

## **President Hugo Chavez has Died**

By Tamara Pearson

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Merida, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 (Venezuelanalysis.com) –After two years of battling cancer, President Hugo Chavez has died today at 4.25 pm.

Vice-president Nicolas Maduro made the announcement on public television shortly after, speaking from the Military Hospital in Caracas, where Chavez was being treated.

Military and Bolivarian police have been sent out into the street to protect the people and maintain the peace. For now, things are calm here, with some people celebrating by honking their car horns, and many others quietly mourning in their homes.

Maduro made the announcement just a few hours after addressing the nation for an hour, accusing the opposition of taking advantage of the current situation to cause destabilisation.

"Those who die for life, can't be called dead," Maduro concluded.

In Caracas, thousands of people have gathered in Plaza Bolivar and are said to be heading to the Miraflores Palace. Those gathered are shouting that "Chavez lives, the struggle continues," "the people united will never be defeated," as well as swearing that the Venezuelan bourgeoisie "will never return" to the Miraflores Palace.

Chavez supporters are also gathering in central squares across the country to rally together and mourn the death of their president.

Describing the scene in Caracas, Andromaco Martinez, stated that he was on the metro when he found out about the president's death, "people began running everywhere".

In Plaza Bolivar, "no-one is crying or praying," he said, emphasising that the Venezuelan people would defiantly defend the revolution.

"The struggle has already been ignited," he added.

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