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**Venezuelan president confirms arrest of 13 involved in armed raids**

By: RHC  
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The President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, has revealed details about the maritime armed incursions that sought to destabilize the South American nation. He also denounced that the governments of Colombia and U.S. President Donald Trump participated by supporting the terrorist acts.

"A terrorist attack against Venezuela is being prepared from Colombia... the Government of the United States decided to use the time of the pandemic for a terrorist attack, to fill the country with violence and have a justification for another military escalation of intervention," stated Maduro.

The Venezuelan president said that in the face of the humanitarian tragedy caused in the United States by COVID-19, they try to divert public attention by attacking Venezuela, "These are Washington's strategic actions to divert attention. It is criminal to do this amid a pandemic," he added.

"The U.S. is looking for excuses to invade Venezuela, and that is why it uses mercenaries. The operation started from Colombia, Cliver Alcalá confessed that he signed a contract. This investigation had been going on for some time and we have had good sources of information," said the president.

The head of state indicated that Minister of Foreign Relations Jorge Arreaza denounced the warlike action before the United Nations. "Our foreign minister spoke with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres and recorded new evidence of the participation of the Government of Colombia and Donald Trump to invade and fill Venezuela with violence and terrorism," he added.

"We were able to uncover this terrorist incursion, knowing that the United States government delegated the DEA for the preparation of this action and with the private company SilverCorp."

Maduro said that the DEA sought drug trafficking groups to join efforts and promote terrorism in the South

American nation. "The DEA sought out the bosses and cartels of the Colombian and Venezuelan northeast and several states in the country, particularly Falcón, La Guaira, Caracas and Miranda," he emphasized.

Likewise, the head of state denounced that the war operation against the stabilization of the country had been prepared since March 10th. "It depended on a call that the opposition could trigger a set of violent events and create an escalation. The appeal failed, and then quarantine begins (...) then Iván Duque's visit to Washington takes place and he is ordered to set Venezuela on fire," he said.

"Since Friday night, we had confirmation of the start of operations, and from 7:00 p.m., we activated all the protection mechanisms for the coast (...) The opposition tried to deny the facts, to mock, while the U.S. government opted for silence. 48 hours later and they have said nothing," said the Venezuelan leader.

The Venezuelan president reiterated that since the early hours of Monday morning, he ordered the Bolivarian Shield to be activated in defense of the Homeland. "I ordered last night bring to operational status 25,000 men of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (...) special forces, commando groups, paratroopers, Bolivarian Police officers, searching for terrorist groups."

"They tried to defraud a terrorist. Jordan Goudreau left evidence of the contract with the opposition. The operation was defeated from the beginning. Since dawn, command groups carried out operations in Bolivarian Shield Exercises."

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