

Washington Seeks to Destabilize Venezuela?

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Venezuela's opposition leader Henrique Capriles went to the United States to find ways and means aimed at destabilizing the situation in his country, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said.

"He had meetings in Miami already and will be meeting tomorrow with agents, who jointly with a number of defected bankers, are trying to stage a plot against the economy of our country," Maduro said.

The vice president also said that although President Hugo Chavez is in a poor state of health, he nevertheless continues to rule his country, no matter what Capriles talks about him.

Capriles, defeated by Chavez in the country's October presidential elections, accused the government of Venezuela on Friday of lying about the socialist leader's condition.

Chavez, fighting a prolonged battle with cancer, has not been seen or heard for more than two months, apart from several proof-of-life photos showing him in a hospital bed. Little is known from official sources, apart from reports that Chavez has suffered respiratory problems after the surgery.

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