



## VENEZUELAN NEWS 28 Feb. 2014 / N° 16

### **Violence is part of soft coup in Venezuela**

Caracas, 24 Feb. AVN.- Violent actions carried out by rightist groups in Venezuela over the last weeks represent a follow-on coup that comes from powerful groups of the United States Government and Venezuelan business elites, said president Nicolas Maduro last Sunday night.

"This is not another campaign of conspiracy neither another day of riots, this is a follow-on coup d'état, conceived in powerful groups of the United States, arranged in business elites and headed in the streets by Venezuelan far right sectors," affirmed President Maduro at an interview with Telesur.

As precedents of this soft coup, Maduro mentioned a campaign of rumors raised over the illness and passing of commander Hugo Chavez, attacks against his election as Venezuelan President and violent actions following elections on 14 April 2013, which resulted in eleven people death and hundreds of injured.

It was followed by a campaign of electrical sabotage and economic war, Maduro added.

"The entire opposition knows what this plan is about," said Maduro, adding that however the far right "intends, through a biased campaign, with lies, supported with plenty of money from abroad and powerful groups in the United States, to take our country to a scenario of civil war, violence of people against people."

### **Colombian funding**

Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro denounced that this coup against the Bolivarian Revolution's governability is financed from Colombia. These actions aim at causing a civil war and US intervention.

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"The coup, training of fascist groups are financed from Colombia... what they want, in the end, is to fill us with hatred, mutual contempt among Venezuelans and takes to a clash, that we kill ourselves. Breaking the Armed Forces' unity, break the civil-military unit and take us to a US intervention in our country."

Nevertheless, he said the Venezuelan people count on a great tool to face those plans, and it is their high level of awareness, strengthened through the Bolivarian Revolution and Hugo Chavez's ideas.

### **Media attacks**

Such violent actions have been sheltered by attacks of international media outlets and a disinformation campaign, in which is involved a US influential financial group, said president Nicolas Maduro.

"Financial power sets standard in the global economy and govern from the United States. Global communicational power is governed from North America. It's only a tool for propaganda, cultural industry and show business."

Attacks started because the Bolivarian Revolution did not disappear with the passing of commander Hugo Chavez, said Maduro.

Maduro recalled that communicational groups as CNN in Spanish do not tell the truth of what is happening in Venezuela and justified war on Iraq twice, massacre against the Libyan people and its destruction.

### **Violence online**

To the campaign launched by international media have joined violent messages sent by fascist groups through social networking services, seeking to fill youth with hatred and so carry out a coup.

About the matter, president Nicolas Maduro said "those young people are victims of this campaign because they are in state of fear, delirium, panic and aggressiveness to kill. A boy of these (microblogging in social networks) may go and kill, but what is the effect of unleashing hatred? They are victims."



## Venezuela is committed to Bolivar, Chavez's homeland



Caracas, 24 Feb. AVN.- Venezuelan people are committed to the homeland looked for by Simon Bolivar and Hugo Chavez, stressed vice-president Jorge Arreaza last Sunday, referring to revolutionary marches carried out in favor of peace.

"In just one week youth, students, workers, women and elderly moved against violence, for peace, for the homeland," posted the Vice-president to his Twitter profile @jaarreaza.

People's power has been expressed in several states of the country to condemn fascism and violent actions that have resulted in deaths and injures, as well as damage to public and private buildings since last February 12.

Last Saturday, women joined the journey of peace and life in several states of the country and they expressed messages of love and labor to go on with the legacy of leader of the Bolivarian Revolution, Hugo Chavez.

The elderly did the same last Sunday, in downtown Caracas, where they marched to Miraflores Presidential Palace to express their support to president Nicolas Maduro.

"So beautiful to see our elderly in Miraflores, happy. Just in the nineties they were excluded and fiercely repressed," said Vice-president said.

In the pursuit of peace, the Venezuelan President has called on all social and political sectors to hold a national conference on the matter next February 26.

## Arrested mercenary in north central Venezuela

Caracas, 24 Feb. AVN.- A hired killer native from the Middle East was arrested in Aragua state, north central Venezuela, informed president Nicolas Maduro on Monday.

This person was hired to spread violence and chaos in the country, said Maduro at an encounter with motorized workers in Caracas.

"They were preparing car bombs to fill our country with violence," said the Venezuelan President after listening messages of peace on behalf of the group.

The march of revolutionary motorized forces took place from east to west, up to downtown Caracas, to defend peace and life.

