

2025

War on drugs (II)



Pax Consulting

10-12-2025

Index

1. <i>INTRODUCTION</i>	3
2. <i>LETTERS OF DEFECTED VENEZUELAN GENERALS</i>	4
3. <i>TOPICS RAISED</i>	7
4. <i>INTERNATIONAL LINKS</i>	8
4.1 Transnational Crime and Narco-Terrorism.....	8
4.2 Sanctions Evasion and Corruption Networks	9
4.3 Political and Diplomatic Links.....	10
4.4 Links to Illicit Finance Schemes and PDVSA	10
4.5 Threat of Sanctions and Political Characterization.....	11
5. <i>CONCLUSIONS</i>	12
<i>ANNEX. LETTERS OF DEFECTED GENERALS</i>	14

1. INTRODUCTION

Combining the reports about the war on drugs and the late published national security strategy of the United States, it is obvious that both match the goals pursued by Trump.

Efforts by the U.S. administration to curb the flow of drugs into U.S. soil failed consistently despite the efforts that U.S. agencies (namely the DEA) put into it for decades.

Successes have had taken place, too. It has always been a difficult confrontation due to several issues which withheld actions abroad. It was also crucial the involvement of local government officials in favour of the interests of the drug cartels in Latin America.

All those difficulties paved the way to corruption within U.S. agencies' ranks. Futile efforts and huge amount of money acted as prompters of corruption. In the end, every individual desires to see his job materialised in real life. If those efforts consistently lead nowhere, it gives way to new thoughts. This is not an excuse but an explanation of corruption in dedicated and compromised civil servants and officials. Many books have depicted this transit in many cases.

Trump has started to walk a new path. The rationale behind it could be as simple as: efforts so far have been futile→need to escalate→let's use the armed forces. Using your own armed forces provides you independence, larger impact and perhaps requires a lesser budget in the long run. The initial deployment may seem to be more expensive, but hopefully the operation will be shorter in time if compared with decades of DEA operations with limited impact on drug market. Besides, there is a political gain looming in the horizon: the end of a leftist autocracy. A strong message and a warning to all those leftist governments in Latin America unwilling to sustain Trump's wishes.

It aligns perfectly with goals stated in the U.S. national security strategy. According to Trump, America must respond to his requirements. No foreign hands on the continent are allowed.

2. LETTERS OF DEFECTED VENEZUELAN GENERALS.

The Dallas Express has published two letters (2nd and 8th December) signed by Hugo Carvajal Barrios and Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones. Both are behind bars in the United States and are cooperating with the authorities in order to get a reduction of their sentences.

Hugo Carvajal Barrios is a former high-ranking member of the Venezuelan regime who served as a three-star general. He was trusted by both Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro and held roles including Director of Military Intelligence and a Deputy in the National Assembly. Carvajal publicly broke with the Maduro regime in 2017 and fled the country. The U.S. sanctioned him in 2008 for allegedly helping the FARC in the illegal drug trade. After being arrested in Spain in 2021, Carvajal was extradited to the U.S. in July 2023 on drug trafficking charges. He voluntarily pleaded guilty to the crimes charged against him: a narco-terrorism conspiracy. He is currently held in an American prison. The U.S. Department of State offered a reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to his arrest or conviction for alleged drug trafficking and narco-terrorism.

Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones is a retired Major General of the Bolivarian Armed Forces of Venezuela. He was a former Major General of the Army. Alcalá stated that, while following direct orders from his superior, Hugo Chávez, he committed the mistake of providing assistance to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In 2011, while stationed in Aragua state, Alcalá led the military takeover of Tocorón prison. After Nicolás Maduro assumed power in 2013, Alcalá requested retirement, becoming a staunch opponent of Maduro because he believed a criminal gang leader was taking power. Alcalá voluntarily surrendered to U.S. agents while in Colombia in March 2020. He is currently held in a federal correctional facility in Maryland, serving a sentence after pleading guilty to two counts of providing assistance to the FARC. The U.S. Department of State offered a reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to his arrest or conviction for alleged drug trafficking and narco-terrorism.

