



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

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## TOPIC OF THE WEEK



# Venezuela dismantles terrorist operation

In a joint operation, State security agencies dismantled criminal gangs connected with paramilitary groups, linked to a destabilizing plan that included terrorist actions in popular areas of Caracas and assassination attempts.

According to investigations, these plans were articulated from the US and Colombia, where the head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), William Burns, visited two weeks ago.

More than 3,000 troops participated in Operation Gran Cacique Guaicaipuro, which dismantled the operational structure of groups in sectors connecting the west and south of Caracas, where weapons of war and trenches were found, evidencing the training received by criminal groups, informed the Vice President of the Republic, Delcy Rodríguez, and the Minister for Interior Relations, Justice and Peace, Carmen Meléndez.

In addition, the Colombian paramilitary leader aka "José Peligro" was arrested, who confessed that he had instructions to move to Caracas from the border state of Apure, where Colombian armed groups linked to drug trafficking and terrorism have been repelled.

The review of seized telephones revealed that the actions of the criminal gangs were planned and financed by extreme right-wing agents headed by Leopoldo López, a fugitive from Venezuelan justice living in Spain; Freddy Guevara, already arrested for his links to these actions; Hasler Iglesias, Gilber Caro and Emilio Graterón.

### Exporting violence

The President of the National Assembly, Jorge Rodríguez, denounced the connection of CTU Security, the company that allegedly hired the mer-

cenaries who assassinated the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, with recent events in Venezuela. That company was also contacted to perpetrate the frustrated assassination against President Nicolás Maduro, in August 2018.

The assassination plans have not ceased. President Maduro denounced this week that they were planning to assassinate him during the celebrations for the Bicentennial of the Battle of Carabobo, on June 24, and on July 5, Independence Day.

He also announced that a group of US investigators sent him documents evidencing the design of systematic plans against the nation. In this regard, he asked the security forces: "Be ready for winning every day peace, stability, security, let's go to combat and victory!".

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Peace and reunion, the only way forward

In a meeting with the Special Commission for Dialogue, Peace and Reconciliation, President Maduro reiterated that the Government is willing to participate in a

round table with the support of representatives from Mexico and Norway.

For that purpose, it is vital that the opposition sectors that participate renounce violence, that

sanctions against Venezuela are lifted and that the Public Powers are recognized. "I hope you stay on the path of peace, dialogue and reconciliation to continue building that Venezuela we all aspire to", he told opposition parliamentarians.

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## DIPLOMACY



### Venezuela calls for NAM unity in the face of global challenges

The Foreign Minister, Jorge Arreaza, called on the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to strengthen unity in order to successfully face the current challenges facing humanity, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, global warming, inequality, terrorism and the lack of progress on disarmament.

“The success of our response to these global challenges is rooted in the Charter of the United Nations, which should serve as a permanent guide

for the conduct of our international relations,” said the Foreign Minister in his telematics intervention at the NAM Ministerial Conference.

He also called for an end to the hoarding of anti-virus vaccines and Unilateral Coercive Measures, “which are part of a deliberate policy to inflict the greatest possible pain and suffering on more than a third of humanity, including 30 million Venezuelans.”

PHOTO: MPPRE



### EU exploratory mission to Caracas

As part of the guarantees agreed in the national dialogue process between the political forces of the country for the local and regional elections of November 21, which include international accompaniment, the European Union (EU) responded to a call from the Electoral Power and sent an exploratory commission to Venezuela to meet with representatives of the Public Powers

and other political actors.

The visit arose from the invitation made by the National Electoral Council to the EU and the United Nations to be part of the international observer program for the elections in November, in which governors, mayors, state and municipal legislators will be elected.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## CAPSULES OF IDEAS

*“I also think of venerated Cuba  
the one that raised its independent head  
with Che, with my distinguished comrade,  
that with Fidel, the brave captain  
and against broom and worms  
raised the star of the Caribbean  
in our American firmament.”*

Pablo Neruda, “Cuba, always”, 1973.

