

# *Nicolas Maduro Announces Meeting with Opposition Leader and Proposes Dialog with Washington*

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Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced that he will accept an invitation to meet on Monday with the governor of the State of Miranda, Henrique Capriles, former presidential candidate of the opposition. During a demonstration of women for peace in Venezuela, Maduro cited statements by Capriles in which he described the president as a mistake of history. Replying to such words, Maduro said that Capriles had at least said something and called on him to meet on Monday, Telesur reported.

The head of state said that he wants to listen to the chiefs of the opposition call for peace and renounce to fascist actions.

This is not the first time that Maduro calls a dialog with the opposition governors. In December, he met with mayors and governors in that political wing and he ratified the importance of collective willingness for peace. "I think that the objective of this meeting is not convincing anybody of being pro-Chavez or not, or backing any other ideological trend. The meeting will aim at finding willingness for peace. Peace over everything else, as the basis for the coexistence of different positions," Maduro said.

The Venezuelan President also said that he is willing to appoint an ambassador to Washington to hold a dialog and defend the sovereignty of his country. “We are the counter-empire of the South, the homeland of Bolivar and Chavez...we can sit at the bargaining table with high spirit to look in the eyes of any representative of the empire,” he stressed.

Maduro said such action would take diplomacy, since political conflicts must be addressed with political tools, and in the Venezuelan case, it would take Bolivarian diplomacy. “We are free and those who are free are able to do free diplomacy,” he noted.

Nicolas Maduro also announced a National Peace Conference for Wednesday which will be attended by all political and social sectors in order to neutralize the violence.

The conference, he said, will be held in different sessions with the participation of women, workers, youths, students, neighbors, sports people and intellectuals. Maduro said he is convinced that the conference will be a step forwards to achieving true and permanent peace.

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