



VENEZUELAN NEWS
21 Feb. 2014 / N° 15

- **Joyful, public-spirited citizens crowd Caracas city center**
Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)
Date: Feb. 18th 2014



Caracas, 18 Feb. AVN.- From Plaza Venezuela square to Miraflores Presidential Palace, in the city center of Caracas. That was the route for a march that carried out revolutionary citizens on Tuesday to say once again "Yes to peace."

Age is not restriction: adult men and women, youth and elderly have been turning up to this new appointment, where joyfulness and public-spiritedness are common denominator.

"I came here because I wanted to support the project of peace of the Bolivarian Revolution. We've had enough of opponents, due to personal ambitions, because there is no other explanation for the madness they are doing, they want people to set off to violence," said Jose Espinoza.

Espinoza, 73, recalled that "as long as I can remember, there has not been any other government in Venezuela that loves its people so much, especially the poor, as this one," headed by commander Hugo Chavez and now by president Nicolas Maduro.



"Leave violence aside. Respect the decision taken by these people," said Mr Espinoza, rejecting attempts on behalf of rightist sectors to boycott Venezuela's revolutionary process.

The march was initially convened by workmen of state oil company PDVSA, who are going to sign a new collective contract with the Venezuelan President to benefit over 40,000 employees.

- **Armed Forces express adherence to Bolivarian Constitution**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 18th 2014

Caracas, 18 Feb. AVN.- A statement was read on Monday by Defense minister Carmen Melendez to express that she and the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB, Spanish abbreviation) strictly abide by the Venezuelan Constitution and condemned violent actions on behalf of rightist groups.

"As minister of People's Power for Defense, I express to the country, the homeland of Bolivar and Chavez, our strict adherence to the Constitution and law of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which do not envisage at all the seizing of political power for any other way than people's expression through the electoral path," read the statement.

Melendez strongly condemned actions carried out by far right sectors in Venezuela, supported by foreign governments, that infringe the law and aim at destabilizing the country and fostering a coup d'état.

"Even though some of their leaders talk about peaceful protests, it has been evident the violence enforced by this group of people, completely outside the order and without respect to other people's grief," said the Defense Minister.

In addition, she emphasized the Armed Forces' unity and respect to Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro and she denounced a scenario similar to that occurred on 11 April 2002, when Commander Hugo Chavez was briefly overthrown. "Never, hear this, we will never accept a Government unless it comes from constitutional means."

Given these events, she informed, state-run security bodies have been compelled to use the legitimate force of the State, always abiding by laws and respecting human rights.

"FANB will always be in hand with justice and patriot development. Let us build together a territory of peace where we all fit in," Melendez stated.



- **Venezuelan President not to yield to rightists aspirations**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 18th 2014

Caracas, 18 Feb. AVN.- Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro is not going to yield to aspirations of rightist groups, affirmed chairperson of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, in his weekly TV program last Monday night.

Also vice-president of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), Cabello explained that opponents had raised three scenarios: a constituent assembly; recall referendum; and demanding the resignation of the Venezuelan President.

"Was it necessary to cause violence in the streets to demand a constituent assembly or recall referendum?," wondered Cabello, recalling to achieve any of these two proposals, it is necessary to gather signatures, as stipulated in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Concerning the third scenario set up by opponents, Cabello affirmed that the Venezuelan President is not going to resign to his legitimate post because "resignation is voluntary and Nicolas will not do it, the same way commander Hugo Chavez did not quit in 2002."

Diosdado Cabello commented that the National Government is supported by the Bolivarian National Armed Force and Venezuelan people.

- **Maduro: We'll speed up pacification in our homeland**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 18th 2014

Caracas, 18 Feb. AVN.- "We are going to speed up everything for the pacification of our homeland and to defeat anti-values that cause criminal violence. Peace, peace and more peace!," Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro said.

The President posted the above message to his profile @NicolasMaduro, in the social network Twitter last Monday night.

The national pacification plan is based on 10 strategic lines, which shall be implemented in all 24 states of the country.

It aims at making more efficient the vigilance and protection system, as well as police corps through Safe Homeland Plan, implementing a disarmament plan and the movement for peace and life.