Both confirm the following items:

Common Subject	General Hugo Carvajal Barrios (Ex-Director of Military Intelligence)	Major General Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones (Retired Major General)
1. Regime Identity	<p>Affirms that Hugo Chávez's government became a criminal organization now run by Nicolás Maduro and Diosdado Cabello, known as the "Cartel of the Suns".</p>	<p>States that the criminal structure dictatorially governing Venezuela is publicly known as the "Cartel de los Soles".</p>
2. Narco-Terrorism Strategy	<p>Claims the purpose of the Cartel of the Suns is to "weaponize drugs against the United States," coordinated with groups like the FARC and Hezbollah.</p>	<p>Confessed to committing the "huge mistake" of providing assistance to the FARC under direct orders from Hugo Chávez; notes drug trafficking as one of the regime's most important criminal activities.</p>
3. Tren de Aragua (TdA)	<p>Was present when the decision was made to organize and arm criminal gangs across Venezuela, specifically naming the Tren de Aragua (TdA).</p>	<p>Details how prison-based criminal structures, including the Tren de Aragua, were strengthened and used by Maduro for criminal purposes.</p>
4. Exporting Criminality to the U.S.	<p>Claims Maduro expanded the TdA strategy by "exporting criminality and chaos abroad" and sent these operatives into the U.S. by exploiting "open-border policy".</p>	<p>Confirms that the Maduro government "exported this criminal organization (TdA) to other countries, including the United States of America".</p>
5. Electoral Fraud Mechanism	<p>States that the Smartmatic system can be altered and was</p>	<p>Identifies Army General Carlos Quintero as the "engineer in charge of</p>

	<i>successfully used for fraud by the regime, and that this technology was exported to other countries, including the U.S..</i>	<i>Venezuela's Smartmatic electoral technology" used to carry out frauds.</i>
<i>6. Threat to U.S. Security</i>	<i>Concludes that the regime he served is "at war" with the U.S. and that President Trump's policies are "necessary and proportionate to the threat".</i>	<i>Asserts that the government of Nicolás Maduro and his Cartel de los Soles "undoubtedly represent a threat to the national security of the United States of America".</i>
<i>7. U.S. Political Penetration</i>	<i>Claims Cuban intelligence showed him their spy networks inside U.S. naval bases and that spies were disguised as members of the Venezuelan opposition and some became career politicians.</i>	<i>Claims Maduro and his accomplices boasted about the supposed control they exercised over American congressmen</i>

Given that both current inmates have had no way to communicate with each other, these items stated by both should be taken into account.

They also write about other topics which confirms the absence of a concerted action:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Hugo Carvajal Barrios (Focus)</i>	<i>Major General Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones (Focus)</i>
<i>Power Dynamics</i>	<i>Focuses heavily on the military/intelligence structures that carried out the plans.</i>	<i>Identifies siblings Jorge and Delcy Rodríguez as the "true</i>

		<i>Machiavellian masterminds" and the real controllers of Maduro and Cabello.</i>
<i>Illicit Financial Sources</i>	Mentions that the regime organizes criminal acts for financing operations and maintains contingency plans to hold onto power.	Claims the regime uses Illegal Mining (gold and diamonds from Arco Minero) as key commodities in the money-laundering mechanism of the Cartel de los Soles.
<i>Geopolitical Espionage/Threats</i>	Details proposals made by Russian intelligence for tapping submarine internet cables and establishing a secret listening post on La Orchila Island. Also claims U.S. diplomats and CIA officers were paid to assist the regime.	Mentions close historical foreign policy ties with Iran and that Maduro managed sensitive relations with groups like the IRGC and Hezbollah.

Those letters can be read in full [here](#).