## NEWS BRIEF



### Support for Cuba

Social movements gathered in front of the Cuban Embassy in Caracas, in solidarity with the Caribbean nation in the face of actions that seek to undermine its stability. President Nicolás Maduro also ratified Venezuela’s support for the Cuban government and people: “Brothers in good and bad times, always brothers. Cuba will move forward with the union and humanitarian conscience of that heroic people that it has.” He said that if the United States wants to help Cuba, it must immediately lift the blockade. In the same vein, Alba-TCP expressed itself in a communique in which it repudiated “any attempt at political destabilization against Cuba.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Friendly encounter

Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza held a meeting in Caracas with the head of the Peace and Human Rights Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Federation, Simon Geissbühler, to discuss bilateral issues and progress in the process of political dialogue in Venezuela.

### Iran-Venezuela cooperation

Authorities from Venezuela and Iran held a meeting in Caracas, in which they constituted a road map for the next meeting of the High-Level Joint Commission. The objectives are framed in the “Plan of the Homeland of Venezuela” and the vision of the “Development Plan of Iran”. For 20 years, Caracas and Tehran have maintained strong ties in strategic cooperation.



## HUMANITY ON THE MOVE



### Neoliberal practices promote migration in America

Neoliberal and interventionist measures condemn millions of people to poverty and exclusion in our continent. They promote migratory flows and reconfigure their patterns to create a new economic and political order and a global work market that subdues workers to extreme exploitation conditions.

As emblematic examples we can see Colombia, where the migratory phenomena is not only related to its internal war, but also with neoliberal measures that have sunk the country in poverty and has displaced millions of people inside and outside its territory: 33% have migrated to Venezuela, 28% to the United States and 13% to Spain. Whilst in Honduras privatization policies have obligated thousands of citizens to abandon their country in large caravans in search for new opportunities in USA.

#### Keys:

- Venezuela faces an illegal and criminal economic blockade that produced an unusual immigration process for the country due to a coercive policy led by the US government, destined to seize our economic and natural resources.

This reality was analyzed by specialists at the seminar "Migratory flows in the Americas: structural causes and challenges," organized by ARGOS (International Observatory of Migrations and Human Rights) along with other organizations, in the 47th period of sessions of UN's Human Rights Council.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## VENEZUELA IN IMAGES



### Natural heritage from 130 million years ago

The Guácharo Cave is a fascinating place in our geography, declared a Natural Monument of Venezuela on July 15th, 1949. Located in the Guácharo National Park, in the eastern Monagas state, it is a cavern

carved out of rocks formed 130 million years ago. The guácharos live there, birds typical of South America, reddish brown in color and adapted to darkness.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNBLOCK

### Science challenges to face the blockade

When talking about scientific development, people usually think about investment, increasing resources, and purchasing new technologies. But when you are facing an economic blockade, scientists, investigators and people who work with technology have the challenge to innovate in the middle of limitations such as the impossibility to access commodities and patents.

Francisco Durán, Vice Minister for Investigation and Application of Knowledge of the Ministry for Science and Technology, referred that before the application of Unilateral Coercive Measures, Venezuela lived under a model that privileged imports and purchase of technology. That is part of a structure that the Bolivarian Revolution seeks to transform and it constitutes one of the objectives of the Homeland Plan, to move forward towards scientific and technological independence.

During the forum "The blockade and coercive measures", the Vice Minister explained that between 1998 and 2014, more than \$400 billion were destined to imports. The application of Unilateral Coercive Measures and low crude prices pushed an urgent transformation of the oil rentier model with an impact in areas such as agriculture, telecommunications and health.

Under this context, scientists and technicians must respond to irreplaceable needs using our own capacities by understanding the scientific events from a social and decolonizing viewpoint. They have achieved this through the work of multi disciplinary collectives dedicated to the fabrication of medical and educational equipment, amongst others; as well as research for development in diverse areas, including production processes for food.

