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**Paramilitaries Planned to Murder More Venezuelan Government Figures**

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Ongoing investigations into the murder of legislator Robert Serra show that Colombian paramilitaries were also planning to kill National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello and Minister Hector Rodriguez, as part of plots to destabilize the country.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro revealed on Wednesday that Colombian-led paramilitary cells were planning to murder Parliament President Diosdado Cabello and Minister of Education Hector Rodriguez.

According to Maduro, those behind the killing of National Assembly member Robert Serra were also planning to kill Cabello just days after killing Serra. They also planned to murder Rodriguez in his home, and other government figures were being targeted.

"Two days after (Serra's murder) they tried to kill Diosdado Cabello, and we stopped it. A sniper tried to kill Hector Rodriguez (...) our information shows they were going to target our government," explained Maduro.

During the press conference which revealed updates on the ongoing investigation on Serra's murder, the president also revealed that several plots by these paramilitary cells were stopped by the government.

"You do not know how many events and terrorist attempts we have stopped, seizing their direct authors, as happened some days before the assassination of our young martyr Robert Serra, when we captured three different groups which would have planted bombs across Caracas,"

said Maduro.

He added that the destabilisation campaign would have been directed by a Colombian paramilitary leader linked to former Colombian President and now Senator Alvaro Uribe Velez.

Maduro criticized the attitude of the Venezuelan opposition, explaining his government gave all of the evidence found about the plots to all of the opposition leaders.

A group of Municipal Counselors sent a formal request on Wednesday to the Attorney General, to investigate opposition leader Maria Corina Machado over her links to Colombian paramilitary groups and her possible role in the assassination of Robert Serra.

Several weeks before being murdered, Serra denounced a plan by Venezuelan violent opposition groups led by Saleh to kill a number of government figures and left-wing activists.

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