3. TOPICS RAISED.

Letters underpin Trump's efforts in Venezuela and provide with context to the situation in Venezuela. Both Generals are willing to provide further details to authorities which for sure will be heard.

Gustavo Petro in Colombia must be increasingly worried about details which might be in the hands of the imprisoned Generals, especially those related to the FARC. Although he was a member of the M-19 guerrilla group (not FARC), the involvement of Colombian assets in the drug routes to the

U.S. gives President Trump the excuse to operate in Colombia, too.

But letters also open the door to initiate a witch hunt back in the U.S. looking for Congress and Senate members who might have cooperated to some extent with Venezuelan authorities.

Letters back Trump's accusations of rigged elections. At least, they indicate that it is a viable option given that the system used in the United States has been successfully tampered with in Venezuela.

Peter Hegseth, the Secretary of War, has a new target (if the US did not know) at the island of La Orchila¹, where Russians might be posted to carry out SIGNAL intelligence operations.

4. INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Venezuelan regime has been using international connections to spread, not only its ideology and need for support, but the drug business.

The connections between Venezuelan groups and Mexico primarily fall into the areas of transnational organized crime, narcotics trafficking, and sanctions evasion networks operating in the oil and food sectors, as well as political and diplomatic activity.

4.1 Transnational Crime and Narco-Terrorism

Available information details connections involving the high-level individuals of Venezuelan regime and major Venezuelan criminal organizations with Mexican cartels:

- *Los Zetas Cartel: Former Venezuelan Vice President Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah, who was designated as a significant international narcotics trafficker, is explicitly linked to the coordination of drug shipments to Los Zetas, a violent Mexican drug cartel. Los Zetas was previously named as a Specially Designated Narcotics Trafficker by the U.S.*

¹ *It is home to a military camp and the C/N Antonio Díaz Naval Air Base. Access is restricted to the President, the President's family and close associates, military personnel, and high-ranking government officials. Civilian aircraft are prohibited from flying over the island.*

- *Tren de Aragua (TdA) Expansion: TdA, designated by the U.S. Treasury as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), has expanded its operations to Mexico. One of TdA's financial leaders, Kenffersso Jhosue Sevilla Arteaga (a.k.a. "El Flipper"), organized shell businesses and illegal rents in several countries, including Mexico.*

4.2 Sanctions Evasion and Corruption Networks

The U.S. Treasury identified Mexico-based individuals and entities as key facilitators in schemes designed to evade sanctions against Venezuela's state-owned oil company (PDVSA) and corrupt the humanitarian food program (CLAP):

- *PDVSA Oil Brokerage: The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated several individuals and entities, primarily Mexico-based, for their roles in a scheme to evade U.S. sanctions on Venezuela's oil sector.*
- *Mexico-based companies Libre Abordo, S.A. de C.V., and Schlager Business Group S. de R.L. de C.V., which had no prior oil sector experience, cooperated with key sanctioned Venezuelan figures (including Tareck El Aissami) to broker the resale of over 30 million barrels of Venezuelan-origin crude oil.*
- *This scheme was allegedly disguised as an "oil-for-food" program, but the Mexican companies failed to deliver promised corn and sent inflated numbers of water trucks, generating illicit profit in excess of \$300 million.*
- *The Treasury targeted Mexican nationals Joaquín Leal Jiménez, Olga María Zepeda Esparza, and Verónica Esparza García for operating in the oil sector and materially assisting PDVSA.*
- *CLAP Program Corruption: Mexico-based companies were sanctioned for involvement in a corruption network stealing from Venezuela's CLAP food subsidy program.*

4.3 Political and Diplomatic Links

Mexico has been involved in Venezuela's political crisis both through mediation and through its official stances:

- *Support for Maduro:* The Mexican government has been reported to be funding the TV station of the Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro. Furthermore, Mexico defied U.S. sanctions in 2020 by allowing fuel shipments to Maduro.
- *Mediation Efforts:* In past Venezuelan dialogue processes, Mexico attempted to take an active role as a mediator, but it was inhibited from doing so by the main facilitator, former Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero.
- *Future Negotiations:* Mexico is considered a promising and neutral location for future formal negotiation processes between the Venezuelan government and the opposition due to its accessibility and relative seclusion.
- *PDVSA Presence:* Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) maintains offices in Mexico.

