

Venezuela's Maduro extends an open hand to president Obama



Panama City, Apr 11, (RHC), -- Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro gave an impassioned speech at the seventh Summit of the Americas, in which he said he "extends an open hand to president Obama" in order to resolve their differences, but without interfering in each other's internal affairs.

A report by multinational news channel TeleSur said Maduro emphasized that, "We are in a era of new history," alluding to the new diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

The main issue on Maduro's speech remained the executive order that Obama signed last month, which claimed that Venezuela represents an "extraordinary threat to the national security" of the U.S.

As a result of this decree over 13 million signatures world wide have been collected demanding that Obama withdraws it. Maduro said that he brought 11 million of these signatures with him, which will be provided to Obama "via diplomatic channels." "In the name of over 30 million Venezuelans, I demand that Obama withdraw the executive order," said Maduro. "It is an irrational and disproportional decree," that is "very dangerous," and "intervenes in Venezuelan internal affairs," he added.

Maduro concluded by outlining a set of points that he would like to talk to president Obama, among them the repeal of the decree labeling Caracas as a security threat, as well as US-backed destabilization efforts against the Caracas government.

“I would like to discuss these points, among others with the United States. We are at the doorstep of a new era. ... It's not an epoch of change but a change of epochs,” he concluded by saying.

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