatest success: Inna Afinogenova interviews López Obrador

His criticism of the United States includes its role in the United Nations and the organization's passivity in stopping the war in Gaza, "it is a vase. Can they kill thousands and can there be thousands of refugees and we don't care? And does a man who represents a power block an initiative to achieve peace? That's wrong, that has to change.

Journalist Inna Afinogenova and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Photo: Presidency

In an interview with Canal Red, a Spanish media outlet that broadcasts on social networks, seven months before the end of his term, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador identified what, at this point, is his main pending issue: Ayotzinapa would be something that would hurt me not to resolve. But we still have time. When they say that it was a matter of state, yes, it was a matter of state, but not because the state ordered the disappearance of the students, but because it covered up.

López Obrador addressed, with Russian journalist Inna Afinogenova, various international issues, among which he questioned the scope of anti-immigrant positions, framing his radicalization in the electoral campaign in the United States. Now that they talked about closing the border, I was laughing, because it closes the border and maybe that does knock me down, but first the president of the United States falls. It's exaggeration, nonsense.



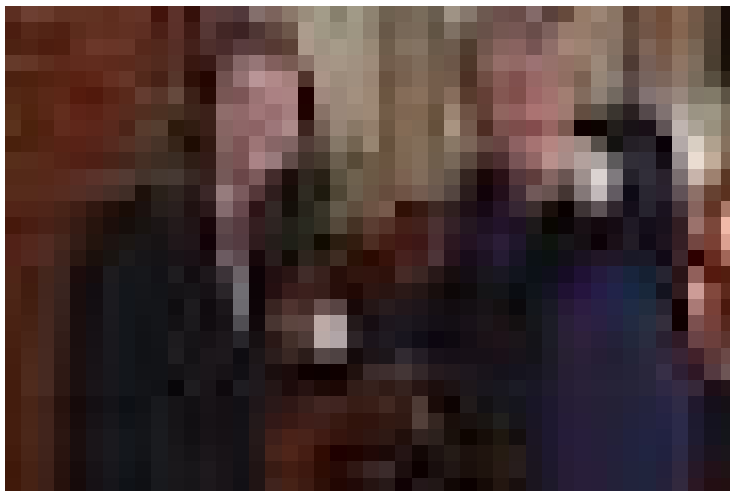
Donald Trump and Joe Biden

In that vein, he stressed that Donald Trump and Joe Biden have respected Mexico's position, which allowed him to even formally propose to the latter to desist from the legal process against Julian Assange. Biden is a respectful person. I've treated things to him. I dealt with Assange. I'm saying that for the first time.

How was this conversation? What did he say?

I gave him a letter and asked him if he would help Assange, that it was an injustice to have him in jail. He told me he was going to think about it, but there was no refusal.

There were almost two and a half hours of interview with the radio station linked to the leftist Spanish politician, Pablo Iglesias, in which the president also dismissed that his condemnations of the blockade of Cuba and the sanctions on Venezuela have generated consequences in his relationship with the United States. He ratified his position that the blockade of the island is an infamy, the product of an arrogant and medieval attitude in which the political and ideological are privileged, and where is the humanitarian?



Inna Afinogenova and Andrés Manuel López Obrador

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Internally, López Obrador rejected that there is a strong opposition, they do not go beyond insults but they are lost. And do you know why? Because they have not understood that changes and rearrangements have already taken place. And because they are very classist, and racist, they don't want to accept that the people participate. In addition, he said, they have no arguments to oppose it, the economic course of the country and the social achievements of Mexican humanism prevent them from having positions to return to power.

He considered that his relationship with the Judiciary has been very tense because it is an instance that is subject to the oligarchy. Tearing down the electricity law showed that they are at the service of foreign companies.

In his assessment of his movement, he stresses that it is not a vanguard that predominates, not even him, because it is still a minority, it is the revolution of consciousness that has achieved progress. Sometimes, revolutions fail, there are painful cases, because the leaders hesitate when they come to power because they want to look good to everyone. The cause that we raise and put into practice does not.

Are there any other tips for progressive governments in Latin America?

"You don't have to zigzag. No to half-measures, no to moderation. We are here for the people, we are here to serve them, because the only one who defends you is the people, they are the only ones. The businessmen don't defend you, the bankers don't defend you.



Despite this, he assumed that in Morena there could be a shift to the center and there is no problem. We have made the change in Mexico from below and among all of us. It's not an avant-garde.

Once again he praised the person who aims to succeed him in the Presidency: Claudia is very intelligent, academically, she is more than me. I just finished my bachelor's degree. She's a doctor. She is a woman with convictions, with principles, honest. It has many merits, many virtues.

When asked about the results of Nayib Bukele's policy to confront violence in El Salvador, López Obrador dismissed its long-term viability. "That's very irrational.

Are you sure that (mass incarceration) doesn't work?

"Absolutely certain.

"The data is devastating.

Yes, but it may work temporarily, and that is not a fundamental solution. You can't meet violence with violence.

He does not hesitate to ask about his greatest pride in government: having reduced poverty, despite the pandemic.

Throughout the talk he admitted that it has been quite difficult for me to balance passion with reason, because that is also what politics is. Great things are done with passion, but it also requires reason. Warm heart, cool head.

The Interview

Inna Afinogenova

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