The United States is also closing in former Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. According to judicial instances what is proven or subject to formal scrutiny by U.S. authorities or agencies:

4.4 Links to Illicit Finance Schemes and PDVSA

Zapatero is under intense surveillance due to his alleged financial ties to the Maduro regime:

- *Financial Triangulation Investigation:* Zapatero is the subject of an investigation linked to the U.S. (DEA/federal agencies) regarding alleged "financial triangulation" involving periodic payments received from the "narco-regime."
- *Origin of the Money:* This scheme allegedly centres on illicit funds originating from Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA), channelled through consultancies and foundations related to European socialism toward tax havens.

- *Jurisdictional Basis:* The investigation seeks to confirm whether the money or triangulations "affected U.S. interests" or if crimes were committed within U.S. territory, which would allow the U.S. to take judicial action against him.
- *Confirmed Corruption Precedent (Morodo Case):* The Chavista regime's modus operandi of using fictitious consultancies to channel funds to Spanish political networks has been legally confirmed. Raúl Morodo, who was Spain's ambassador to Venezuela under Zapatero's government, and his son admitted to receiving payments from PDVSA for "simulated operations" (fictitious consulting services) totalling at least €4.5 million. Morodo pleaded guilty to concealing his son's business dealings with PDVSA from Spanish tax authorities.

4.5 Threat of Sanctions and Political Characterization

Although Zapatero is not currently on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) Sanctions list, he is under active pressure from U.S. agencies:

- *Formal Petition for Sanctions (Magnitsky Act):* The Spanish group "Manos Limpias" has formally requested the U.S. Department of the Treasury (via its embassy) to apply the Global Magnitsky Act against Zapatero.
- *Basis of the Petition:* The petition is based on the claim that Zapatero has acted as an "agent of Nicolás Maduro's criminal regime" since 2016, helping it remain in power and collaborating with the Chavista leadership.
- *Potential Consequences:* The application of the Global Magnitsky Act would imply the freezing of assets and the revocation of his visa to enter the U.S. U.S. officials have indicated they were open to revoking his visa due to his political ties and business dealings with the "dictatorship."
- *Designation as "Facilitator":* Zapatero is viewed by critics and U.S. sources as a "defender" and "close associate" of Maduro who provides "political oxygen" and international

legitimacy to a regime that the U.S. considers a narco-terrorist dictatorship, which justifies the threat of being designated as a facilitator under GloMag.

In summary, American authorities have confirmed PDVSA's corruption mechanism in Spain through an associate of Zapatero (Morodo) and are actively investigating whether Zapatero himself has received illicit funds from the "narco-regime" that would justify the imposition of severe administrative sanctions under the Magnitsky Act.

There are a few other foreign countries playing a role in the Venezuelan investigations. Turkey is a critical node in the illicit financial network, serving as a destination for sanctioned Venezuelan gold. Venezuela's gold exports to Turkey soared significantly to \$900 million in 2018. High-ranking Venezuelan officials, such as Tareck El Aissami, used private jets to set up meetings in Turkey.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The U.S. is likely to start operations on Venezuelan soil anytime soon. Although targeting criminal gangs, those operations will send an important message to Venezuelan leadership.

Trump might even prefer Maduro remains in Venezuela for some time, giving him time to dismantle or weaken criminal organizations. It will serve well the incoming lawful government, as those organizations would jeopardize the stability of the new government. So, weakening the Cartel de los Soles and Tren de Aragua is also vital for the success of the future political stability.

