

*Venezuela says Summit of the Americas was a total and absolute failure*

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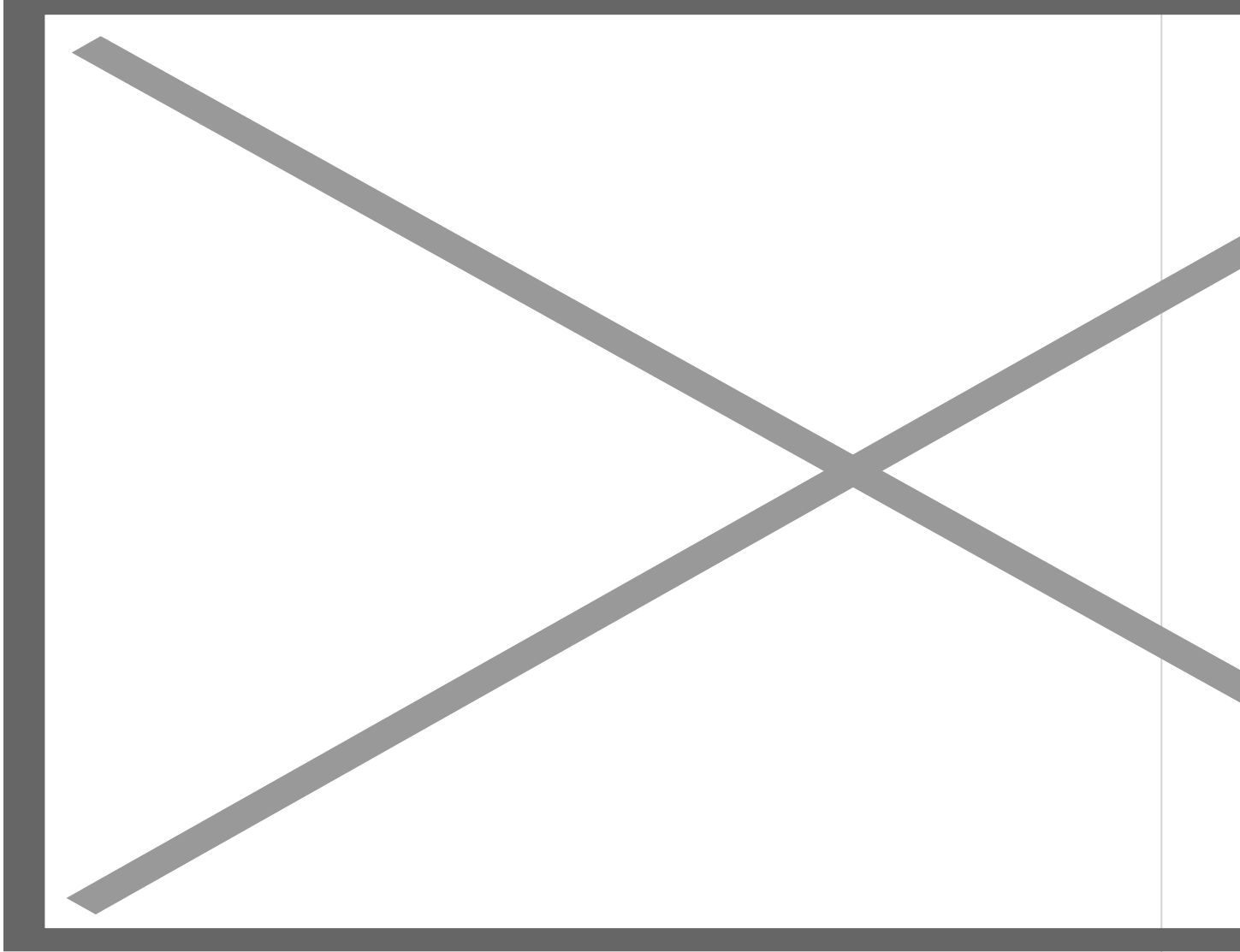
**?The Ninth Summit of the Americas, held in the United States last week, was a "total and absolute failure"**

Caracas, June 14 (RHC)-- The Ninth Summit of the Americas, held in the United States last week, was a "total and absolute failure," according to Diosdado Cabello, first vice president of the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela.