The group gathered in Petare parish to endorse a document in which they express support to president Nicolas Maduro and condemn violent actions, which caused the death of a young motorcycle driver.

## Material targeted at terrorism seized upon arrest of mercenary

Caracas, 25 Feb. AVN.- A person named Jayssam Mokded was arrested early morning on Monday in Maracay, capital city of Aragua state, in north central Venezuela, with evidence and conclusive elements to allegedly carry out terrorist actions in the country.

This man was being lodged at a hotel in northern Maracay since February 9, informed Aragua governor Tareck El Aissami.

"13 electronic devices, items to communicate with the US and Colombia, an armored car Toyota model FJ were seized to Jayssam Mokded in the procedure. He had an explosive, gunpowder and logistics for violent riots," El Aissami detailed.

Receipts of transfers by hundreds of thousands of dollars to the United States and other destinations were also seized to Mokded.

"In the seized material also appeared papers that link him to a company based in Miami," United States, El Aissami said.



### **Outbreaks of violence are substantially reduced in the country**

Caracas, 25 Feb. AVN.- Minister for Foreign Affairs Elias Jaua said Tuesday that the outbreaks of violence promoted two weeks ago by fascist groups of the Venezuelan right have declined significantly.

"Today (Tuesday) the outbreaks of violence are practically reduced to less than 10 municipalities in the country," Jaua told Telesur network.

"We can say that the majority of the Venezuelan people is about to achieve a democratic victory, peace and stability over the violent groups that tried to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro during the last two weeks," added the minister, who confirmed that most of the country is normal.

"Our people are giving a demonstration of their desire for peace and democratic steadfastness," the foreign minister said insisting that the will of the Venezuelan people has managed to isolate the violent groups that have provoked violent actions where 13 Venezuelans were killed.

### **Relations with the United States**

Regarding the proposal of the Venezuelan government to appoint Maximilian Arvelaez as the new ambassador of Venezuela in the United States, Jaua said that in past conversations with U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, they have discussed the basic principles for normalizing relations.

To raise the relationship at the highest diplomatic level, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual recognition and respect are the key points of the conversation between the two Governments, Jaua stated.

He explained that even though the U.S. have interfered in the internal affairs of Venezuela, the Bolivarian Government expresses its willingness to have relationships of mutual respect.

### **Industries Minister presents strategic plan for industrial sector**

Caracas, 25 Feb. AVN.- Venezuelan Minister for Industries Wilmer Barrientos presented Tuesday the strategic plan for the industrial sector in a meeting taking place at the headquarters of ministry located in the center of the capital city, in order to promote and strengthen the industrial activity in the country.

The plan is aimed at intermediate, basic and small industries. The strategies focus on developing liaison mechanisms with centers of public and private research and educational missions, designing national policies to provide production and exports incentives, developing productive linkages through corporations and conglomerates, socialist industries, as well as creating special areas of sector development.

Another objective is to promote productive development through research, innovation, technology transfer, and promote environmental protection and sustainable development of the domestic industry on the basis of the production model of the 21st century.

"We will work hard to meet this strategic plan. We have to create an avalanche of participation to engage the country and businesses," Minister said via his Twitter account @PatriaEficiente (EfficientHomeland).

He also said in another message that it is necessary to raise "awareness from a socialist perspective" where solidarity and complementarity will be the basis for further development.

For such purposes, he added that a comprehensive study of industrial parks will be done and according to results of the study actions will be developed.

The minister said that the program will be submitted soon to the private sector, which will strengthen the joint work.

In recent weeks, Minister has held meetings with entrepreneurs from different industries: pharmaceuticals, hygiene and personal care, plastics and chemicals.



### **Investment plans 2014 passed for majors and governors**

Caracas, 25 Feb. AVN.- Investment plans of mayors and governors for this year 2014 were passed in Federal Council of Government, informed Venezuelan vice-president Jorge Arreaza last Monday night.

This year, there will be allocated 28,959,000 bolivares to fund investment plans in areas of infrastructure, roads, housing, education, sports, town planning, tourism and production.

"Investment plans presented by governors here today in plenary session were passed. All investment plans of mayor's offices in the country were passed. A new secretary proposed in previous session was passed," Arreaza detailed during the third extraordinary session, in Caracas.

In the meeting were also evaluated the results of meetings held by the Ministry of Interior Relations, Justice and Peace, security bodies, governments and mayor's offices, among other institutions in the country with a view to decrease crime rates.

In addition, the Vice-president said that petroleum and mining minister Rafael Ramirez explained governors the new mechanisms to import products to the country.