In addition, the Federal Council on Government is expected to meet on Tuesday to coordinate the national plan for peace and coexistence, added president Maduro also in his Twitter profile.





- **Economic powers constantly attempt to destabilize Venezuelan Government**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 19th 2014

Caracas, 19 Feb. AVN.- Over 15 years, economic groups in Venezuela have made all efforts to destabilize and overthrow the Bolivarian Government, affirmed foreign minister Elias Jaua.

This happened for 14 years against Commander Hugo Chavez and over the last ten months against president Nicolas Maduro, said the Venezuelan diplomat at a meeting with ambassadors of member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

At the seat of the foreign ministry, in Caracas, Jaua said: "In 10 months of the Nicolas Maduro Administration, there has not been one day, one week, one month in which they did not try to lead the Government to a destabilizing situation to justify its overthrow."

"It's publicly known that Venezuela chose a path of deep transformation since 1998. It is what we have been trying to do in 15 years, transforming the social structure of an immensely rich country that had over half of its population living in misery."

This transformation process reverted the "dismantling of the Venezuelan national State and its main economic activities through a privatization policy," said the foreign minister.

The National Government managed this way to decrease extreme poverty to 5.5 per cent with real perspectives to decrease it to zero in the coming six years.

Minister Jaua said as well that decreasing poverty "has entailed a long battle against capitalism based on revenues, which in Venezuela took possession of domestic revenues for elites, leaving the great national majorities aside."

Consequences of this struggle for equality and reinvesting oil revenues has been the permanent attempt to destabilize the Bolivarian Government on behalf of economic powers in the country.

- **Opposition leader's life is protected by the Government, Wife says**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 19th 2014

Caracas, 19 Feb. AVN.-

On Feb. 18th, Lopez addressed the rally that he had convoked on Sunday, then handed himself over to the national guards.





Venezuelan courts had emitted an arrest warrant for Lopez, leader of the far right Popular Will party, for charges of instigating crime, public intimidation, damage to public property, and intentional homicide. In recent weeks he had been promoting, in public meetings and the press, an “exit” of the Maduro government, elected in April 2013.

Lilian Tintori affirmed that the National Government expressed its disposition to preserve the safety and physical integrity of her husband Leopoldo Lopez, who was accompanied to the law court in Caracas by National Assembly president Diosdado Cabello after his surrender.

Mrs Tintori told CNN network that Lopez's life had been threatened and "the Government expressed to be concerned about this situation. And they got in touch with the family to preserve Leopoldo's safety and so they did. They preserved Leopoldo's safety from Plaza Brion in Chacaito up to the law court."

The National Government has proved its willingness to guarantee the physical integrity of Leopoldo Lopez, who handed himself over to Venezuelan authorities. Thus, Lopez attended the call made by President Nicolas Maduro in the face of threats posed by far right groups abroad to attempt against his life.

López is being investigated for alleged links with the violent events that occurred on February 12 in the vicinity of Mexico Avenue in Caracas, which resulted in the death of Juan Montoya and Bassil Da Costa Frias, as well as vandalism to the headquarters of the institution guarantor of legality and others public buildings.

At the presentation hearing, the prosecutor will press charges against him for the allegedly committing crimes under Venezuelan law.

- **Communiqué of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ministry of the People’s Power for Foreign Affairs, on Obama’s Statements**
Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)
Date: Feb. 20th 2014

Communiqué

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela strongly rejects the statements of Wednesday, 19 February 2014 by the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, as they constitute a new and insolent meddling in the internal affairs of our country; and what’s worse, on the basis of false information and unfounded assertions.

The fact that President Obama continues to attack from that sister nation a free and sovereign country of Latin America and the Caribbean, whose policies, lines and decisions are the result of the people’s will which was democratically expressed, is an offence to the heroic land of the Aztecs, Villa and Zapata, and to the courteous and brave Mexican people.





The statement that independent governments and peoples of the world would expect from him is one where the government of the United States explains why it finances, fosters and defends opposition leaders that promote violence in our land, and one that clarifies by what right did Deputy Assistant Secretary Alex Lee send a message from his government, with the aim of conditioning and threatening the Venezuelan State for its decision to bring to justice those responsible for the acts of violence of the last few days.

