

# *Nicolas Maduro says U.S. attack on Venezuela is first step in attempt to recolonize Latin America*

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Caracas, February 23 (RHC)-- The United States has relaunched its colonialist aspirations against Latin America, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro warned during an interview with the Iranian media HispanTV, adding that the Venezuelan military was ready to defend the independence and sovereignty of the Latin American nation.

"America for Americans, that is, all our America for them, all our riches and all our power for them," Maduro said and added that Venezuela is currently at center of an imperialist attack "because they believe that, by reversing and destroying the Bolivarian Revolution, they will be able to recolonize and dominate the entire continent."

In Maduro's opinion, the U.S. President Donald Trump "has allowed himself to be led to an extremist position of foolishness, to an unattractive position. In addition, he has hinted his true desire to dominate,

conquer, and subdue Venezuela."

The Venezuelan leader also denounced that, besides being part of the U.S. geopolitical aspirations in Latin America, Trump's interventionist attitudes towards Venezuela are triggered by the desire to seize the country's enormous natural and mineral resources.

"Trump's problem is" Venezuela's riches, oil, gold, gas, strategic minerals, wealth, water," to which the great strength of the country is added when it comes to controlling its own model economic, political, social and cultural "added Maduro.

According to President Maduro, most of the polls show that more than 90 percent of Venezuelans reject any U.S. military aggression. This is so because his nation is "united" around the rejection of Trump's statements.

Maduro emphasized that "Venezuela is for Venezuela," and pointed out that the entire offensive against his nation is "a test."

"I'm sure that these challenges and these tests will leave us more strengthened. I'm more than sure of that," he predicted. Regarding the U.S. attempts to provoke a military uprising in Venezuela, President Maduro stated that the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB), which is ready to defend the homeland and is committed to the Constitution.

"The FANB is very aware and feels a great deal of indignation (...) with the statements made by Donald Trump, pretending to be (its) commander-in-chief (...), giving orders to the Venezuelan military from Miami."

Maduro stressed that the FANB is ready to defend the country's territorial integrity and to respond to any attempt to attack the peace, independence and sovereignty of Venezuela.

"We are not afraid. We prepare ourselves with serenity and we believe that with our preparation we will guarantee peace in our country. The most important thing is to continue in peace and resolve Venezuela's problems in peace, in democracy, through dialogue," he said.

In the interview with HispanTV, Maduro also condemned the transnational media corporations' campaign against his government and the people of Venezuela. "Every day there are great mobilizations of the people in all the cities of the country. When the Venezuelan opposition calls its mobilizations and marches, we always make mobilizations two, three, four, five times bigger, more powerful and more combative than the opposition itself. However, BBC, CNN, NBC, Fox and all the international media portrait only one side of the events, making us invisible."

President Maduro reiterated his belief in dialogue and diplomacy, in spite of the constant aggressions by the Trump administration. "Despite the aggression and immense differences that we have, that I have, with the U.S. government, I believe in the working of words, diplomacy and politics. I'm sure that if Donald Trump and I talk, if he hears the Venezuela's truth, things could take a different direction," Maduro said.

Regarding the forthcoming arrival of the European Union-Uruguay technical delegation to Caracas, the Venezuelan President expressed that they will be welcome "if they come with respect," although he regretted that the EU has been deceived by the Venezuelan right-wing.

"[The European Union's] grave and big mistake is that it only listens to one part... and believes all the right-wing's lies," Maduro said and added that "Brussels repeats the entire script written by the right and the Donald Trump administration."

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