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Venezuela's Maduro Proposes High Commission of Peace to U.S.

Santa Elena de Uairén, 17th March 2014 (venezuelanalysis.com) - On Saturday Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro announced his plans to propose to the United States the creation of a high commission to promote peace and respect between the two nations. He said it was time to "sit and look one another in the eyes, speak with respect for peace between two equals".

The proposal comes after a week of diplomat exchanges between the two countries.

President Maduro directly addressed Obama in Saturday's speech, saying "The Miami lobby is taking measures to sanction Venezuela, but I tell you you'll be going down a road without return [if you approve them]. If you enter a new stage of destabilization, we will enter a new stage of struggle. Whoever wants peace must be prepared and organized to defend it. Do not mess with Venezuela".

"President Obama," he implored, "give peace and respect a chance, let us build the foundation for a new relationship between Venezuela and the United States, and let the coup d'états be over with."

Maduro plans to appoint the head of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, as Venezuela's representative for the proposed High Commission for Peace and Respect. He said he hoped the commission will provide a platform through which all Latin American nations can defend their sovereignty by addressing the United States government directly, or any other nation that wishes to intervene on democratic proceedings.

UN received evidence of vandalism in Venezuela

Caracas, 17 Mar. AVN.- The United Nations (UN) has received evidence showing the role of the Public Ministry (MP) in the development of disturbing events perpetrated by groups of Venezuelan right-wing that left 28 people dead and 365 injured until March 13.

General Prosecutor Luisa Ortega Diaz was in charge of presenting the evidence last Thursday when she participated in the 15th session of the UN Human Rights Council, in Geneva, Switzerland.

There, prosecutor underscored that 250 civilians and 109 police and military personnel have been injured. Also three members of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) died from gunshot wounds and 21 were injured by firearms. She said that authorities seized 25 firearms, a pack of C-4 plastic explosive and more than 200 explosive devices and found damage to both public and private institutions.

During her speech in Geneva, Ortega Diaz explained that due to vandalism promoted by fascist groups in some areas of the country since the beginning of last February there are 106 detainees, who are guaranteed their rights and due process.

"They have inflicted harm to people's physical integrity, many Venezuelans are kept enclosed at home and fail to carry out their activities because these groups hinder the free movement and terrorize the population," she said.

She further reported that Public Ministry is investigating 42 cases for the alleged violation of human rights. These are run by 170 prosecutors with the support of the Forensic Unit against Violation of Fundamental Rights.

Ortega Diaz endorsed Venezuela's rejection of interference by any nation in the internal affairs of the country. Ortega mentioned two bills introduced in the U.S. Congress against Venezuela that seek to impose sanctions against members of the government and ask for up to \$15 million to fund groups in the country.



Peace Movement secretariat holds first meeting in Caracas

Caracas, 17 Mar. AVN.- The first encounter of the secretariat of the movement for peace and life is carried out in Caracas with a view to coordinate actions to decrease crime rates in the country.

These meetings aim at making criminal gangs lay down their weapons and that their members may find jobs through social productive projects, informed Jose Vicente Rangel Avalos, chief of the executive secretariat of the presidential commission for peace and life.

Family guidance centers may be opened in each state of the country, said Rangel Avalos. The idea is to give care and accompany the youth for their social rehabilitation.

Representatives of the different states of the country are attending the meeting.

Trujillo state is barricade-free, governor says

Caracas, 17 Mar. AVN.- Trujillo state governor Henry Rangel Silva said Monday that the Andean state remains normal and free of guarimbas (barricades made by right-wing groups).

"They realized that guarimba does not work," said the governor during an interview in local media.

He said that in the city of Valera extreme right groups held a guarimba for a week and then peasants organized themselves and peacefully achieved to free traffic.

"They organized themselves, they came one morning and asked that it be finished," he added.

The governor highlighted the strength of the people to face the new claim of the right to destabilize the country.

"The civil-military alliance is a key factor in this type of action," said Rangel Silva highlighting the quality of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB).

"The Bolivarian National Armed Force has moral authority, Bolivarian ideology, legacy of Commander (Hugo Chavez), training and democratic spirit," he said.

Rangel also questioned the Venezuelan right statements in which they disqualify the FANB with their violent actions and a psychological campaign, but they failed because of the connection between people and Armed Forces that are consolidated after the attempted coup of 2002.



87% of Venezuelans reject guarimbas as protest method

Caracas, 17 Mar. AVN.- According to the data collected in a recent survey by Hinterlaces pollster 87% of Venezuelans reject guarimbas as a form of protest, while 11% approve the continuity of these violent demonstrations, Venezuelan journalist Jose Vicente Rangel said Sunday.