These institutions are going to be useful to "foster production, to carry out investment projects, seeking joint import."

The Federal Council of Government is an agency stipulated in the National Constitution; it is made up by representatives of all levels of government: national, regional, municipal and organized people. Its goal is to achieve a harmonic development of regions.

### **US organizations denounce Washington's complicity with Venezuelan opposition**

Caracas, 26 Feb. AVN.- US social organizations claim that there is complicity of Washington with Venezuela's opposition to destabilize the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

"We are well aware that the foreign policy of the United States towards Venezuela since 1999 has been marked by economic sabotage and encouragement of a government change that protects U.S. interests over oil (...) then we can understand the nature of the protests in Venezuela," the Rebel Diaz Art Collective group said in a statement.

This group repudiated the false information coming to America about what is happening in Venezuela. They also criticized TV networks like CNN and Univision, as well as private media of South American country for broadcasting distorted images of current events to manipulate public opinion in favor of U.S. multinationals.

The artistic group, based in New York, compared the current events in Venezuela to what happened during the government of Salvador Allende in Chile (1970-1973), where the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Chilean oligarchy carried out a soft coup attempt, which began with hoarding commodities.

"We just need to look at history and other U.S. interventions in Latin America to know that when the power of the global elite is threatened, as it is happening in Venezuela right now, the empire responds with absolute violence, manipulation and lies to protect their interests," said the group.

Furthermore, the youth organization Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) announced they will hold Thursday a rally at the Times Square in New York to support Venezuela and protest against Washington's intervention in the internal affairs of Caracas. In its announcement, the group criticizes harshly the White House for allocating a millionaire budget for the purpose of financing the Venezuelan right while it insists in introducing drastic cuts to federal spending due to the economic crisis.



### **Govt. to deliver 50,000 laptops and 600,000 Samsung tablets to students**

Caracas, 26 Feb. AVN.- This week 50,000 canaima laptops will be delivered to students from various schools of the country, said Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro.

"This week we will deliver another 50,000 canaima laptops, reaching a total of 3,188,000 laptops for our children. We are heading towards (the figure of) 4,000,000 children with their laptops!" he said from the Miraflores Palace.

"There will be no guarimba (violent riot) that can stop the Bolivarian Revolution," he said in relation to the violent actions the Venezuelan right has unleashed in recent days. He said the national government will continue to build, "while the right-wing destroys."

Similarly, President Nicolas Maduro announced the release this year of 600,000 Samsung tablets to college students of the country.

"At first they were 300,000 but we succeeded in negotiating 600,000 tablets with Samsung to distribute them to university students this year," he said.

He noted that the tablets are delivered as part of the protection system of university students, including further scholarships, transportation and dormitories for this sector.

### **People, ideas and values defend peace**

Caracas, 26 Feb. AVN.- In order to defend the Bolivarian Revolution, people ought to continue mobilizing and defeating enemies in the field of ideas, Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro underscored.

"Peace is defended with people mobilizing and gaining battle of ideas and values. We are love, life, joy and future," posted the President to his Twitter profile @NicolasMaduro.

In another message posted to the social network, president Maduro welcomed to Miraflores Presidential Palace the Venezuelan movement of peasants and indigenous people.

"Welcome the peasant's and indigenous' movement of our Bolivarian Homeland to presidential office Miraflores. Streets and more streets!," Maduro added. Peasants and social movements of the country marched on Wednesday in Caracas to reaffirm their support to president Maduro and their willingness to increase domestic food production.



### Venezuela to display tourism potential at Colombian Fair



Caracas, 26 Feb. AVN.- Venezuela's Tourism Ministry participates from Wednesday until Friday at the 33rd edition of the maximum tourism event in Colombia, the Tourism Showcase of the Association of Travel and Tourism (Annatto) 2014, with the aim of consolidating the country as multi-destination, highlighting its geological and cultural diversity.

The fair, covering an area of 30,000 square meters of exhibition, brings together 700 exhibitors and around 30 countries, becoming a great platform for the Colombian tourism market, a press release says.

The Venezuelan government will have a 90 square meters stand with a representation of 10 national tour operators, Venezuelan state company Venetur, the state airline Conviasa and Tourism Corporation of Nueva Esparta state, to offer their packages to international wholesalers with the aim of making business deals.

The Venezuelan delegation will showcase the beautiful sites and destinations of the nation with emphasis on the most desired destinations for the Colombian traveler: sun and sand, including the promotion of nature, adventure and business segments.

