

# *Venezuelan Parliament to Impeach Opposition Lawmaker*

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Caracas, March 19th (RHC) -- The Venezuelan National Assembly agreed on Tuesday to investigate the involvement of opposition lawmaker Maria Machado in recent protests that have left 29 dead and more than 400 injured.

The pro-government lawmakers demanded the impeachment of Machado, who supported the protests and launched with Leopoldo Lopez, a jailed opposition leader, an anti-government campaign known as "The exit."

Tania Diaz, a legislator of the ruling Socialist Party, presented an audio recording which allegedly linked Machado with the White House in conspiring to topple President Nicolas Maduro both undemocratically and by using force.

"This is not a political confrontation or a personal matter. We have to guarantee our constitution. Anyone who violates the right to live is violating the constitution," Diaz said, accusing Machado of treason and conspiracy against the nation among other charges.

Parliament speaker Diosdado Cabello told the media the evidence had been handed to the state prosecutor, Luisa Ortega Diaz, who would decide whether to open an impeachment trial or not.

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