Finally, the Venezuelan government reiterates that it will continue to monitor and take the necessary actions to prevent American agents from intending to institute violence and destabilization, as well as to inform the world about the nature of Obama's interventionist policy in our country.

- **Venezuelans called to defeat coup attempt with peace**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 20th 2014

Caracas, 20 Feb. AVN.- "We have to be builders of peace, to continue resisting. Here is the spiritual richness that moves us," said Wednesday Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro, deploring violence fostered by rightist groups in the country.

President Maduro called on Venezuelans to keep firm with peaceful spirit and to continue struggling to defeat violence caused over the last days by destabilizing groups that seek to overthrow the legitimate government.

"Bolivarian, patriots and decent democrat people in this country, we have to keep fighting to defeat those fascist gangs trained for two or three years," remarked Maduro at Miraflores Presidential Palace, in Caracas, during a Cabinet meeting broadcast live in nationwide radio and television hookup.

A plan is under way in Venezuela, Maduro said, seeking to lead the country to "social, political and military chaos... to cause an increasing spiral of hatred and clashes of people against people, and then justify the unjustifiable: calling a military foreign intervention in Venezuela's domestic affairs."

"The time for peace has come" to Venezuela, Maduro remarked, calling to prevent an increase on the deplorable figure of six people dead and over 70 injured nationwide.

To local rightist groups, Maduro urged them to stop filling Venezuela's youth with hatred, throwing them to the streets to "play with death." He warned them that they "will not get political power in the country through violence."

Condemning violence





Rightist groups have been causing violence in several areas of Venezuela over the last days. Wreaking havoc to public institutions and buildings, blocking thoroughfares, burning tires and garbage are some of the actions carried out by those groups.

In the face of these actions, president Nicolas Maduro deplored the death of Genesis Carmona, who was shot in the head last Tuesday in central state of Carabobo; as well as the ambush to a march of basic companies employees in southern state of Bolivar, resulting in nine people injured.

The performance of putschist groups has revealed an evident purpose: attacking people in opposition and revolutionary marches without distinction.

"Some people want deaths here and there, some people want deaths in opposition marches and men and women at, patriot, Chavista and revolutionary marches."

For instance, the Venezuelan President mentioned western state of Tachira, in the border with Colombia. There, he detailed, businesspeople, bus drivers and citizens in general have been attacked by violent groups. He said this region is being assaulted the same way as Benghazi, Libya, where a civil war was caused.

"Abiding by my authority, I'll have to take special measures," said Maduro, urging citizens in Tachira state to defend the country's sovereignty and halt the violence of Colombian and Venezuelan fascist groups.

Similarly, he denounced the permanent harassment of rightist groups, for six continual days, to the main seat of public television station VTV, in Los Ruices, Sucre municipality, Miranda state.

"Where is the Inter American Press Society? The National Journalists' Association? Do they agree this continual attack?," wondered Maduro.

Large media companies "are misinforming the world. I'm sure CNN does not broadcast this," Maduro condemned, referring to a series of videos and pictures showing opponent's violence.

Dialog with legitimate students

On the framework of the National Plan on Coexistence and Peace, president Nicolas Maduro remarked the importance of "dialog with strength, not weakness. Dialog for the benefit of the country, its future; dialog for peace; dialog with differences, everyone with his stance; constructive dialog to set up main issues where we all may discuss."





In this connection, president Maduro reaffirmed his willingness to meet university leaders, to talk about the country's peace, students' rights and struggle against crime.

"I offer a new proposal. Come here, let's talk... I stretch my hand to the mass of students. We want peace, let's find the way," said the President, inviting them to the presidential palace.

Maduro recalled that he had proposed students to meet Venezuelan vice-president Jorge Arreaza and a group of ministers in their universities, to talk about the plan of peace and coexistence.

Rightist governors convened to meeting

Opposition governors who did not attend a meeting of the Federal Council on Government last Tuesday have been convened once again for next Monday.

President Nicolas Maduro urged the governors of Miranda, Henrique Capriles; Lara, Henry Falcon; and Amazonas, Liborio Guarulla, "not to continue spacing from their labor, to talk about what their states need, to talk about peace."

