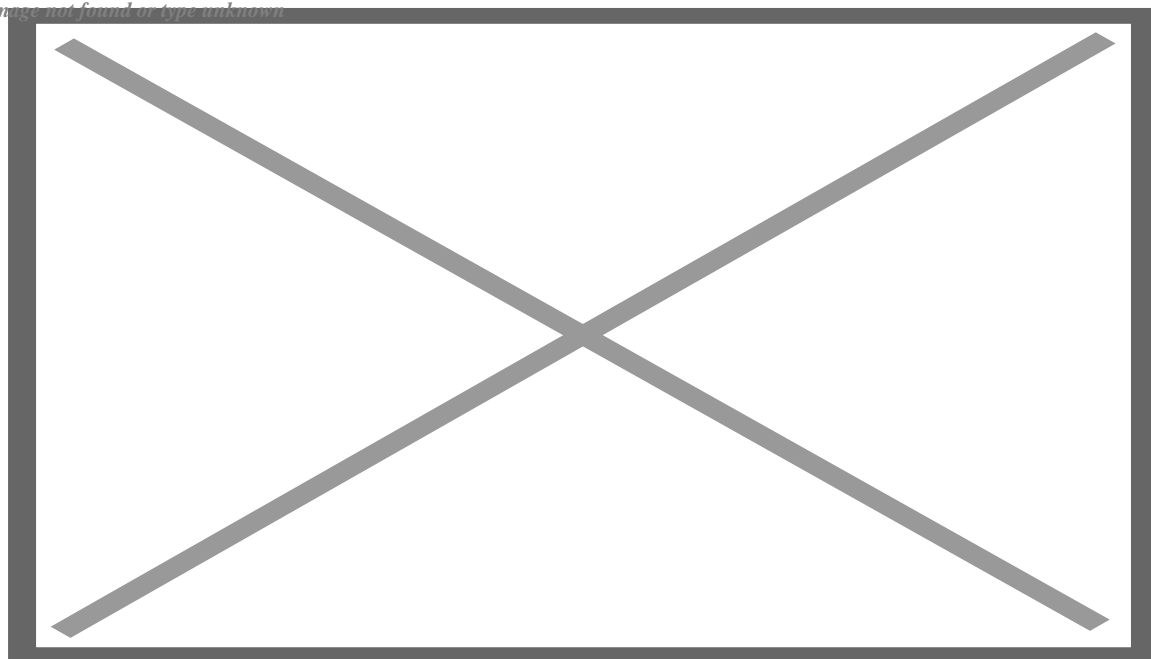


# *Venezuelan president says his country has presented the convincing and historical truth to the ICJ*

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Caracas, April 9 (RHC)-- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro asserted on Monday that he has taken to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) documents that demonstrate the conclusive, historical and legal truth of the South American country with respect to the territory of Guayana Esequiba.

During his program Con Maduro +, the head of state spoke with Executive Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, who is in The Hague, Netherlands, where she submitted to the ICJ the documents evidencing Venezuela's truth.

"We have brought the truth and it is convincing, it is a historical, legal and moral truth. Venezuela is defending its truth, a solid historical truth. We are not taking anything from anyone, we are recovering from a fraud and dispossession. We have the historical truth, we have the documents, which were

officially consigned and delivered today", said the President.

In addition, he specified that Vice-President Rodriguez went to the ICJ with documents, maps, titles and proofs. "Venezuela has the best diplomatic, legal and political team in the world to defend its interests", he said.

"First of all, in the document Venezuela argues and demonstrates that the Court has no jurisdiction to hear a unilateral claim by Guyana against our country. Secondly, the Court has erratically attributed jurisdiction to itself, violating the Geneva Agreement and international legality, falsifying an alleged consent of Venezuela that has never existed and never will exist", he emphasized.

The President recalled that Venezuela is one of the more than 90, including nations such as Guyana and Brazil, that do not recognize the binding nature of the jurisdiction of the ICJ, and reiterated that "in order for a country to be taken to the International Court that does not recognize its jurisdiction, that country must, in writing, in a public, open manner, accept the jurisdiction of the Court for the specific issue at hand, a claim or a case to be resolved".

Likewise, it emphasized that the presentation of the referred document "does not imply nor will it ever imply the recognition of the jurisdiction and competence of the Court in the controversy over the Essequiba Guiana", since it reiterated that this can only "be resolved, solely, by the Court -- by the only binding, binding and legal document, according to international law, which is the Geneva Agreement".

"Guyana has no alternative. Sooner rather than later, Guyana will have to sit down to negotiate with Venezuela within the framework of the Geneva Agreement. Going to the International Court of Justice has been a lying, false illusion, it has been an erratic step taken by Guyana", he affirmed, expressing once again his willingness to dialogue.

For her part, Delcy Rodriguez detailed that "more than 40 maps were delivered, where it is very clear that this territory, since the birth of Venezuela, belonged only to Venezuela; that Great Britain, that the British Empire never had a title".

The Executive Vice President recalled the fraud of the 1899 Award and the 1897 Treaty of Washington, indicating that it is intended to be replicated "125 years later in the International Court of Justice, where by mandate of our people we know that our historical position has been not to consent to the jurisdiction of the Court, and what is being done today, 125 years later, is to try to validate a fraud, a crime as we told the Court today, that they want to validate the crime of 125 years ago with a sentence of the International Court of Justice that Venezuela does not recognize and will not recognize or execute".

Likewise, he reaffirmed that Venezuela maintains its firm position of respect for international legality and that the Geneva Agreement is the only way.

"The Geneva Agreement what it contemplates is the resolution of a territorial dispute; the Geneva Agreement never meant to return to the fraud of the 1899 Award, it is a matter overcome (...) The Geneva Agreement asks the parties to engage in negotiation for a practical and satisfactory solution for both parties. What follows is for Guyana to return to the negotiating table, there is no other way; to stop threatening Venezuela with imperial powers", he added.

The Head of State also spoke about the ballot to be used in the presidential elections of July 28, in which 37 political parties with 13 candidates, 12 of which are opposition candidates, are reflected.

"What's my fault? Of their hatred, their divisions, their personal ambitions, their individualism, their mistakes (...) That the opposition has 12 candidates, I ask, I ask the European Union, the State Department (of the United States), I ask you who are campaigning against us", he questioned.

Likewise, he highlighted the support given by the revolutionary people to his candidacy and reiterated that "we have only one candidate, who is the candidate of the people, a man of the people".

The President also announced that he plans to have a meeting with his Colombian counterpart, Gustavo Petro, in Venezuela on Tuesday and that there is a joint work agenda.

"We will surely deepen in energy projects, gas, oil, border security, projects to increase trade, economic, diplomatic cooperation; the assault on the Mexican Embassy in Ecuador, the Palestinian issue, the strengthening of Celac (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States). There are many points in common and if there is any difference, the difference is welcome", he declared.

President Maduro said that "no one will separate us from Colombia" and that both countries have great objectives to achieve together, "to advance the economy, trade, peace".

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