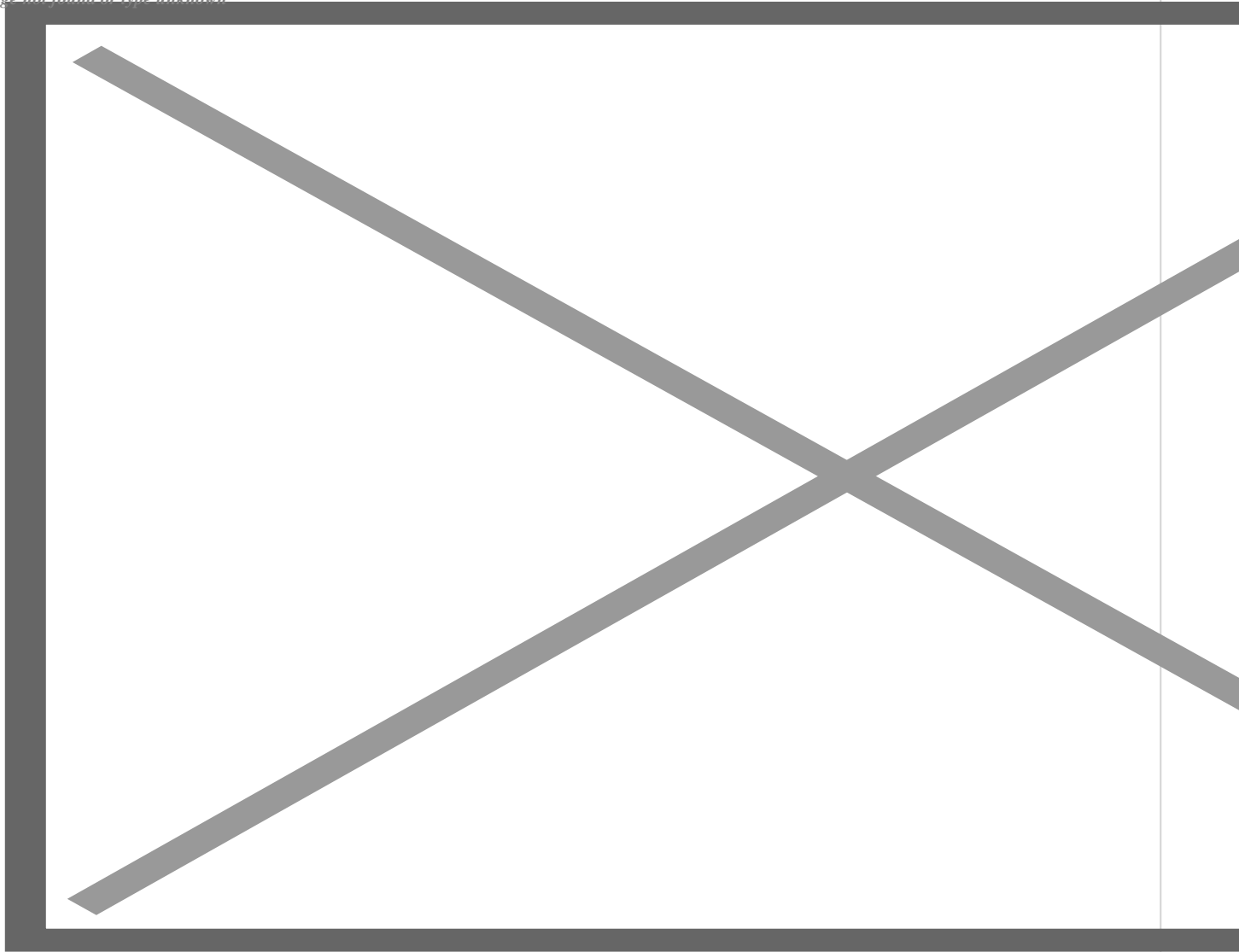


Diosdado Cabello: They are criminals, not political prisoners

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Cabello urged the Venezuelan people to fight fascism. Source: EFE

Caracas, November 11 (RHC)-- The First Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) reiterated this Monday that the individuals responsible for the 28 deaths and more than a

thousand injuries that occurred on July 28th and 29th -- following the presidential elections -- are not political prisoners.

During a press conference, Cabello stressed that strong actions against violence are necessary to maintain peace in the country. He also denounced that the far right carried out a destabilizing plan, hiring criminals and organized gangs in order to create chaos in the country.

Cabello assured that those who are in prison are responsible for a series of violent acts that have cost the lives of innocent citizens, including the murder of two women and a National Guard trooper, in addition to leaving more than 20 wounded throughout the national territory.

The Venezuelan vice president stressed that unity and resistance must prevail at all times in the face of political violence that threatens the stability of the country.

In this regard, the socialist leader reaffirmed the commitment of the Venezuelan government to protect the population and ensure that those who try to destabilize national peace face the consequences of their actions.

For his part, the Attorney General of the Republic, Tarek William Saab, also spoke about the arrests made after the elections of July 28, "they are not political prisoners, they are criminals."

During a press conference, Saab said: "They are criminals who lent themselves to terrorist actions, paid by the commandos to unleash a civil war in Venezuela."

He also assured that it is "totally unethical to try to present these cases as if they had a political nature."

The Attorney General assured that there are no children detained, but adolescents of 16 and 17 years old, who admitted to having been used to carry out acts of violence.

The Venezuelan official stressed that "the Public Ministry has 260 videos that document the action of these criminal groups. New videos showing serious injuries to state officials" and stressed that these materials show the violent nature of the acts perpetrated and considered that these crimes would be unanimously condemned anywhere in the world.

In his speech, Saab also mentioned that most of the incidents were recorded in the metropolitan area of Caracas, and that four of the deaths have been classified as hate crimes, in addition, he showed a five-minute video illustrating the violent acts of the so-called "comanditos", where it is observed how they attacked state infrastructure and public officials.

The prosecutor concluded that, so far, there are no complaints linking the police forces or any state agent with the homicides that occurred during that period.

"If there were, we documented it, investigated it and sanctioned it. This reveals that they were violent civil groups paid to look for embryos of civil war," he sentenced.

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