Colombia will be aimed somehow. Colombian cocaine is pumped into the U.S. by cartels. Therefore, pressure on Colombian government will be increasingly unbearable unless Colombian authorities follow effectively Trump's guidance.

In the meantime, the U.S. will leverage the Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) designation for Tren de Aragua (TdA) to actively target the organization's leaders and affiliates. It will increase pressure on Mexican government² to act against TdA and Cartel de Sinaloa, too.

² TdA was also heavily hit by police operations in Spain on 7th November 2025, for the first time.

The deployment of naval counterdrug assets and the use of FTO designations suggest a continuing militarization of U.S. anti-narcotics efforts in the region, treating the state-linked TCOs as a national security threat.

The U.S. will intensify measures to counter the regime's sophisticated evasion mechanisms, which rely on fictitious consultancies (as confirmed by the Raúl Morodo case) and the use of illicit gold trade for monetization.

It is also likely to continue scrutinizing and threatening sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act (GloMag) against influential foreign political and financial figures, such as former Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, who are accused of providing "political oxygen" and illicit financial support (via PDVSA funds) to the regime. A successful application of GloMag against a high-profile European official would establish a strong precedent.



ANNEX. LETTERS OF DEFECTED GENERALS

Dear Mr. President Trump and The People of the United States,

My name is Hugo Carvajal Barrios. For many years, I was a high-ranking member of the Venezuelan regime. I was a three-star general trusted by both Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro and served as Director of Military Intelligence and a Deputy in the National Assembly. Today, I sit in an American prison because I voluntarily plead guilty to the crimes charged against me: a narco-terrorism conspiracy. I write to atone by telling the full truth so that the United States can protect itself from the dangers I witnessed for so many years.

I publicly broke with the Maduro regime in 2017 and fled my country, knowing that I face criminal charges in the United States. In doing so, I became their enemy. Knowing the risks, I acted with the strongest conviction to dismantle Maduro's criminal regime and bring freedom to my country. Today, I see the need to address the American people about the reality of what the Venezuelan regime truly is—and why President Trump's policies are not only correct, but absolutely necessary to the United States' national security.

1. Narco-Terrorism

I personally witnessed how Hugo Chávez's government became a criminal organization that is now run by Nicolás Maduro, Diosdado Cabello, and other senior regime officials.

The purpose of this organization, now known as the Cartel of the Suns is to weaponize drugs against the United States. The drugs that reached your cities through new routes were not accidents of corruption nor just the work of independent traffickers; they were deliberate policies coordinated by the Venezuelan regime against the United States.

This plan was suggested by the Cuban regime to Chávez in the mid-2000s and has been successfully executed with help from FARC, ELN, Cuban operatives, and Hezbollah. The regime has provided weapons, passports, and impunity for these terrorist organizations to operate freely from Venezuela against the United States.

2. Tren de Aragua

I was present when decisions were made to organize and weaponize criminal gangs across Venezuela to protect the regime—among them the group known as Tren de Aragua. Chávez ordered the recruitment of criminal leaders inside and

The Dallas Express

The People's Paper

outside prisons to defend "the revolution" in exchange for impunity. After Chávez died, Maduro expanded this strategy by exporting criminality and chaos abroad to target Venezuelan political exiles and artificially reduce crime statistics within Venezuela. Gang leaders were instructed to send thousands of members out of the country. This was coordinated through the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Prisons, the National Guard, and national police forces. *Tren de Aragua* became the most effective and fastest growing.

When the Biden-Harris open-border policy became widely known, they seized the opportunity to send these operatives into the United States. They now have obedient, armed personnel on American soil. To finance their operations, they were explicitly instructed to continue kidnapping, extorting, and killing. Every crime they commit on your soil is an act ordered by the regime.

3. Counterintelligence and Espionage Against the United States

I was present when Russian intelligence came to Caracas to propose to Hugo Chávez the tapping of submarine internet cables that connect most of South America and the Caribbean islands with the United States for the purpose of penetrating United States Government communications.