Another example is the fight against Covid-19. German virologists recognized the high level of the scientific teams that are studying this disease in Venezuela. "The main thing they asked was how in a besieged country we could do the same as them," Durán referred.

Last June German scientists visited the country to exchange on the approach to SARS-CoV-2. Venezuelan experts presented part of the work done in areas such as viral isolation, genomics and genetic susceptibility.



## HEROIC ROOTS



### Miranda, universal hero

A revolutionary of ideas and action, his love for freedom led him to become a hero of the French Revolution and of the South American independence struggle. Born in Caracas, Francisco de Miranda is rightly called the “most universal American.” His name is the only one of this continent that appears on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and his signature is stamped on the Act of the Declaration of Independence of Venezuela.

Miranda also made a mark for his revolutionary thinking and contributions to the symbolic battle. He was the first to militarily occupy the territory of the Spanish crown in Venezuela, in 1806; he promoted the Patriotic Society in 1810. In addition to the independence ideology linked to identity and continental unity, he brought to the country the printing press and the yellow, blue and red tricolour that to this day shines in the flags of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

That tricolour was first hoisted on the mainland on 3rd August 1806, when Miranda landed at La Vela de Coro, northwest of Venezuela, on his liberating expedition.

Five years later, it was adopted as the official flag by the Supreme Congress, after the declaration of independence. As the National Flag, it was first raised in Caracas on 14th July 1811. Coincidentally, the Generalissimo died on the same date, 14th July, in 1816.

The name and the idea of Gran Colombia came from Miranda. A nation that would unite the countries liberated from empires on this side of the world, from Mexico, which then comprised territories located on the right bank of the Mississippi River, to Tierra del Fuego: the great homeland of our America.

IMAGE: COURTESY



### BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

## Unity and organization set the pace

The strength of a united and organized people knows no limits. This is shown by the community of San Agustín, an emblematic popular neighborhood in downtown Caracas, by organizing to perform the “Guaguancó de Colores” project, born 6 years ago and planned towards 2030 with cultural, social and productive development plans for the so-called musical parish of the Venezuelan capital. It took the name “guaguancó” from an Afro-Caribbean musical genre, which in Venezuela also means contagious charisma, rhythm and joy. Since the project began, the Plazoleta de Marín, the epicenter of cultural life in the area, has been repaired; 2,000 square meters in murals rehabilitated; 120 tons of asphalt laid, and fixed facades for the well-being of 1,400 families.

Reinaldo Mijares, San Agustín’s cultural worker and promoter, says that “Guaguancó de Colores” allowed progress towards the “Plan 100% San Agustín Marca Parroquia 2030,” aimed at strengthen artistic, sports, urban, economic and productive projects such as the tourist route, music and dance festivals, art and gastronomy fair; in addition to local governance projects.

It is an expression of Popular Power. Mijares says: “We assume ourselves as ‘Caribbean’, we are Caribbean identity and we assume ourselves as part of that ‘expanded Caribbean’, we are rebel and insurgent Caracas. Caracas, our beautiful city that feeds on that Caribbean Sea.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

### Violence fuelled on social media

There is an old saying that says “paper holds everything.” In the XXI century, one could say “the social media holds everything,” when observing how they are used with false matrices on the security in Venezuela and the work of the State to ward off the pretensions of instituting paramilitary violence. It seeks to misplace the country in Human Rights, the capacity to confront criminal groups and the operation of the security forces, to justify the aggressions by the United States and its allies.

This ploy includes agents of various kinds, including political actors and influencers on so-called social media. These operators repeat over

and over again that Caracas “is the most violent city on the continent,” while ignoring realities such as the weight of paramilitarism and drug trafficking in Colombia.

Thus, from digital environments, the communicational component of actions such as that of criminal gangs with paramilitary ties recently dismantled in the southwest of Caracas is executed. In this case, lies were spread and information was manipulated to, among other objectives, detract from the actions of the security agencies and hide that the violence was planned and financed by the extreme right, with local operators and articulated with factors of power in Colombia and USA.