

## **Does US Want to Assassinate Venezuelan President?**

Written by

Monday, 21 February 2005 02:21 - Last Updated Monday, 21 February 2005 02:21

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**Aljazeera:** Chavez says the US is plotting to assassinate him. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has threatened to suspend oil exports to the US if someone tries to assassinate him, adding that US President George Bush would be to blame.

Date: Mon, 21 Feb 2005 13:06:23 -0500To:

friends.of.sustainability@flora.orgFrom: Mike Nickerson

<sustain@web.ca>Subject: Does US Want to Assassinate Venezuelan President?

**Chavez: US wants me assassinated** Monday 21 February 2005, 2:55 Makka

Time, 23:55 GMT

**Chavez says the US is**

**plotting to assassinate him**

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has threatened to suspend oil exports to the US if someone tries to assassinate him, adding that US President George Bush would be to blame.

"If they kill me, there will be a really guilty party on this planet whose name is the president of the United States, George Bush," Chavez said on Sunday during his weekly radio programme, "Hello, Mr President".

"If, by the hand of the devil, those perverse plans succeed ... forget about Venezuelan oil, Mr Bush," he said.

Chavez said he was convinced that Washington was "sketching out the assassination plans" before his Bolivarian Revolution advances in Venezuela and Latin America.

Chavez revealed a week ago that Cuban President Fidel Castro had warned him

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of a US assassination plot.

"Now, I am going to say it. Neither Fidel Castro nor I talk nonsense."

**Blaming Bush** "If something happens to me, I blame the president of the United States," he said.

"I will not hide. I am going to be in the streets with you. I entrust myself to God, but I know that I have been condemned to die," Chavez said.

**"If they kill me, there will be a really guilty party on this planet whose name is the president of the United States, George Bush"** Hugo Chavez, Venezuela president

"Each second of my life I will spend in the struggle and God's will be done," he said.

Castro said on 12 February: "If Chavez is assassinated, the blame will fall on Bush.

"I say that as someone who has survived hundreds of the empire's [assassination] plans," he said.

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Chavez has also recently accused the US of being involved in an April 2002 coup, which removed him from power for less than two days.

Venezuela is the only Latin American member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Producing Countries, and sells about 1.5 million barrels daily to the United States, nearly as much as Saudi Arabia.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently called Chavez "a negative force" in Latin America, and the State Department backed Colombia in a recent dispute between the Caribbean neighbours over the arrest of a Colombian rebel in Caracas by Colombian officials without Venezuela's knowledge or consent.

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