

AP Offers More Details on Subversive USAID Plan against Cuba



Washington, August 6 (RHC) — The Associated Press gave more details on Tuesday about the disclosure of a subversive plan organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development, which sent Latin American youth to the island with the aim of encouraging social unrest.

Over the past two years, USAID sent to Cuba a dozen inexperienced youths from Venezuela, Costa Rica and Peru reportedly to strengthen political opposition against the Cuban government.

The Peruvian citizens, hired by USAID to boost political actions at universities were led by two university students from Lima, one of them being the current advisor to the Peruvian Minister of Education.

Felipe Valencia Dongo and Jose Galves were well aware of the covert and illegal mission, which was cancelled following several security problems and because they were not able to fulfill their goal, according to the documents collected by Associated Press.

For USAID danger was evident, and also for these Latin American youths because one of the contractors on the payroll of USAID was Alan Gross, who had just been arrested in Cuba at the time the plan was

launched. Gross is serving a 15 year prison term on the island.

For its subversive program, USAID hired the Washington-based services of Creative Associates International, which was also the cornerstone to create a sort of Cuban twitter known as Zunzuneo, exposed by the Associated Press in April. This plan aimed at sending SMS messages to hundreds of thousands of Cubans to encourage political dissent.

Creative Associates member Irving Perez told Galves and Valencia Dongo during a conversation on Skype, on September 3, 2010 that total discretion was crucial for the mission, which had been launched a year before. Valencia Dongo, who is now an official with the Peruvian Education Ministry, also passed the message to Pérez. This latest has worked at the Grameen Micro-business organization in Colombia and he is a member of the Shapers Global initiative of the World Economic Forum.

The collapse of the two-year operation led by the two men is detailed in a report made by Perez for the USAID on March 15, 2011, according to AP. Valencia Dongo's mother, Bernarda Quintanilla, was the legal representative of Strendia, a company that her son and Galvez set up to receive funds from USAID.

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