

Venezuelan Gov't Presents Evidence of Alleged Opposition Paramilitary Plot

Venezuelan authorities claim to have uncovered the plot from a conversation between Guaido and Russian pranksters impersonating the president of Switzerland.

By [Ricardo Vaz](#)

Global Research, March 26, 2019

Venezuelanalysis.com 25 March 2019

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

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#)

Venezuelan authorities have alleged that self-proclaimed "Interim President" Juan Guaido and other opposition leaders were involved in a plot to carry out acts of terrorism employing foreign paramilitaries trained in Colombia.

Venezuelan Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez [presented](#) what he claimed to be [evidence](#) of "ultra-right plans to promote regime change." According to Rodriguez, Venezuelan intelligence services uncovered plans to contract mercenaries from Colombia and Central America and bring them into Venezuela to execute targeted killings and acts of sabotage, adding that "at least half" of the armed groups managed to make their way into Venezuelan territory and are currently being sought.

"We have identified some paramilitaries that have entered Venezuela, and we will search for them by land, sea and air," Rodriguez told press.



Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez presented what he claimed was evidence of "ultra-right plans

to promote regime change.” (Presidential Press)

Juan Guaidó's chief of staff, Roberto Marrero, was [arrested](#) on Thursday, accused of leading a “terrorist cell.” Rodríguez claimed that Marrero was the link to the hiring of Central American mercenaries.

Rodríguez went on to reveal screen captures of Marrero's phone purportedly showing Whatsapp group conversations featuring Marrero, Guaidó, Leopoldo López, currently under house arrest after being [convicted](#) for inciting violence in the 2014 street protests, among other opposition figures. Rodríguez pledged that more evidence will be divulged in the coming days.

The screen captures also revealed details of alleged bank accounts through which payments to the paramilitary groups were supposed to be made. One of them was in Banesco's Panama branch. Banesco is Venezuela's largest private bank, and Rodríguez called on Banesco owner Ricardo Escotet to inform security services whether this account exists and what movements have been made.

Rodríguez indicated that Venezuelan authorities had learned of the existence of the bank accounts after notorious Russian pranksters Vladimir ‘Vovan’ Kuznetsov and Alexei ‘Lexus’ Stolyarov [called](#) Guaidó impersonating the president of Switzerland. The pranksters said they had identified funds belonging to President Nicolás Maduro they wished to transfer to Guaidó, who readily provided the “president” with account information.

Lawyer Juan Planchart was also reportedly detained on Sunday by Venezuela's SEBIN intelligence services, and is reportedly being held at SEBIN's facilities in Caracas' Plaza Venezuela. Planchart was presented in the supposed Whatsapp conversations revealed by Rodríguez as a financial intermediary. At the time of writing there has been no official confirmation of Planchart's arrest.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro likewise divulged that a Colombian paramilitary leader, Wilfrido Torres Gómez, alias “Neco,” was captured in Carabobo State on Saturday. Jorge Rodríguez later claimed on [Twitter](#) that Torres was involved in the alleged opposition plans.

Sobre denuncia anterior informamos que fue capturado jefe paramilitar de los más buscados de Colombia: Wilfrido Torres Gómez, alias Neco. Es uno de los jefes de sicarios ingresados x la ultraderecha desde Colombia. Solicitado con código azul x Interpol x homicidio y sicariato pic.twitter.com/ZK6V2FWn1q

— Jorge Rodríguez (@jorgerpsuv) [March 23, 2019](#)

US authorities reacted to Marrero's arrest by imposing [sanctions](#) against three major Venezuelan public banks on Friday. The move followed sanctions against Venezuela's [mining sector](#) and an [oil embargo](#) imposed in late January. There has been no reaction to the latest arrests from US officials or from Guaidó and the Venezuelan opposition.

Rodríguez's revelations came as two Russian air force planes touched down at Venezuela's Maiquetía airport on Sunday. According to reports, the planes carried equipment and around

100 servicemen, including General Vasily Tonkoshkurov, chief of staff of Russian ground forces.

According to a source quoted by [Sputnik](#), the deployment represents a fulfilment of “technical and military cooperation agreements.” The Venezuelan government has yet to issue a public statement. Russia had previously sent [military aircraft](#) to Venezuela in December as part of bilateral defense accords.

US officials reacted to the latest development, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [calling](#) on Russia to “cease its unconstructive behavior” regarding Venezuela. Florida Senator Marco Rubio [called](#) the presence of Russian troops on Venezuelan soil a “direct threat” to US national security.

Last week, US and Russian authorities held [ad hoc talks](#) on Venezuela in Rome, but no concrete agreement was reached.

*

Edited and with additional reporting by Lucas Koerner from Caracas.

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

The original source of this article is [Venezuelanalysis.com](#)
Copyright © [Ricardo Vaz](#), [Venezuelanalysis.com](#), 2019

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Ricardo Vaz](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca