

Former Venezuelan army officer confesses to plan against Maduro



Caracas, March 27 (RHC)-- Former major general of the Venezuelan Army, Cliver Alcalá Cordones, has confessed that he organized from Colombia the plan denounced by the Venezuelan government that foresaw a series of selective murders, including that of President Nicolás Maduro.

Alcalá Cordones was identified as the coordinator of efforts to commit terrorist actions and assassinations against Venezuela, which would be carried out in late March amid the coronavirus pandemic that has already reached the country.

In an audio from W Radio broadcast on Thursday, the former Venezuelan military officer confirmed that the weapons confiscated in Barranquilla, Colombia on March 24th were intended for Robert Colina Ibarra, alias Pantera. The weapons were to be used to destabilize the government of Venezuela and assassinate President Nicolás Maduro.

Alcalá stated that these weapons were part of an agreement with Venezuelan opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó and his U.S. advisers. The former Venezuelan official assured that he is in Barranquilla in constant communication with the Colombian authorities. "The Colombian authorities have been talking to me. I am not trying to escape," he said.

Although he acknowledges that the entire organization of the plan was conceived from Colombia, Alcalá Cordones assured that neither President Iván Duque nor the Armed Forces of that country were aware of it. "They only found out about 48 hours ago," he said.

After the broadcast of the audio, the Venezuelan attorney general, Tarek William Saab, reported that the Public Ministry of that country opened an investigation against Guaidó, Alcalá Cordones and others involved in the plan. Saab said that Alcalá Cordones made a public statement about his plans that "intended to bathe Venezuela in blood."

"As part of this subversive plan, Alcalá, with the protection offered by the Colombian authorities, would have organized at least three camps in towns in the neighboring country (Colombia) to train assault groups against Venezuela," said Saab.

In a press conference, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Tourism and Culture of Venezuela, Jorge Rodríguez, explained the keys to this recently dismantled plan:

- * Colombia and the United States organized it.
- * It would be executed between March 23 and 25, during the social and collective quarantine decreed by the Venezuelan Executive to stop the expansion of the coronavirus.
- * It was intended to arm paramilitary groups in Venezuela to commit terrorist actions.
- * Assault groups would be introduced to assassinate President Nicolás Maduro.
- * Initially, it would be executed on March 10th, but it was postponed due to alleged deficiencies in operational capacity and the failure of calls to protest by opposition leader Guaidó.
- * The seized weapons have a value of \$500,000, equivalent to 83,333 diagnostic kits, 2,500 face masks, and three million chloroquine tablets to serve thousands of patients with COVID-19.

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