

# *Venezuela Shoots Down Plane Smuggling Drugs*

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Mexico City, November 4 (RHC-NNN) -- Venezuela has shot down a suspected mafia drug plane over the western state of Apure on the border with Colombia, the country's Defense Minister, Gen. Vladimir Padrino Lopez said early Tuesday on his Twitter account.

Gen. Lopez posted a photo of the aircraft downed by the Venezuelan air defence forces. "It is the wreckage of a King-200 type plane that trespassed into our airspace and was shot down by the personnel of the strategic command of the Bolivarian Armed Forces southeast of Elorza, in the Apure state," he wrote. The minister did not shed light on the fate of the plane's crew.

In 2013, President Nicolas Maduro announced a law that allowed Venezuelan air defense forces to shoot down planes that belong to Colombian drug traffickers if they attempt to cross into the country's territory.

The legislation was first proposed by then Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and cleared parliament last year.

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