

Venezuela Slams OAS, Opposition Silence After Terrorist Helicopter Attack



Caracas, June 29 (RHC)-- Venezuela's Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada said Tuesday's attack on the capital was an "act of terrorism" and criticized the U.S., European and Latin American countries for failing to condemn it.

Moncada told a news conference in Caracas that a man hijacked a helicopter and flew over the Interior Ministry during an event with reporters for the National Day of the Journalist.

The pilot then targeted the Supreme Court offices where 80 people were working and threw four grenades at the building, three of which exploded.

Moncada called the assailant, identified as Oscar Alberto Perez, a "psychopath" who declared himself as a "Warrior of God" in an Instagram message recorded before the attacks. In the video, Perez, a pilot from the Venezuela's Scientific, Penal and Criminal Investigations police agency, claims to represent a group of military and other officials committed to toppling the government.

The newly-appointed foreign minister said that international press agencies have called the attacker a

"Rambo-type figure who escaped in a helicopter to fight for freedom," adding that in any other part of the world the act would have been labelled terrorism.

"This warrior of God in any country would be a terrorist, he is a murderer, he had the intention to kill, he doesn't defend the innocent people in Venezuela."

Moncada criticized what he called the "double standards" of countries and institutions -- specifically naming the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Argentina, as well as the Organization of American States -- for issuing statements claiming to be worried about human rights in the country, but not condemning a terrorist attack.

"This is shameful, painful," Moncada said. "Is it that the lives of innocents civilians in the center of Caracas don't matter to them. They don't care about Venezuelans." And he added: "That is the war against Venezuela. They want to take us to war with mad acts like this. They want to glorify them, this is unacceptable."

Moncada recognized Ecuador, Bolivia, Cuba, Palestine, Turkey as well as "dozens of social movements" for condemning the attack.

On Tuesday, President Nicolas Maduro said Perez worked for Miguel Rodriguez Torres, the former Venezuelan General who is being investigated for alleged ties to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

The foreign minister also criticized opposition leaders for failing to condemn the attack, particularly Henry Ramos Allup, who took to Twitter to say the helicopter attack was pointless. "Pointless? It almost seems like he's condemning because it didn't have the effect they wanted, because it didn't kill any people," Moncada said.

He called on people to vote in the National Constituent Assembly elections on July 30 "to resolve this peacefully and democratically, no psychopath can stop that, no foreign power can stop that."

Moncada also said the Venezuelan authorities will find those responsible and warned other terrorist cells could be still active in the country.

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