

Venezuela Rejects Claims That Brazilian Senators Were Harassed



Caracas, June 20 (teleSUR-RHC)-- The Venezuelan government criticized the right-wing opposition on Friday for spreading the false rumor that Brazilian senators were prevented from meeting the country's opposition, when they were only victims of a traffic jam.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement saying that the few hours they spent on the road between the airport and Caracas was merely due to the “eruption of a big truck loaded with inflammable substances.” The ministry also denied that the “security and physical integrity” of senators had been compromised, stating there was “audiovisual and photographic proof.” Furthermore, it dismissed claims that the government prevented the Brazilian senators' plane to land in Venezuela.

The statement, however, deplored that the only purpose of the senators' trip was the destabilization of democracy in Venezuela, “generating confusion and conflict between two allies.”

A delegation of Brazilian senators led by former presidential candidate Aécio Neves landed in Venezuela in order to visit the leader of hard-line opposition, Leopoldo Lopez, arrested for fomenting violent protests in March and April 2014.

In Brazil, the ruling party also denounced the senators' initiative in a statement released on Friday. "The Workers Party repeats its support to the principles of respect to sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs of other countries, as well as to the search of a political and democratic situation to the issues that Venezuela is currently confronted with, like what Unasur unanimously proposed," said a public statement signed by Workers Party President Rui Falcao.

As for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, she declared that the senators' intention to visit Venezuelan opposition leaders consisted of an infringement of the country's sovereignty.

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