

ÁLVARO URIBE AND TERRORISM AGAINST VENEZUELA



DISCLOSURE OF LORENT GÓMEZ SALEH

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Álvaro Uribe and terrorism against Venezuela

Disclosure of Lorent Gómez Saleh

Lorent Gómez Saleh's handover to Venezuelan authorities by Colombian migration agents at the Simón Bolívar international bridge - the border between Táchira state and Northern Santander – put an end to the criminal career of a man who, despite his young age, has a record of violence and destabilizing actions against Venezuela's legitimate government. His record of actions is so considerable, that it turned him into Álvaro Uribe Vélez protegé, sadly well-known for propelling paramilitarism and its tragical consequences in the neighboring country.

Even though Gómez Saleh's outrages are known in Venezuela long ago, it was after his capture in Colombia when our country could see the reach of his actions, when Skype video-conferences revealed Saleh giving details of terrorist actions to be carried out in San Cristóbal and Caracas masked by the NGO *Operación Libertad*. These Skype's recordings show Gómez Saleh with another member of *Operación Libertad*, Gabriel Valles, who was also deported from Colombia due to illegal activities.

"Táchira state will be our bastion. We will put up a good fight there. Listen, find me the vests there and I would look for them. They are way cheaper there. (...) We are slowly heating things up in Táchira state, we are going to put pressure on the headquarters (...) But we are going to wait until those guys harden up first. If they do, we are going to hit them hard, bro, really hard, because we have the means to do so," says Lorent Saleh in a video

broadcasted by *Venezolana de Televisión*, the Venezuelan State's TV channel.

In the video, Saleh talks about the blowing-up of liquor stores, nightclubs, a border bridge and even the regional headquarters of the *Consejo Nacional Electoral*, the National Electoral Council. The right-wing leader says he has everything he needs to carry out terrorist actions and talks about the acquisition of C4 explosives, bulletproof vests, 9mm guns, and rifles; the ammunitions were to be acquired in Bogotá.

In other recording, Saleh talks about the need to assassinate *Chavismo*'s popular leaders, as well in San Cristóbal as in Caracas. "We have our black list... in 48 hours 20 dolls will be down", says Saleh when talking about the human targets located in Táchira's capital city.

In that same video, Saleh affirms that a special elite unit of 20 people has been made up to carry out terrorist actions. "We have Venezuelan and Colombian kids, now the elite group is made up by 20 of them, two groups of 10 each, we don't need any more, it's about specific actions bang bang bang. We need to neutralize 20 bitches; from there on, the *barrios* will come out into the open and demonstrate," he affirms.

SALAS ROMER - FINANCIER

Gómez Saleh was first seen on the public scene in 2007, when he took part of the violent actions carried out by right-wing groups that rejected the non-renewal of *Radio Caracas Televisión*'s concession.

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He was apprehended on September 26, 2010 in Valencia, while participating in violent actions. During this procedure, warlike material of his property was confiscated. The judge in charge ordered a parole for appearance every 21 days, which Lorent Gomez Saleh did not respect.

Gómez Saleh was national coordinator of the NGO *Juventud Activa Venezuela Unida*, JAVU, financed by the former presidential candidate and current fugitive from justice, Henrique Salas Römer. Gómez Saleh is also president of the NGO *Operación Libertad*, an international association founded in Caracas, but formally registered in San José de Costa Rica.

In May, the Minister for Inner Affairs, Justice and Peace, Miguel Rodríguez Torres, announced that members of JAVU took part of the training camps carried out by this organization in Carabobo state in 2011, more specifically in the ranch property of the right-wing congressman Freddy Curupe, with the aim to “remove president (Hugo) Chávez from the government.”

He also pointed out that a meeting of the NGOs took place in April 2012. The lawyer Tamara Suju, as well as Gonzalo Himiob and Lorent Saleh – leaders of JAVU and *Operación Libertad*–, and opposition students attended this meeting where street actions to overthrow Chávez government were planned.

Saleh has also been connected to Eduardo Romano, former president of the Colombian neo-Nazi organization *Tercera Fuerza*, “an association that assures to be a center for socio-political studies in defense of Hispanic tradition and culture, promoting Identity Nationalism,” according to their Twitter account @tercerafuerza1.

As a matter of fact, Gómez Saleh attended the launch of *Alianza Nacionalista por la Libertad*, supported by *Tercera Fuerza*.

Members of JAVU and *Voluntad Popular*,

together with leaders Leopoldo López, María Corina Machado and Antonio Ledezma, were the ones calling to take the streets in February 2014, with the purpose of overthrowing the government of President Nicolás Maduro.

ADMIRER OF URIBE

In several opportunities, Lorent Saleh has declared his support and gratitude to former Colombian president Álvaro Uribe Vélez, who has stated being involved in and supporting the destabilizing plans against Venezuela.