"The summit collapsed," Cabello added during the party's weekly press conference in the capital Caracas. Cabello noted that the regional gathering, which took place in Los Angeles, California, "was not a summit at all and will likely be the last, due to its failure, the disaster and the way it was handled."

The summit was set to fail from the start when the United States decided not to invite Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua, he said. Washington's exclusion of the three countries led several heads of state and government to skip the summit in protest.

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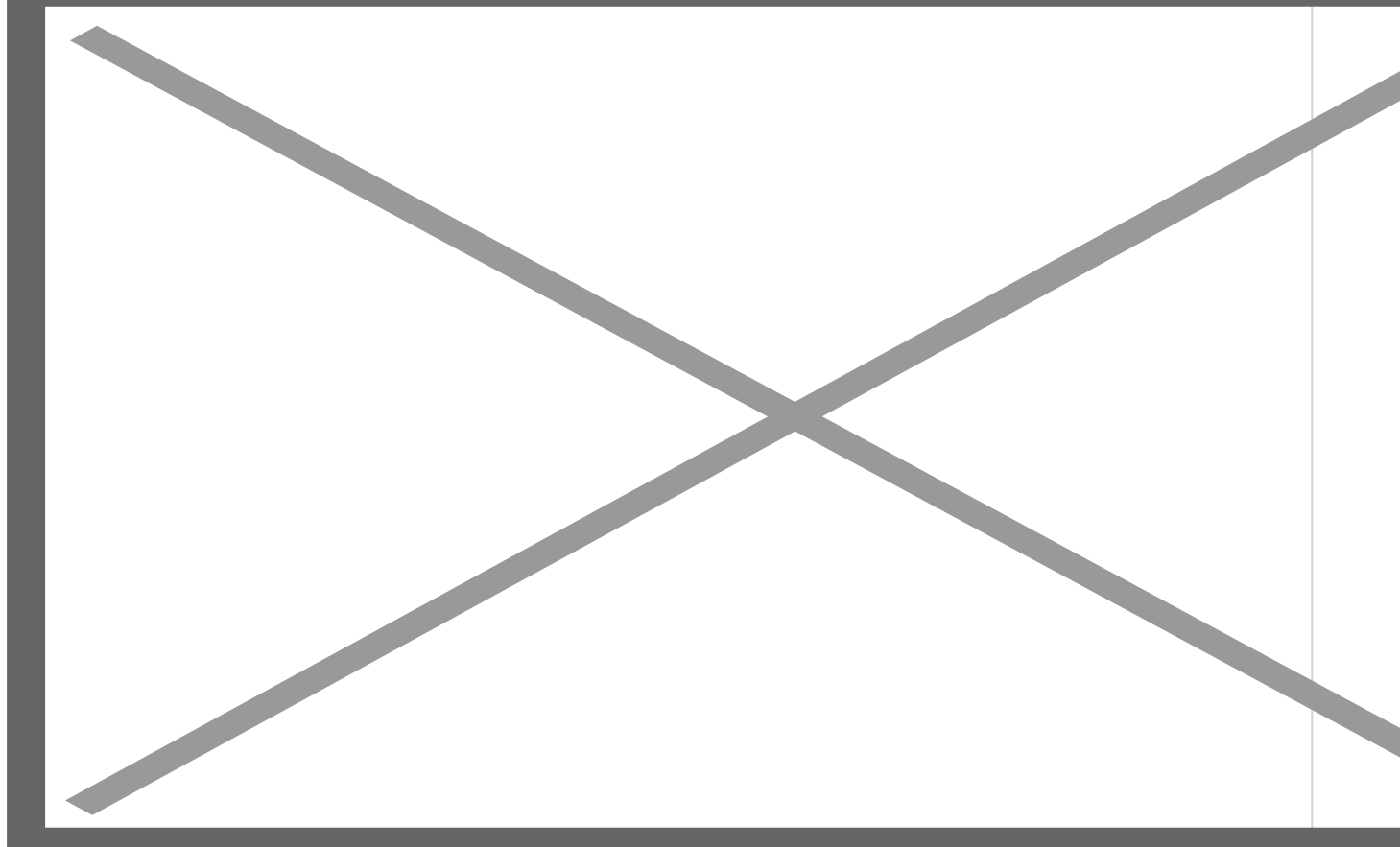


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