

Venezuelan Police Officer Shot and Killed During Right-Wing Protest



Caracas, October 27 (RHC)-- A Venezuelan policeman died after being shot during an opposition protest late Wednesday in the province of Miranda. Venezuela's Minister of the Interior and Justice Nestor Reverol told reporters that two other officers wounded in clashes with protesters.

Reverol stated that the officer was shot after the police tried to disperse an opposition march to preserve public order on the Panamerican Highway in San Antonio de los Altos, adding that two suspects were in custody.

The wounded officers were taken to a private clinic, where Jose Alejandro Molina Ramirez died, shot in the abdomen and arm. Reverol confirmed that the right-wing opposition was responsible for the death of officer Molina. He also said that four policemen were injured in Zulia state during the protests.

The right wing had called for a "Taking of Venezuela" march Wednesday, provoking clashes that led to more than a hundred injuries. Despite some factions of the opposition agreeing to talks with the government, some of the splintered right wing have refused dialogue and instead called for a national strike on Friday and a more provocative march to the Miraflores presidential palace next Thursday,

November 3rd.

Miranda's governor is right-wing leader Henrique Capriles, who denied that opposition forces had agreed to talks with the government Tuesday and has been instrumental in calling for street demonstrations and the ouster of President Nicolas Maduro.

"This needs to keep growing so that the government understands once and for all that we're doing this for real," said two-time presidential loser Capriles.

The National Assembly, that is in contempt of the constitution, voted Tuesday to begin an impeachment process against Maduro, even though any actions it takes have been declared nullified by the Supreme Court in the country.

Crowds at the protests where the officer was shot chanted "This government is going to fall!" Clashes also broke out in the western town of San Cristobal that was an epicenter of violence during 2014 anti-Maduro protests that left at least 40 people dead.

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