About 1,200 people polled revealed that 79% of respondents question that these violent protests, led by sectors of Venezuelan extreme right, can improve the situation, while 16% think the opposite.

Since past month right-wing groups have tried to destabilize the country through violent actions which have caused the death of 28 Venezuelans so far and extensive damage to state institutions, public spaces and transport units.

The events that began on February 12 have a clear objective: to undermine governance of the Bolivarian Revolution, and to do that, opposition groups have created a media campaign covered by major media corporations, who make use of different strategies when speaking of Venezuela to enlarge the conflict, when this is caused by a minority.

Given this situation, President Nicolas Maduro has repeated his call for dialog with the Venezuelan opposition, even with those violent groups that have taken to the streets to protest and destroy, and has also promoted the development of peace conferences in different states to address weaknesses and provide solutions for all Venezuelans.

Venezuela counts on international solidarity, Prosecutor remarked

Caracas, 18 Mar. AVN.- Latin American countries, besides Sri Lanka, China and Russia, have expressed solidarity with the Venezuelan Government in its attempt to consolidate peace in the country, General Prosecutor of the Republic, Luisa Ortega Diaz, underscored on Tuesday.

At an article published in a local newspaper, the Prosecutor highlighted that besides Latin American nations, European and Asian nations condemn the United States interference in Venezuela's domestic affairs.

"The solidarity of Latin American countries, as well as Sri Lanka, China and Russia, has been expressed through a declaration on behalf of the peace fostered by the Venezuelan State and against the meddling of those who do not resign to admit that their hegemony and intentions to be police in the world is in full decline," Ortega Diaz said.

In this connection, the Prosecutor said that the violence raised by small groups in different cities of the country led the world to look at Venezuela; however, she stressed, the truth of these events were made public before the United Nations Human Rights Council, in Geneva, Switzerland, last March 13.

"The opportunity was appropriate to give a detailed report of events that occurred in the country, starting from aggressive attacks to facilities of public and private institutions up to injuries or murder of people, including security corps officers, who have been victims of demonstrators, who have branded themselves as peaceful," the Prosecutor added.



Erick Rodriguez: International media war seeks an intervention in Venezuela

Caracas, 18 Mar 2014. AVN.- Through intelligence agencies, British specialists in psychological warfare develop a media campaign in the country seeking to break the calmness of the Venezuelan people, said Erick Rodriguez.

The social analyst, Erick Rodriguez, explains that the United States Agency for International Development USAID, and the National Endowment for Democracy NED, are using more than 2.300 private television stations to generate a media campaign against the country, seeking for an international intervention.

“Through subsidizing foundations, universities, journalists and a group of people who write, and generate opinions” as part of an alliance in the international context, they seek to position a false image of Venezuela, he says.

Rodriguez says that there is an alliance of television stations, and radio stations covering more than 2.300 private media, which carry out a media campaign against Venezuela.

Opposition deputies refuse to investigate fascist violence

Caracas, 19 Mar. AVN.- Right-wing deputies refused to take part on a commission for truth appointed by the National Assembly to investigate violent actions that resulted in 29 people murdered and havoc in public and private property.

“They cannot reach an agreement and it means something. That who does not want to investigate the events that occurred here since February 12th, to have a commission for truth, well they are afraid of something. Their tie to violent actions. It does not have any other meaning,” said parliament chairperson Diosdado Cabello.

The commission for truth was expected to have nine deputies, Cabello explained: five of the majority force in parliament and four of the minority, which is made up by opposition.

Cabello is part of the commission on behalf of the socialist party, together with deputies Elvis Amoroso, Tania Diaz, Robert Serra and Earle Herrera.

Opponents may join the commission when they organize themselves and reach an agreement to appoint their members, Cabello added. Meanwhile, the socialist deputy said that the revolutionary party will be working to know the truth of events.

“Reach an agreement to appoint your commission,” urged Cabello, who received shouts in turn as evident negative response on behalf of right-wing deputies.



UNASUR foreign ministers to arrive in Venezuela next week

Caracas, 19 Mar. AVN.- Foreign ministers of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) are going to arrive in Venezuela next week to take part on the National Peace Conference fostered by the National Government, informed president Nicolas Maduro last Tuesday.

A commission made up by foreign ministers of UNASUR foreign ministers has been created to "accompany, support and advise" the dialog for peace among all sectors convened by the Bolivarian Government.

"Next week visit us all foreign ministers of UNASUR," said the Venezuelan President during his weekly radio program In Contact with Maduro.

