

Canadians Must Ask Questions About the Mercenary Raid on Venezuela

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Region: [Canada](#), [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

Details of the failed armed mercenary incursion on Venezuela are surfacing daily thanks to the prompt public information system from Venezuela and scant corporate media reports. The so-called Operation Gideon took off from Colombia on May 3 and was effectively disbanded a few hours later by the prompt action of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB) and the Bolivarian National Police's Special Actions Force (FAES) with substantial help from the civilian population that helped in the capture of mercenaries. At this point about 46 mercenaries, out of an estimated total of 60, have been [captured](#). The search for the others is ongoing.

Thanks to the voluntary confessions by some of the mercenaries, whose statements were carefully matched with Venezuela's intelligence work, the clear image of a network of key figures associated with the master plan is emerging. In the 44-minute long [video](#) of a media report Venezuelan Vice President of Communication, Tourism and Culture, Jorge Rodriguez gives full details about the network and the major actors involved. Despite denial of involvement by the Trump administration some [links](#) can credibly be made all the way to the White House.

Aside from the fact that, Jordan Goudreau, the owner of the US company Silvercorp contracted to carry out the incursion, is Canadian-born and [served](#) in the Canadian military in the 1990s, there is no direct Canadian connection to the raid on Venezuela that we are aware of. At the time of writing there has been no official reference to the event as if did not happen. However, author [Arnold August](#) in a recent Canadian Dimension article asks the pertinent question, "Was Canada Unaware?" He offers an answer:

"One would have to be naive to believe that both the successive [tweets](#) by Champagne and Trudeau's [statement](#) were not coordinated to reiterate the government's support for Guaidó as self-declared interim president, and its tacit alignment with Duque and Trump's regime change agenda."

Further, in response to a direct request by [Media Co-op](#) for a statement about the raid, "Global Affairs Canada sent a short email stating 'Canada is aware of reports of developments in Venezuela and is following the situation closely,' and that 'Canada is committed to working with its partners around the world to ensure a peaceful transition.' "

That is not enough given the severity of the situation in the region. Canadians expect and deserve more clarity.

I would like to suggest that Canadians are misrepresented by the Trudeau government in light of serious consequences that stem from the Guaidó-Goudreau signed contract [revealed](#) by the Washington Post. Some implications have been [reviewed](#). But two statements are particularly disturbing in my view as a Canadian that prompted me to raise specific questions to the Canadian government.

The first says, *“Service Provider Advisors will advise and assist Partner Group in planning and executing an operation to capture/detain/remove Nicolas Maduro (heretofore ‘Primary Objective’), remove the current Regime, and install the recognised Venezuelan President Juan Guaido.”* (emphasis mine).

Upon reading that statement, I posted the following questions on a Facebook [note](#) to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne:

- Is your government condoning removal of political opponents in other countries?
- Is your government supporting the destabilisation of Venezuela?
- Is your government supporting a coup in Venezuela that may cause hundreds of civilian deaths?
- Is your government condoning political assassinations in other countries, like Venezuela?
- Is your government aware that your protégé Juan Guaidó is not using a democratic process to attain power in his country but rather offers to pay multi million dollars in order to “capture/detain/remove President Nicolás Maduro”?

Let me ask again:

- Does your government realise that Juan Guaidó has been plotting a coup and contracting out a foreign service to carry out a political assassination? Will you tell Canadians if you agree and explain why you support Juan Guaidó?

But there is a second disturbing paragraph in the contract that refers to a wider range of targets that are called “Declared Hostile Forces”, “these individuals and/or groups may be neutralized.” Those are:

1. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP);
2. The National Liberation Army (ELN);
3. Hezbollah;
4. Illegitimate Venezuelan Forces;
 - A. Nicolas Maduro, his lieutenants, key associates, any armed supporters of Nicolas Maduro have been designated as a declared hostile force;
 - B. Diosdado Cabello, his lieutenants and key associates have been designated as a declared hostile force;
5. Drug Trafficking Organisations & Cartels; and,
6. Armed and Violent Collectivos. [sic]

We cannot accept that a private mercenary army would attempt to “neutralize” any of those “individuals and/or groups” regardless of your position on them. Even under the slightest suspicion that the Trudeau government may be associated with an individual organising such actions, the Canadian government would try to distance itself from such an individual.

A recent [article](#) by Scott Taylor in the Hill Times says precisely that, “Hopefully, Canada will cut its ties with Guaidó now that his true colours have been revealed. The Venezuelan people deserve better.”

Nevertheless, as a Canadian, I sent an e-mail to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with these questions:

- Does your government consider that seizing power by force is constitutional?
- How can your government justify its support for an individual in Venezuela who engages in a military action to gain access to power in the country?
- Will your government issue an explanation to Canadians how Canadian values are enhanced by supporting such an individual and by recognising him as the legitimate interim president of Venezuela?
- Will your government drop all pretensions of granting legitimacy to an individual like Juan Guaido – self appointed 16 months ago – and now engaged in the use of foreign military mercenary activities to gain power undemocratically?

The Canadian people deserve better and wait for an answer!

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