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**Venezuela Reveals More Links Between Opposition and Foiled Plot**

By: Telesur  
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Venezuela's government revealed Monday new evidence that shows that the United States-backed opposition was aware of the foiled May 3 plot aimed at killing President Nicolas Maduro.

The Minister of Communication Jorge Rodriguez presented an audio testimony that ties Venezuelan lawmaker Hernan Aleman with the failed mercenary raid.

During the recording, Aleman is heard saying he maintained links with Cliver Alcalá, the ringleader of the Venezuelan military deserters that are hiding in Colombia and who is now in U.S. custody on charges of drug trafficking.

The lawmaker also admitted that he had visited the mercenary training camps in Riohacha in northern Colombia. Both former U.S. green berets Luke Denman and Airan Berry, arrested on May 3, explained that about 300 deserters were training there as part of 'Operation Gideon'.

Aleman also mentioned that he saw armed personnel wearing uniforms with the U.S. flag on them and that he knew that U.S. troops were intended to arrive in Colombia.

As the Venezuelan Minister of Communication revealed, the opposition lawmaker was in contact with a CIA agent through a meeting provided by James Broward Story, the U.S. special envoy for Juan Guaidó. The U.S. diplomat received the Venezuelan deputy at his embassy and there they discussed the armed incursion.

Amongst other evidence provided by Rodriguez was the revelation that the Futuro Presente foundation, a supposed NGO, channeled money to pay "deserters and traitors" who arrived in Cucuta on Feb. 23, 2019.

In this regard, one of those captured in the unraveling of Operation Gideon named Victor Salazar, denounced that

in armed raids the same organization was used by Rayder Russo, alias "Pico", to carry out the failed assassination plan on Aug. 4 of last year. In addition, he financed the Riohacha camps in Colombia to train mercenaries.

Also, it was learned that so-called "investors" gave US\$300 million to former Miami-based Guaido adviser, Juan Jose Rendon, one of the signatories of the contract with mercenary firm Silvercorp USA.

The U.S.-based company hired by Guaido and his allies was meant to provide services, including "strategic planning," "equipment procuring" and "project execution advisement." According to mercenary Jordan Goudreau, "Operation Gedeon" had been coordinated with Guaido who signed a contract on Oct. 16, 2019, for US\$212 million.

Among those investors was the United States Office of Drug Control (DEA), U.S. companies and some Venezuelans also contributed funds, which would later benefit from state contracts for gold, oil and other natural resources after eliminating the Venezuelan authorities and military forces.

These investigations and more than 90 arrests are now part of the unraveling of the so-called 'Operation Gedeon', which is lead by Goudreau.

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