

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro warns of Trump's invasion plans



Caracas, July 6 (RHC)-- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has called on the country's armed forces to remain alert and stand ready to protect their country's sovereignty. The call came during a military ceremony, following reports that U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly raised the possibility of invading Venezuela and asked advisors to make plans to do so.

"You cannot lower your guard for even a second, because we must defend the greatest right our homeland has had in all of its history, which is to live in peace." The Venezuelan president said: "A military intervention from the United States empire will never be a solution for the problems in Venezuela."

In August last year, Trump publicly said he had "many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option." The remarks were condemned by governments around the world that stand in defense of national sovereignty. At the time, Trump didn't go further with his comments, but the Associated Press recently reported there were serious talks behind closed doors about carrying out an invasion of Venezuela.

Trump reportedly called for a surprise meeting with his top aides and advisors a day before the declaration and asked them why the U.S. could not intervene militarily against the Bolivarian government, arguing that Venezuela represented a threat to the region.

AP quoted an anonymous senior official saying that Trump's team were shocked by the question and that advisers took turns to try to talk him out of his intentions. Such a declaration can't be taken lightly, especially coming from a country with a long history of military interventions in Latin America.

“When I denounced this last year the very same U.S. government said I was lying. Today, we have a confirmation,” said Maduro. “Our Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) have the responsibility... of being prepared to defend the national territory in any situation, we have to protect it, at any moment in time... taking care of the borders, taking care of the seas, taking care of the territory, taking care of the political stability.”

Although Trump's advisors ruled out this idea and tried to convince the president sanctions were the best way to attack the Bolivarian government, he wasn't entirely convinced, as the comments in his speech the day after showed.

Bolivian President Evo Morales has denounced Trump's plan to convince other Latin American governments to support the intervention in Venezuela. “In September 2017, four Latin American presidents were invited to a dinner with President Trump, where he proposed a military intervention on Venezuela, the brothers presidents rejected this threat on dignity and sovereignty. The #GreatHomeland is no backyard to the North American empire.”

Different media reports say Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos was among these presidents, but it's still unknown who were the other three.

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