

Venezuelan President's Foe in Alleged Assassination Plot



Caracas, November 27 (XINHUA-RHC)-- Former Venezuelan lawmaker Maria Corina Machado will be charged by the Attorney General's office for her participation in an "assassination plot" against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

One of Maduro's fiercest adversaries, she was accused of "crimes against national security and independence." Her actions could send her to prison for at least 10 years.

The alleged plot was unveiled by the governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) in May. Government authorities produced several e-mails allegedly written by Machado, in which she planned, along with other exiled colleagues, to "wipe out" Maduro and instigate a coup.

Elected to Congress in 2010, Machado was a divisive figure within the Venezuelan opposition for her organization of street protests, known as "The Exit" in February, just two months after the PSUV government won local elections.

In March, she was dismissed from her post after accepting the seat as alternate ambassador of Panama in the Organization of American States (OAS). Machado was barred in June from leaving Venezuela just before being questioned in the case.

On Wednesday, Machado appeared at the National Electoral Council (NEC) to hand in a letter, urging all top authorities of NEC to resign as many opposition politicians are not granted democratic rights by the institution.

Hours later, a letter charging her with involvement in the assassination plot was delivered to her home.

Maria Corina Machado must appear before National Prosecutor Katherine Harrington on Wednesday, December 3rd, according to the Attorney General's office.

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