A resolution passed by UNASUR last March 12th expressed its support to the process started by the Venezuelan Government to foster dialog among all "political forces and social sectors, in the pursuit of reaching agreement that leads to understanding and social peace."

The labor that the commission of foreign ministers is expected to carry out will be coordinated by Suriname, as current pro tempore president of UNASUR. A first meeting would be carried out no longer than the first week of April.

The commission will also be requested to inform about its activities to the UNASUR council of ministers as soon as possible through the pro tempore presidency.

The resolution passed by UNASUR member states stipulates that concern must be expressed before any threat posed on Venezuela's independence and sovereignty.

Bolivian President rejects US campaign against Venezuela

Caracas, 19 Mar. AVN.- Bolivian president Evo Morales rejected the U.S.-led smear campaign against the democratically elected government of Venezuela and its people.

In a press conference at the presidential palace in La Paz, Morales recalled that after the elections held on April 2013, in which President Nicolas Maduro was elected the US government refused to recognize the results of that election contest.

Morales said that after failing to acknowledge Maduro, the United States began a campaign against Venezuela by reporting false information about human rights in the South American country.

"What moral right has the U.S. government to discuss human rights? ... How many people, children, grandparents have died for the U.S. intervention in Libya?" Bolivian president asked.

He added that "the United States is the number one country that most violates collective and individual human rights."

He also spoke about the subsequent refusal of Washington to grant Venezuelan presidential plane authorization to fly over airspace of Puerto Rico, which took place on 19 September last year.

Morales underscored the media campaign against Maduro's government, which has been driven from the United States and intensified during the last month, when fascist violence raged in Venezuela.

"The U.S. President is the protector of the violent opposition in Venezuela," he said.

He noted that fortunately "America has not been able to persuade the European Union nor the Organization of American States (OAS) to not acknowledge the Government of Venezuela."



Venezuelan State acts to guarantee freedom, peace

Caracas, 20 Mar. AVN.- "We hope Venezuelans keep calm. They may know we are acting as State to guarantee freedom, calm and peace among all Venezuelans," said Interior relations, justice and peace minister Miguel Rodriguez Torres on Wednesday.

The right to protests is completely guaranteed in the country as long as it does not attempts against all citizens' right of free passage, to work, to live and to study, affirmed the Interior minister at a press conference to report about the arrests of mayors of San Diego municipality (Carabobo state) Enzo Escarano, and San Cristobal (Tachira state), Daniel Ceballos.

Mayor Enzo Escarano and San Diego's police chief Salvatore Lucchese Scaletta were sentenced to 10 months and 15 days of prison due to contempt of court, which had ordered them to ban barricades in their administrative area.

Daniel Ceballos was captured by intelligence service SEBIN following an arrest warrant issued by a regional court for supporting violence in San Cristobal municipality, an area where the largest number of violent actions have occurred since February.

Venezuela's Supreme Tribunal of Justice also ordered mayors to prevent the carrying out of roadblocks and violent riots (aka guarimbas) in municipalities Diego Bautista Urbaneja, eastern state of Anzoategui; Maracaibo, western state of Zulia; and Chacao, central state of Miranda, since last Monday.

The sentence ordered to proceed "the immediate removing of obstacles and to keep roads and adjacent streets free from remains and waste products and any other element that may be used to block urban roads."

... Venezuelan State acts to guarantee freedom, peace

On Thursday, Minister Rodriguez Torres showed pictures of San Diego municipality during vandal actions, in which policemen were "almost helping to take out material needed to set up a barricade. There is doubtlessly connivance among municipal police officers and authorities to block roads."

These revolts have caused the death of 31 people since early February up to date in the country, he detailed. Six of them are public servants – 5 National Guard officers and one Public Ministry attorney. So far, 461 people have been injured; out of it, 143 are public servants. By Wednesday night, 1,854 people had been arrested due to violence. Today, only 121 remained in prison.

Rodriguez Torres prayed for the country to keep returning to normality. "So far, only a few points (of violence) continue in San Cristobal and San Diego." As a matter of fact, masked armed persons burnt down a supermarket in San Diego last night "and they reacted before the arrest of the mayor, which shows us direct connection between this mayor and all these people of violence and death."

Similarly, Rodriguez Torres violent groups started to set up barricades to block roads in places where had been freed in Tachira and they intend to face security corps.

"We have the picture of mayor Ceballos addressing actions himself and the Army came out to prevent an epidemic that attempts against the health of Tachira citizens, given that the mayor refused to do his job," said the Interior minister.



