

# *Venezuelan Opposition Unilaterally Withdraws from Talks*

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Caracas, May 14 (RHC) – Venezuela’s opposition has announced its decision to suspend crisis negotiations with the government of President Nicolás Maduro.

On Tuesday, the so-called Democratic Unity Alliance (MUD) said it won't be sending representatives to participate in the Truth Commission that is investigating the violent anti-government protests that have taken place in Venezuela since early February.

According to multinational news channel Telesur, there was no reference in the announcement to the recent outbreaks of violence in the Venezuelan capital, that led to the destruction of public property and injured members of the National Bolivarian Police (PNB).

The report says the opposition group is to meet with foreign ministers of the Union of South American Nations to convey their decision to abandon the talks, which the government says was adopted "following recent remarks by Venezuelan Parliament President Diosdado Cabello, linking opposition leaders to a planned coup attempt."

The Venezuelan government has insisted on its invitation for the opposition to engage in this dialogue for peace, despite the continued violence promoted by right-wing factions in the South American country. The month-long negotiations were aimed at easing tensions following more than three months of political unrest.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, opposition protesters tried to block a main highway in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas during a march on a restricted zone, where demonstrations are not permitted. Authorities said protesters did not have permission to stage the march through the capital.

Venezuela has been the scene of violent anti-government actions since early February, staged by hardline opposition groups, seeking to launch a coup d'état against the government with the backing of the United States.

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