

Would-be Maduro drone assassin speaks to CNN

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The man who claims he planned the exploding-drone attack on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro along with defectors from the Venezuelan military has come forward to tell his story – to CNN, of all people.

The would-be drone bomber says he met with US officials three times after the [attack](#) that took place at a military parade in August last year. In an interview with CNN, he claims the US officials seemed receptive to giving them “*things in return*” for information about the assassination attempt.

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A State Department spokesman declined to comment, saying only “*Our policy is to support a peaceful transition in Venezuela.*”

The assassin, who wished to remain anonymous for obvious reasons, provided video of the conspirators tinkering with the improvised drone bomb, which they reportedly built themselves in a farmhouse in Colombia using materials they purchased online from the US. His footage also showed the group practising flying the drones “*high enough to not be seen,*” then diving steeply to hit their target, before dismantling them and sneaking them into Venezuela.

The man acknowledged the attack could have killed innocent civilians, had the bombs not detonated prematurely when the cellular signal blockers protecting Maduro reactivated, but claimed he was desperate.

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"We have tried every peaceful and democratic way to bring an end to this tyranny that dresses itself as democracy," he told CNN, claiming he had friends who had been jailed and tortured by Maduro's government.

While National Security Advisor John Bolton initially suggested the attack had been faked to create a *"pretext"* for a crackdown, US officials have since confirmed to CNN that they believe it was a *"genuine attack gone wrong."*

Self-appointed president Juan Guaido believes the attack was staged, telling CNN, *"I think this was something internal, done by the government. It ends up making them look like victims."*

Maduro ultimately blamed the *"Venezuelan ultra-right in alliance with the Colombian extreme right"* for the attack.

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