Ecuador relies on Unasur contributions to Venezuela

Caracas, 20 Mar. AVN.- The Foreign Minister of Ecuador Ricardo Patiño said that foreign ministers of the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) are expected to make contributions to expand the dialog process promoted by the Venezuelan government through the peace conference.

"If people want to talk, whether they come from the opposition or disagree with the Venezuelan government, but they want to discuss issues, claims, questions, approaches that they want to make to the government of Venezuela, we will favor such dialogs," Patiño said according to the Andes news agency.

The decision to send a diplomatic mission of Unasur was taken at an extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers held last week in Santiago, Chile, after the government of President Nicolas Maduro requested support of this international organization.

The diplomat explained that the goal of high-level visit is "to accompany, advise and assist" the Venezuelan government and stressed that the presence of the diplomatic mission "will follow guidelines of the Venezuelan government," which took the initiative to invite them.

"We can not go there to get into any place, talk to anyone, because we are addressing a request from Venezuela. We can go there, for example, to extend the scope of these talks," and said they will not preclude the claims "if they are under the framework of respect for democracy."

The actions of violent groups seeking to destabilize the national government have left to date 31 dead, hundreds injured and destruction in institutions and public spaces.

A resolution passed by Unasur last March 12th expressed its support to the process started by the Venezuelan Government to foster dialog among all "political forces and social sectors, in the pursuit of reaching agreement that leads to understanding and social peace.

Venezuelan Legislators Demand Machado Face Criminal Charges

Mérida, 20th March 2014 (Venezuelanalysis.com) – Venezuelan legislators have called for a criminal investigation into opposition National Assembly (AN) member Maria Corina Machado.

Some legislators chanted "justice" ahead of the Tuesday's vote in the AN, which saw the parliamentary body approve calls for a probe into Machado's alleged role in weeks of deadly protests.

The AN called for a range of charges against Machado, including treason and incitement to crime.

Socialist Party (PSUV) legislator Tania Diaz proposed the resolution, accusing Machado of being part of a plot to provoke civil war.

"This is not a political confrontation, it's not a personal issue. It's about enforcing the mandate given to us by the people, that this institution must be a guarantee of the rights of the people," Diaz stated.

"Whoever violates the right to life, health [and] education of the people, is violating the constitution," the legislator said.

In presenting her call for charges, Diaz also hit out at Machado over a controversial audio recording, leaked by government sources last June. In the recording, Machado can be heard stating that the head of the opposition coalition, the Democratic Unity Roundtable's (MUD) Ramon Guillermo Avelado advocated for a "coup".

Machado confirmed the voice was hers last June, but slammed the government for releasing the material, claiming it was an "illegal" act. In backing Diaz's call for an investigation, AN head Diosdado Cabello not only accused Machado of backing violent protests, but also of "murder".

No charges can be brought against Machado until the AN votes to strip her of parliamentary immunity, as it did to another opposition legislator Maria Aranguren last November. Both the state prosecutor and the Supreme Court will also need to approve any investigation. State media has reported that PSUV legislators have already presented alleged evidence against Machado to the prosecutor.



Evidence implicating Maria Machado in violence acts brought to MP

Caracas, 20 Mar 2014, AVN.- The President of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, in conjunction with the People's Power, delivered all evidences of the involvement of Congresswoman Maria Corina Machado with the violence facts that runs the fascist right wing in some states of the country.

“Today we are delivering to the Public Prosecutor the evidences implicating Deputy Opposition Maria Machado in the crimes of incitement to crime, treason to the homeland, terrorism and murder (by performing calls for violence on an irresponsible manner), and so we ask to drop the full weight of the law on her, and to enforce the Constitution, “he said.

Cabello expressed, regarding the intervention that will do on Wednesday the opposition's parliamentarian in the Organization of American States (OAS), that “no matter where she may go, in Venezuela she will be judged by all these crimes against humanity. May she be sure that the Venezuelan justice will reach her. There will be justice, because for achieving peace there should be no impunity”.

The President of the National Assembly, said that “in accordance with the Bolivarian Constitution and the laws, we expect for the attorney to open a full investigation into this opposition deputy, and thus put an end to these days of “guarimba” (riots), of fascist violence and chaos that those small groups opposing the government of President Nicolas Maduro want to maintain in Venezuela”.

Finally, the National Parliament (AN) decided to request to the Attorney General's Office to initiate a preliminary hearing against Congresswoman Maria Corina Machado, in order to revoke her immunity due to her alleged links with coup d'état and destabilization plans against the Government of President Nicolas Maduro.