

# *Venezuelan president says sniper fire took out hydroelectric plant*

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Caracas, March 28 (RHC)-- The recent attack on Venezuela's Simon Bolivar Hydroelectric Plant was likely triggered by a sniper rifle, said Bolivarian President Nicolas Maduro during a televised statement on Wednesday. "We've never seen a terrorist attack like this, it was carried out with weapons, in a vital area for the transmission of electricity," the president said.

"They shot [at the electrical system] with a long distance rifle, whoever ordered the attack knew what they were doing. This is a total war," he said, noting that the shots sparked a fire which burned down a section of the electric system.

A quick recovery wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of Corpoelec, the Venezuelan state energy company, and from the security forces reconstructing the smoldering remnants of the attack.

This new aggression happens almost 20 days after a major cyberattack to the country's electrical system resulted in a six-day nation-wide blackout, which according to the national government was executed by the United States. The Bolivarian president said: "Donald Trump is obsessed with Venezuela, for our riches. He's found internal allies who are so diabolic that they can do so much damage to our country."

The attack on Venezuela's National Electric System, which left many sectors of the country without service, was denounced Monday by Vice President of Communications, Tourism and Culture Jorge

Rodriguez. A third blackout occurred early Wednesday as a result of the system operational instability, damage which was initially prompted by the attack on the Guri transformers.

However, this time, as Venezuela's officials stated, all the countermeasure mechanisms implemented by President Nicolas Maduro performed flawlessly. These worked for the insurance, maintenance, and communications between the different stations, which allowed that almost all the service throughout the country could be restored in record time.

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