

---

Facebook, Twitter and the Freedom of Speech according to Marco Rubio

06/09/2018



Two high executives of Facebook and Twitter appeared this Wednesday to explain, before the United States Congress, what the legislators consider their failure to fight the continuous foreign efforts to influence the domestic politics.

The appearance of Facebook Chief Operating Officer, Sheryl Sandberg, and the Twitter CEO, Jack Dorsey, before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, took place soon after President, Donald Trump accused, in an interview published by Daily Caller, the social networks of interfering in the midterm elections scheduled for November in that country.

These last statements are part of a saga of critics that in recent days that the White House tenant has launched against, according to him, those "super liberal" companies that try to silence the conservative voices of the United States while giving privilege to progressive opinions in their platforms.

In this Wednesday audience, incidentally, the topic of freedom of speech was approached by Marco Rubio republican senator for Florida. As the New York Times, reported Rubio questioned the executives for their loyalty to American values like freedom of speech, since as he said, they are pressured by foreign nations to silence the voices of users outside the United States.

According to the same media, when he asked about Facebook commitment to the freedom of speech worldwide, Mrs. Sandberg said: "We support these principles in the entire world", and he added that the company doesn't have servers in Vietnam and they would apply those same principles to China.

Also when referring to Twitter that defines itself as a square of the global city, Mr. Rubio expressed his concern that foreign governments could put pressure on the company to suffocate the freedom of speech.

To what his president answered that the company regularly pushes against nations like Turkey that demands the

censorship of certain voices.

I suppose that in Cuba's case, despite being one of the senator's obsessions, it had not been approached in the audience due to how inappropriate would be if it was known, during a live broadcast that, while on one hand the U.S. government nags social networks to allow the use of "political manipulation" against the White House interests, that same government encourages such proceedings against Cuba.

On the chapter dedicated to Cuba in the report of 2019 budget of the Broadcasting Board of Governors of that country published hardly a couple of weeks ago, it reads without hiding anything that the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), to which belongs the wrongfully named Radio and TV Martí: "it's creating digital teams in the island to create fake Facebook accounts to disseminate information. The pages opened in Cuba increase the chances to appear in the news of Cuban Facebook users. The same strategy will be used in other social networks".

It's impossible that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence of the United States, of which senator Marco Rubio is member, ignore this type of subversive strategy against Cuba. Most likely it seems that for the United States government there are two or more types of freedom of speech.

But undoubtedly, during the appearance of the executives of both social networks in the Capitol, it was crystal clear what is the type of "freedom of speech" private companies like Facebook and Twitter enjoy in the United States.

Showing some blackmailing meaning Marco Rubio reminded the executives of those social networks from his seat in Congress:

"Your companies would not exist if it weren't for the United States and the freedoms we have."

---