Measures will be taken if the mentioned governors do not attend the meeting next Monday, since citizens in their states are the main affected of it.

- **Unlike What the Media Says or Implies, the Violence in Venezuela Is Being Perpetrated by the Opposition**

Source: Venezuelanalysis.com

Date: Feb. 20th 2014

The slant of the Venezuelan private media and the international media on what is happening in Venezuela is clear: The government is responsible for the violence. In the first place government-ordered gunmen are shooting at pacific demonstrators and the violence generated by the opposition is just a response to the brutality of police and military forces. But there is considerable evidence that shows that the violence, including that of unidentified motorcyclists against the demonstrators, is being carried out by the opposition. Consider the following:

1. Violent actions have been carried out by the opposition since the time of the 2002 coup. The "guarimba" which means urban violence (or "foquismo") was publicly advocated by opposition leaders in 2003-2004 as the only way to prevent the establishment of a dictatorial regime in Venezuela.

2. On April 11, 2002, the day Chávez was overthrown, the Venezuelan and international media and the White House used juxtaposition of images of Chavistas shooting pistols in downtown Caracas, on the one hand, and peaceful anti-government demonstrators, on the other to justify the coup. However the Irish-produced documentary "The Revolution Will Not Be





Televised” and other documentaries demonstrated by the flow of the camera that the demonstrators were far away from the Chavistas and that they were shooting in response to sniper fire against them. If snipers were responsible for the 15-20 killings (of opposition demonstrators along with Chavistas) that justified the coup of April 2002, is there any reason to doubt that the unidentified individuals who are attacking demonstrators are not acting on behalf of sectors of the opposition?

3. The violence that has rocked Venezuela during the last two weeks has targeted public buildings, such as the headquarters of the Fiscalía General (Attorney General), the public television channel (Channel 8), the state-owned Banco de Venezuela, the house of the Chavista governor of Tachira, trucks of the state grocery store chain PDVAL, and dozens of metro buses in Caracas.

4. None of the opposition leaders have explicitly condemned the opposition-promoted violence. Opposition mayors in Caracas and elsewhere have refrained from using their police force to contain the violence.

5. The so-called “peaceful” demonstrators engage in disruptions by closing key avenues in an attempt to paralyze transportation. Where I live, on the main drag between the twin cities of Barcleona and Puerto La Cruz, the demonstrators occupy two of the three lanes on both sides and as a result traffic backs up for miles. A number of tragedies have been reported of people in a state of emergency who were unable to make it to a hospital or clinic on time.

6. The term “salida,” which has become a main slogan of the protesters, implies regime change. Obviously the opposition is not calling for a constitutional solution in which Maduro resigns and is replaced by the president of the National Assembly Diosdado Cabello, as the constitution stipulates. Regime change is a radical slogan that implies radical tactics.

7. Political scientist and Venezuelan specialist David Smilde of the University of Georgia, who is not pro-Chavista but rather evenhanded in his analyses, has stated that the Venezuelan government has nothing to gain by the violence.

8. The government has nothing to gain by the violence because the media is largely on the side of the opposition and present a picture of the violence which directly and indirectly blames the government. Consider the following front page article titled “Capital City Suffers Night Violence” of El Universal (February 20), one of Venezuela’s major newspapers:

Translation: “Last night, the National Guard and National Police attacked almost simultaneously different demonstrations that were taking place in distinct areas of the capital city,,, In the confrontations there was gunshot [and] tear gas while people banged on pots and pans from their windows (in protest of the government).”





9. The Venezuelan government has shown great restraint in the context of opposition- promoted violence and disruption. In nearly any other country in the world, the disruption of traffic in major cities throughout the country would have resulted in mass arrests.

10. Governments, particularly undemocratic ones, which lack active popular support and completely control the media effectively use repression against dissidents. This is not the case in Venezuela. None of the non-state channels and newspapers (that the vast majority of Venezuelans get their news from) supports the government and most of them are ardently anti-government. Furthermore, unlike governments that use massive repression (such as Egypt under Mubarak), the Chavista government and movement has a greater mobilization capacity, particularly among the popular sectors of the population, than the opposition. As Smilde says, the use of violence by the government makes absolutely no sense.