The attractions of Caracas, Los Roques Archipelago, Margarita Island, Mochima National Park, Canaima and the Gran Sabana are some of the highlighted areas.

### Revolution sprang with people's rebellion against neoliberalism 25 years ago

Caracas, 27 Feb. AVN.- President Nicolas Maduro commemorated Thursday the 25 anniversary of Caracazo, people's rebellion occurred on 27 February 1989 against neoliberal policies implemented by the Carlos Andres Perez administration, and he remarked that it meant the beginning of the 21 century revolution under way in Venezuela.

"25 years ago, people broke loose and said: enough neoliberalism. They were massacred, but not defeated. That was the beginning of the 21 century revolution," posted the President to his Twitter profile @NicolasMaduro.

The Venezuelan President recalled that there were "over 3,000 deaths among humble people, betrayed in two centuries by oligarchy that looted the homeland." Besides, he urged to pray for them.

"The Bolivarian Revolution of our commander Hugo Chavez is daughter of February 27, 1989 and today it heads towards the 21 century Christian Socialism," posted the President to the social network.

In 1989, Venezuelan citizens rebelled spontaneously against neoliberal measures imposed by then president Perez through the International Monetary Fund.

Poor sectors rebelled en masse and set a precedent for the subsequent breaking of the traditional two-party system in Venezuela.



### El Caracazo victims indemnified by the Executive



Caracas, 27 Feb. AVN.- Venezuela's Executive has indemnified 112 relatives of victims of the repression carried out by the State on February 27, 1989, amid a people's rebellion known as El Caracazo.

The event took place at Miraflores Presidential Palace, Caracas, and it was headed by chief of staff Hugo Cabezas; Prosecutor Luisa Ortega Diaz and People's Defender Gabriela Ramirez.

Juan Jose Nieves, relative of a victim of police and military repression in that opportunity, thanked the Bolivarian Government for its actions to compensate them.

"Today, we are gathered here not to receive a payment, since we think our relatives are priceless. This is just a compensation given by the Government and, it's worth mentioning it, this owes to the memory of our supreme commander Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias," said Mr Nieves.

Mr Nieves added that it is necessary to remember that "in our country, before that massacre, there were others, many others and over the entire period we call the fourth Republic, there was not a single indemnified person."

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In addition, he took the opportunity to think about and compare the Caracazo, when citizens rebelled against neoliberalism, with current violent events carried out by fascist groups in the country. Thus, Mr Nieves said that "you used to go to protest student fares and half an hour later you had any amount of police officers beating you, locking you in and also killing you."

Now, on the contrary, "people go to protest and military and police officers are injured and beaten. And this is call a peaceful protest."





### **Venezuela handles Paraguay report on fascist violence**

Caracas, 27 Feb. AVN.- Minister for Foreign Affairs Elias Jaua met Wednesday night in Asuncion, with his Paraguayan peer Eladio Loizaga, who was given a report on the real conditions of Venezuela. This report contains a detailed account of the violent actions fostered by far right groups in the country over the last weeks.

After the meeting, Jaua reported that the document he granted Loizaga gives accurate information about the origin of protests and actions of violent groups, who have been controlled with the proportional use of force, as a state must do, reported a press release of the Foreign Ministry.

Jaua added he also delivered a dossier of each of the cases of detainees and deaths. "In only three cases misconduct by police officers can be assumed, the rest have been results of own violence and forced blockades that have been made."

The violence of fascist groups in Venezuela has left 13 dead and dozens injured.

Jaua asked Loizaga support of Paraguayan government for the Venezuelan situation to be discussed within the Union of South American Nations (Unasur).

For his part, Loizaga said that Paraguay supports and wants "a sincere dialog in this process that unfortunately is taking place in Venezuela so to get back to peace in a short time, in order to seek understanding of all the people under the rule of law, respect for citizens' rights and democratic institution."

Prior to his visit to Paraguay, Jaua was in Bolivia, where he also denounced fascist events in Venezuela.

On Thursday, Venezuela's chancellor will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he will meet with his counterpart, Hector Timerman. It is also expected that the diplomat will be received by the president Cristina Fernandez.

Elias Jaua is also expected to be this Thursday in Uruguay and Brazil, while on Friday he will go to Suriname and Guyana.



### **Venezuela's govt: the most human rights-friendly in its history**

Caracas, 27 Feb. AVN.- Venezuela's representative to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), German Saltron, said Thursday that the revolutionary government since taking power in 1999 has been the "most magnanimous and respectful of human rights that Venezuela has had in its history."

