

NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY OF PEOPLE'S POWER FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS REGARDING THE THWARTED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

On August 4 in Caracas, as the Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, was giving a speech during the celebration of the 81st anniversary of the creation of Bolivarian National Guard, two powerful explosions were heard adjacent to the stage where the president was standing.

The president's security detail immediately activated its corresponding protocols, enabling the evacuation of the stage and ensuring the security of President Maduro and his family, high level representatives of different branches of government, military officials and other civilians present, as well as that of members of the diplomatic corps who were participating in the event.

The relevant authorities immediately began an investigation. The Attorney General announced the designation of three federal attorneys with extensive experience in the areas of organized crime and political conspiracies to clarify the facts and bring those responsible to justice.

Among the initial results of the investigation are the following:

The explosions were caused by explosive artifacts placed in two drones that were aimed at the president and the group of high level officials on the main stage. It is estimated that each drone contained 1 kilogram of C4, an explosive with the capability of impacting a radius of 50 meters. The drones were model DJI-M600, which are typically used for industrial and audiovisual ends.

The investigation on the scene and the statements made by six people who were detained for alleged links to the act reveal that the plan consisted of detonating one of the drones above the roof of the presidential stage while the other headed directly towards it. The president's security detail managed to divert one of the drones by blocking its signal, which caused it to explode far from its intended target. Regrettably, seven members of the military were hurt, of which three face an uncertain prognosis.

This was an attempt on the life of the President of the Republic, which is codified under our laws as an act of terrorism and attempted assassination. It must be noted that one of the people implicated in the acts had participated in the political violence of 2014, for which he was later freed. Another of the detainees is linked to last year's attack on a military facility in the city of Valencia by a paramilitary group. Furthermore, support for the attack has been expressed by spokespersons of the Venezuelan extreme right in Miami who are linked to the 2002 coup and other terrorist actions committed in the recent past.

Testimony obtained during the course of the investigation affirms the conviction that this criminal act is linked to the plan of aggression against Venezuela, which was publicly supported by the outgoing president of Colombia, Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, who during his final days in office made reckless declarations announcing that **"we are in the final hours of Maduro."**

Likewise, Venezuela has the firm conviction that behind this attempted assassination are Venezuelan extreme right wing groups in collusion with power economic and political factors that operate from Colombia with support from the city of Miami in the United States.

Assassinations of political and social leaders are types of crimes that are not compatible with the political culture of Venezuela. These methods have historically been rooted in Colombia, from which they have been exported to Venezuela to destabilize our democracy.

Similarly, the preliminary investigation has found ties with opposition political groups that reside in Miami. In this regard, President Nicolás Maduro has insisted that the administration of Donald Trump collaborate with the investigation as it leads to political operators and financiers on U.S. territory.

Venezuela has dismantled every conspiracy organized from Colombia. President Maduro issued an alert to the Bolivarian National Armed Force in relation to our shared border to avoid acts of provocation and violence from Colombia.

The Military High Command has rejected the attempted assassination and has warned that the Venezuelan armed force is firm, ready to defend the Constitution and the legitimate Government under the authority of the president – who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the armed force, and under no circumstance will it accept a violent rupture of the constitutional order.

Regarding the participation of Venezuelan extreme right-wing, we declare that this time these elements of the violent opposition have gone too far. They could have caused numerous deaths that would have led to the most serious of consequences for the country's stability. The Government of Venezuela has demanded that the Attorney General carry out a deep investigation to clarify the truth. Venezuela will use national and international law to pursue and bring the authors of this abominable attempt to justice. The Venezuelan State is carrying out an extensive and impartial investigation that will guarantee the application of justice and the maximum penalty allowed for those responsible. The attempted assassination of a president cannot be pardoned.

The Bolivarian Republic appreciates the countless expressions of solidarity and good wishes towards our country and the rejection of this criminal attempt, from numerous presidents and heads of state and government. Venezuela is also grateful for the expressions of support made by political leaders, political parties, parliamentarians, public figures and social movements and organizations throughout the world that have sent messages of solidarity and peace for our country.

Likewise, the Venezuelan Government urges countries and governments of the world to maintain an objective position toward these grave events, to calmly evaluate the gravity and significance of what has occurred, and, in some cases, to reevaluate their policies of open or implicit support for those who promote death and violence in Venezuela.

The Government of Venezuela is convinced that this attack desperately sought to impede the application of new measures for economic recovery that were recently announced by President

Maduro and will be put into effect on August 20. These measures are an effective response to the country's crisis and it will bring stability, tranquility and prosperity to all of our citizens.

The internal and external violent opposition has once again failed in its campaign of hate against Venezuela. These events reaffirm the Revolutionary Government's conviction that Venezuela is on the right path. We are on the side of the people, on the correct side of history. The Venezuelan people will keep fighting for their happiness, their democracy and for the peace they deserve and are destined for.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its president are more decided than ever about following the path of peace, of laws and of the Constitution. These are the paths of the Bolivarian Revolution.