- **Passed Bs. 120 million to restore Caracas behind fascist violence**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 20th 2014

Caracas, 20 Feb. AVN.- A total 120 million bolivares (Bs.) were passed by Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro last Wednesday night.

President Maduro passed the resources to restore Parque Carabobo square and high school Andres Bello, in downtown Caracas, which have been damaged by violent rightist groups.

On February 12th, violent groups attacked the seat of the Venezuelan Public Ministry, in downtown Caracas, upon finishing a march convened by far right sectors in the country.

- **Social networks used for putschist violence**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 20th 2014

Caracas, 20 Feb. AVN.- Online social network services are used for those who attempt to destabilize the country to spread anguish among the population, denounced Communication and Information minister Delcy Rodriguez.

"Social networks are used by performers of putschist violence to spread anguish among the population in large scale psychological operation," posted the minister in her Twitter profile @DrodriguezMinci.

Rodriguez added that "powerful media labs without precedents of the kind are used to carry out a psychological war against Venezuela."





Government authorities have showed a series of pictures spread in social networks as if they occurred in Venezuela, but in fact they belong to international events.

- **Villegas calls on reasonable opposition sectors to side with Constitution**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 20th 2014

Caracas, 20 Feb. AVN.- Revolutionary leader and minister of the urban reconstruction of Caracas, Ernesto Villegas, urged reasonable sectors of the Venezuelan opposition to side with institutionalism, abiding by the Bolivarian Constitution, as well as to assume the defense of peace in the country.

"I call on reasonable sectors of the opposition to side with the Constitution and peace," said minister Villegas, recalling that havoc created by fascist violence affects not only those who raise the flag of the Bolivarian Revolution.

Focal points of violence have been carried out in several areas of the country since early February. Calls have been made by spokespeople of far right groups, such as Leopoldo Lopez and deputy Maria Machado.

"Fascism threatens not only Chavista people, but the entire Nation. We are still on time to prevent devils from being unleashed," the minister posted to his Twitter profile @VillegasPoljakE.

Likewise, he called on revolutionary people not to yield to provocations on behalf of rightists. "To revolutionaries: utmost discipline. Nobody should play along with them. They want people to clash against themselves."

"Our only weapon must be the Constitution and people's active and conscious participation in the streets. Chavez's legacy is peace," Villegas recalled, also stressing: "Unity and loyalty beside our president, Nicolas Maduro, elected by people's will on 4/11 and legitimated on 12/8."

"Love will win. Social victories and future will not be taken away from our people. We will live and win!"

Furthermore, he sent his condolences to families of people who were affected due to these events. "I call to peace, rationality."

"No crime must remain unpunished, no life shall be left fruitlessly," posted the minister to the social network.





- **Electrical system goods damaged due to vandalism**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Feb. 20th 2014

Caracas, 20 Feb. AVN.- Electricity minister Jesse Chacon denounced that damages have been caused to goods of the National Electrical System due to vandalism, particularly in states Anzoategui, Carabobo and Bolivar.

At station Guanta, in Anzoategui, control wires were cut off, affecting electrical service in some residential sectors, the Minister posted to his Twitter profile @jchacon.

Chacon deplored the events and demanded to cease violence. "We lament the power cut in the area Los Cortijos, Anzoategui, caused by fascist vandalism. No to violence!"

Focal points of violence have been carried out in several areas of the country since early February. Calls have been made by spokespeople of far right groups, such as Leopoldo Lopez and deputy Maria Machado.

Power supply wiring was also affected in Puerto Ordaz city, Bolivar state, due to violent actions, added the minister.

"Fascists in Pto. Ordaz burned electrical wiring in station Los Olivos, leaving part of Alta Vista complex without power supply," Chacon posted to the social network.

Other actions were also reported in the country, as in Valencia city, Carabobo state, where violent people set fire to vehicles of the national electrical company Corpoelec.

"Right now fascists in Valencia have set fire to 22 Corpoelec vehicles at Prebo office. Venezuela is ruined with violence!," he remarked.