In an interview with Telesur network, Saltron expressed his rejection of the international campaign against the country under the assumption that the State violates fundamental rights.

He recalled that the leader of the Bolivarian Revolution, Hugo Chavez, even in the midst of the coup he faced in April 2002, did not suspend constitutional guarantees nor shut down the media and, after the coup, he granted amnesty to coup plotters and others who participated in these events.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the popular uprising known as the Caracazo, in which the country saw rioting and looting for a full week and the government responded by killing three thousand people, Saltron said the revolution has paid compensation to victims pursuant to the decision of the Human Rights Court.

Also, regarding the violence promoted in recent days by sectors of the right, he indicated that these groups tried to repeat the Caracazo but failed because economic conditions are totally different from those of that time.

Twenty-five years ago, the Venezuelan people spontaneously stood up against neoliberal policies of the Carlos Andres Perez administration, imposed by the United States with a massive rebellion led by the popular sectors, who managed to create the preamble to the subsequent breakdown of the two-party system.

In November 1999, IACHR recognized the violation of the right to life, liberty and personal integrity, guarantees and judicial protection of 44 victims presented by the NGO Committee of Family Members of Victims of the Events of February-March 1989 (COFAVIC).

President Hugo Chavez, in addition to acknowledging the responsibility of the State, also announced in 2006 mechanisms to compensate victims who were not included in the suit filed in the Inter-American Court.

Furthermore, a year ago, the executive set up a truth and justice commission to investigate crimes against humanity and violations of human rights perpetrated by successive governments between 1958 and 1998.

Marelis Perez, a member of this instance, said Thursday they have already solved two cases of enforced disappearances and have tried 200 cases that account for the systematic political repression back then.



### **Non-Aligned Movement advocates for the Venezuelan government**

Presidential Press / MPPRE. 27 Feb. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), comprised of 120 countries worldwide, expressed its solidarity with the Government of Venezuela in a statement agreed at a special meeting last Monday, March 24, at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York.



Non-Aligned Movement advocates for the Venezuelan government

In its ruling, the NAM Member States expressed “deep concern at the violence that has taken place” in Venezuela in recent days, while “regrets the loss of human lives”.

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles of sovereignty, rule of law, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and self-determination of peoples, the most important forum for political consultation of the UN recognizes the efforts of the Government of Venezuela in promotion of a “comprehensive national dialogue.”

Venezuela’s Ambassador to the UN, Samuel Moncada, remarked: “The solidarity of 120 states in the world with our Government indicates two major victories for the Venezuelan democracy. First, we are overcoming the international media campaign against Venezuela, and second, that the world rejects the interventionist attempts by foreign powers in our internal affairs”.

Following, the full text of the Communiqué:

“The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (BC / NAM) expresses its deep concern about the violence that has taken place in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in recent days and deeply regrets the loss of human lives, while expressing condolences and sympathy to the victims, the people and the Government of Venezuela.

The BC/NAM reaffirms the importance of ensuring democratic institutions at all times, as well as respect for the laws, reliable information and the full respect for human rights.

The BC/NAM reaffirms its commitment to peace, stability and development, and its respect for the sovereignty, the rule of law, non-interference in the internal affairs of the States, territorial integrity and self-determination of the peoples.

The BC/NAM reiterates the importance of having reliable and objective information at all times.

The BC/NAM notes the efforts made by the Government of Venezuela to promote a comprehensive national dialogue in order to find solutions to common challenges in the country and continue their path towards development and welfare”.



### **Lula da Silva lauds Maduro's calls for peace**

Caracas, 27 Feb. AVN.- Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (2003-2011) reaffirmed his support for the Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and lauded the political will of the president to ensure peace and tranquility of all the people of Venezuela, reported Wednesday Telesur network.

"Maduro has the best intentions, he wants to give his best for Venezuela," Lula told Cuban television during a visit to an agricultural cooperative in the central-eastern province of Ciego de Avila of the Caribbean country.

"I think that, in the first place, Venezuela needs peace and tranquility to recover its full potential in regards to the generation of wealth and prosperity for its people," said the former Brazilian leader.

Lula made these remarks in response to the violence promoted by the Venezuelan extreme right groups seeking to overthrow the Venezuelan constitutional government.

According to Public Prosecutor General Luisa Ortega Diaz, rightist riots resulted in 14 people murdered and over 140 injured.

In this context, the former president considered that Maduro's call for a peaceful dialog and non-violence must be accepted by all parties to ensure social welfare in every corner of the South American nation, Telesur said.