In 2015, I warned Maduro that allowing Russian intelligence to build and run a secret listening post on La Orchila Island would one day invite American bombs. He ignored me.

For twenty years, the Venezuelan regime sent spies into your country—many are still there, some disguised as members of the Venezuelan opposition. Cuban intelligence showed me their networks inside your naval bases on the East Coast. They bragged about having sent thousands of spies over decades, some now career politicians.

U.S. diplomats and CIA officers were paid to assist Chávez and Maduro in remaining in power. These Americans acted as spies for Cuba and Venezuela, and some remain active to this day.

4. Smartmatic and Your Elections

Smartmatic was born as an electoral tool of the Venezuelan regime but soon derived into a tool to help keep the regime stay in power forever. I know this because I placed the head of IT of the National Electoral Council (CNE) in his position, and he reported directly to me. The Smartmatic system can be altered—this is a fact. This technology was

later exported abroad, including to the United States. Regime operatives maintain relationships with election officials and voting-machine companies inside your country. I do not claim that every election is stolen, but I state with certainty that elections can be rigged with the software – and has been used to do so.

People of the United States, make no mistake about the threat posed by allowing a narco-terrorist organization to roam freely in the Caribbean and throughout Latin America, doing everything possible to harm the American people—to finance anti-Americanism across the continent, and to facilitate the operations of other terrorist organizations and enemies of the United States within Venezuela and now within your borders.

The regime I served is not merely hostile—it is at war with you, using drugs, gangs, espionage, and even your own democratic processes as weapons. President Trump's policies against the Maduro criminal regime are not just justified, but necessary and proportionate to the threat. He may even be underestimating what the regime is prepared to do to hold onto power. They have contingency plans for every extreme scenario to ensure they never relinquish control.

I absolutely support President Trump's policy towards Venezuela, because it is in self-defense and he is acting based on the truth. I remain ready to provide additional details about these matters to the United States government.

Hugo Carvajal Barrios

United States of America

December 2, 2025

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Date: 8 December 2025

To: The President of the United States of America, Mr. Donald J. Trump, and the American people.

From: Major General Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones

Subject: Information of interest for the national security and foreign policy of the United States

Mr. President and citizens of the United States of America:

My name is Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones, retired Major General of the Bolivarian Armed Forces of Venezuela. I address you with respect and in a spirit of cooperation to share information that I consider relevant to the national security of the United States and to the understanding of criminal and political dynamics in my country that extend beyond its borders. I have been detained in the United States since March 2020, after voluntarily surrendering to agents of this country while in Colombian territory. I am currently held in a federal correctional facility in the state of Maryland, serving sentence after pleading guilty to two counts of having provided assistance to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). By following direct orders from my then-superior Hugo Chávez, I committed a huge mistake that I will regret for the rest of my life.

Today, I wish to provide information about the criminal structure that dictatorially governs Venezuela, currently known publicly as the Cartel de los Soles. Two key figures in this entire criminal network are the siblings Jorge and Delcy Rodríguez. With a deliberately low and calculated public profile, they are the true Machiavellian masterminds behind the leaders of the cartels corporation known as the Cartel de los Soles. They are the real controllers of Nicolás Maduro and Diosdado Cabello. The regime's survival in power is largely due to these two individuals.

Delcy Rodríguez is the current vice president of the country, and her brother Jorge Rodríguez is the current president of the National Assembly of Venezuela.

Tren de Aragua

I served in my country's army for 34 years. In 2011, while stationed in the state of Aragua, I led the military takeover of Tocorón prison. Despite political pressure from some members of the Venezuelan government to prevent the operation, I carried it out and took military control of the facility, resulting in the deaths of 16 criminals. The leaders of the criminal group now known as Tren de Aragua

were being held in that prison. The then-Minister of Sports, Antonio Enrique Álvarez Cisneros—better known as “Potro” Álvarez—was sent by Chávez to have direct contact and coordinate the criminal leaders in those prisons.

