Local TV denounces US funding of ''independent'' websites



Havana, December 26 (RHC)--Cuban media denounced Friday the US government's funding to so-called "Independent" communication platforms dedicated to the promotion of slander campaigns against the island's social system and the leaders of the Revolution.

The National TV prime newscast Friday evening exposed the ties of the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED), with El Estornudo website, whose director, Carlos Manuel Alvarez, participated in the subversive provocations of a group of people in the Havana neighborhood of San Isidro.

El Estornudo, which publishes articles on various Cuban reality topics, but whose editors are mostly based outside the country, said in a report entitled La ruta del dinero (The Money Route) that the funds that support it come from the NED.

The story also affirmed that this does not influence its editorial line, although the NED is considered one of the United States Central Intelligence Agency fronts that allows it to channel funds to groups that oppose the Cuban government.

The NED itself, on its website, acknowledges that the US Congress fundamentally finances it.

Last October, the Cuba Money Project website, run by US journalist Tracey Eaton, denounced that this foundation was involved in granting funds for private media in Cuba.

It also allocated about \$250,000 annually to the counterrevolutionary work of the Madrid-based non-governmental organization, the Cuban Human Rights Observatory.

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