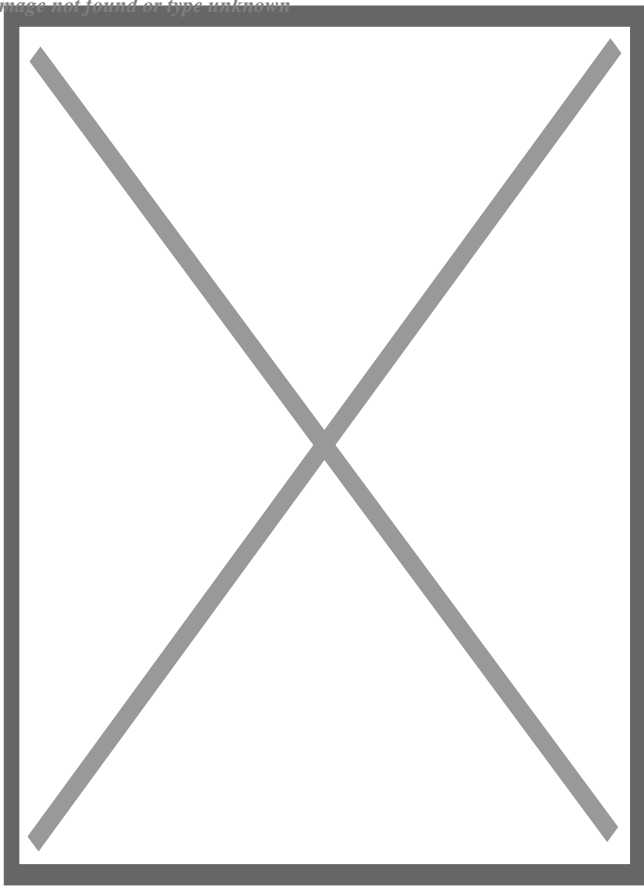


Venezuelan president blames Marco Rubio for plot to overthrow Petro in Colombia

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Caracas, June 12 (RHC)-- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has blamed U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio for an orchestrated plot to overthrow Colombian President Gustavo Petro.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Luis Caldera, the newly elected governor on May 25 in the northwestern state of Zulia, the president emphasized that "they have activated a plan to overthrow the government" of the Colombian leader.

He stated that the plan led by Rubio aims to fill all of Colombia with criminal gangs, criminal violence, and terrorism "to overthrow the progressive government of President Gustavo Petro and establish a scenario for the return of the neo-fascist far-right."

That is the truth, and that is why it is so important that we fine-tune the instruments available to Venezuelan society so that they do not reach Venezuela, he stated.

The Bolivarian leader called for fine-tuning the instruments available to Venezuelan society, in a perfect popular-military-police fusion, and now with Caldera in power, Zulia can be "a territory free of hitmen, the mafia, and drug traffickers," he opined.

Maduro emphasized that the power of that region is disappearing from view and reaffirmed to President Petro his good faith, will, and love for Colombia la grande, the original homeland.

In this regard, he reaffirmed that "hopefully, very soon, we can sign the establishment of a Binational Economic Zone for joint development between Zulia and Colombia and incorporate Táchira into a large binational zone of agricultural, industrial, technological, and educational development."

The Bolivarian head of state instructed the new governor that, in addition to the major tasks of economic, social, and infrastructure development in Zulia, he should also take on the tasks of integration to build peace alongside the sister Colombian people.

This is about helping Colombia build peace and development with equality, he asserted, and emphasized that the future and peace of the Colombian nation "is the future and peace of Venezuela and South America."

In this regard, he stated that consolidating peace, direct democracy, the development of the country, and building the economic foundation for prosperity will allow us to be in "firm and powerful conditions to always help, under all circumstances, build peace in our sister Colombia."

[SOURCE: PRENSA LATINA]

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