After Chávez’s death in 2013 and Nicolás Maduro’s assumption of power, I requested my retirement from the army despite offers to continue, because I was unwilling to serve under his command. It was very clear to me that a criminal gang leader was taking power. From that moment on, it became public knowledge that I became a staunch opponent of the dictator Maduro.

With his political consolidation, the prison-based criminal structures were strengthened under his control: there were direct communications from the prisons to him, with Potro Álvarez acting as the facilitator of links with prison leaders; instructions were even given to those leaders to control inmates’ votes in elections, while criminals came and went to commit crimes and the prisons functioned as weapons and other illegal elements’ depots.

Some of those criminals—including corrupt union leaders linked to a Chinese-funded Aragua–Carabobo railway project—form part of the group now known as Tren de Aragua, which has been used by Maduro for his criminal purposes ever since.

Nicolás Maduro, trained and formed in Cuba, used these criminal schemes from the prisons for personal gain, replicating practices he learned in that country. Nicolás Maduro’s government exported this criminal organization to other countries, including the United States of America.

Electoral Frauds

In the electoral sphere, Army General Carlos Quintero—a member of Venezuelan military intelligence—and current vice president of the National Electoral Council (CNE) has been responsible for committing electoral fraud. General Quintero was the engineer in charge of Venezuela’s Smartmatic electoral technology used to carry out the frauds. Most elections in Venezuela have been manipulated by Maduro’s government. I am aware of the use of parallel Smartmatic voting systems to alter results, especially in locations without opposition party representatives, making irregularities difficult to detect. This is the same technology used in other countries including USA by the company Smartmatic. The controllers of this entire system are the siblings Jorge and Delcy Rodríguez.

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Relations with Iran

Regarding Venezuelan foreign policy, the relationship with Iran has been historically close. Maduro deepened cooperation with Iran as a strategic partner for Venezuela. Maduro maintained and managed the most sensitive relations (IRGC and Hezbollah) with Iran since he was Hugo Chavez's foreign minister.

Relations with the United States

In terms of intelligence and relations with the United States, there were close ties between the current supreme core of Venezuelan power (Nicolás Maduro, Diosdado Cabello, Jorge Rodríguez, Delcy Rodríguez) and American congressmen. Maduro and his accomplices boasted about the supposed control they exercised over these congressmen. I learned this information in 2007 when I was transferred to the state of Carabobo, where I met with several congressmen who were members of that group.

Drug Trafficking and Illegal Mining

Finally, drug trafficking and illegal mining, as two of the most important criminal activities of the Venezuelan regime in power. It was widely known that government leaders were involved in this criminal activity in various ways. I publicly accused Nicolás Maduro's government of embezzling Venezuela's minerals, including gold and diamonds, but also other rare strategic minerals, specifically in the region named Arco Minero del Orinoco. Nicolás Maduro even used his son to control the illegal activities in that geographic area. These were complementary criminal activities. Gold and diamonds served as a key commodities in the money-laundering mechanism of the drug trafficking carried out by what is now known as the Cartel de los Soles.

I am willing to testify about these and other matters within my personal knowledge that may be of interest to the government of the United States.

The government of the dictator Nicolás Maduro and his Cartel de los Soles undoubtedly represent a threat to the national security of the United States of America and other neighboring nations.

They are also, of course, responsible for having destroyed my beloved homeland.

I thank you for your attention and your determination in pursuing the restoration of democracy in Venezuela. It is

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public knowledge that I also attempted this more than once and put my life at risk for it, forcing me to live in exile in Colombia. Without a doubt, I would do it again. It is an unwavering commitment to my country and its constitution.

I remain at your disposal to collaborate broadly with your government, with the aim of contributing to the security and justice of your country and mine

Sincerely,

Cliver Antonio Alcalá Cordones

Date: December 8, 2025