“#YoSigoAUribe @AlvaroUribeVel has been precisely our master and guidance. He has taught us the value of Dignity”, Saleh published on August 18 via his Twitter account @Lorent_Saleh. “#YoSigoAUribe without fear and unambiguously. We don’t believe in outmoded communists, or in socialist drug dealers!” he added.

Then he said: “#YoSigoAUribe Because he has never abandoned Venezuelan people. Thanks @AlvaroUribeVel.”

The link between Uribe and Saleh seems not to be recent, since the young man participated as a guest at the Democratic Center Convention presented by the former Colombian president on July 13, 2013 in Colombia. In that occasion, Saleh published on his twitter account a picture of him with Uribe accompanied by the text “With the former president and leader of the American democracy.”

When finding out about the expulsion, last September 5, Uribe published on his Twitter account @AlvaroUribeVel: “Santos hands student over to Maduro, while he protects terrorists whose extradition Santos is not asking for.” In another message he added: “They say it is because of national security that Santos expelled the Venezuelan student, despicable apology, they are always trying to please the FARC and Maduro.”

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Gómez Saleh, armed during his stay in Colombia.

TRIALS AND ERRORS

Gómez Saleh defines himself on his Facebook page as Latin American Affairs adviser; freedom, security and human rights activist; and president of the NGO *Operación Libertad Internacional* (Freedom Operation, International chapter), which has María Conchita Alonso as one of its spokespeople.

The plans to hit the Bolivarian government started to take place with the installation of the “Libertarian Education House” for both Colombian and Venezuelan young people. “We built a house near the border with our own hands. It is a place to give shelter and education to young people from Venezuela and Colombia,” wrote Gómez Saleh in

June of this year.

At the meetings, the boards were filled with lists of “missing things,” as if it were a strategic command center and the computers used by people there bore stickers of the political campaign of the former presidential candidate Óscar Iván Zuluaga, acolyte of Colombian former President, Álvaro Uribe.

The relation with the former president goes back a long time. Last March, Gómez Saleh published a picture of Uribe on Facebook, in which he commented: “We accompanied Álvaro Uribe at the Democratic Center Convention. We are eternally thankful for the support he has always given to our people.”

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They started defining the actions that they were going to undertake. At the end of June, the executive director of operations, Gabriel Valles, exposed his vision for the coming months: “Here at NGO *Operación Libertad Internacional*, we are preparing to shape the new generations.” There was a visit to the US Embassy, according to a picture published on July 7: “seven years of trials and errors, of learning and organizing,” wrote Valles.

TRAINING IN COLOMBIA

Lobby activities in Colombia have increased since July 19: Gómez Saleh and Valles were present at the celebration of the National Hero Day, where they posed in pictures next to officers of the Colombian Armed Forces, both active and retired.

They were looking for military training to carry out their plans once they got back in Venezuela. That need let them to access, in a fraudulent manner, the School of Warfare of the Armed Forces. They stayed at the *Fundación Colombia Herida* building, which houses members of the armed forces who have been injured in combat, as well as their families and the families of those who have been killed.

Proud of this achievement, Gómez Saleh published a picture standing at the door of this institution. “Today, after years of work and sacrifice, our organization *Operación Libertad Internacional* counts with four of its members from Colombia and Venezuela training for the security and defense of our dear American continent,” wrote Gómez Saleh.

Nevertheless, General Javier Fernández, the school director, indicated in an interview published in Colombian newspaper *El Tiempo* that the young people posed as students of Sergio Arboleda University. “Once they didn’t provide any documents after the second class, Mr. Gómez Saleh was expelled from class and was told that



The day that Gómez Saleh illegally registered at Escuela de Guerra de Colombia (School of Warfare of the Armed Forces).

‘you need to enroll.’ He said he was going to bring the documents but he never came back,” explained the Colombian general.

Néstor Humberto Martínez, Minister of the Presidency of Colombia, said that both the Venezuelans who had been expelled from Colombia in early September “are not angels.”

Both were taken to Venezuela according to the Colombian migration office “for violations of migratory regulations” and the Colombian Ministry for Foreign Affairs indicated that both Gómez Saleh and Valles had entered Colombia with a tourist visa for rest and relaxation activities and they had not renewed their visas.

Nonetheless, the Colombian Minister indicated that their activities while in Colombian territory were not always legal.

“We can say that these two young men are not

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Gómez Saleh spread this photograph on the internet showing his gratitude for what he learned in Colombia.

angels. Some people would like to portray them as two young men wearing white tunics instead of camouflaged uniforms; they have wings but they pose with rifles,” said Minister Martínez.

He also said that “it is evident that these Venezuelan citizens were not involved in peaceful activities but in activities that violated Colombian migration laws.”

“ANTONIO LEDEZMA IS KEY”

Another video made public after the capture of Gómez Saleh links Caracas Metropolitan Mayor Antonio Ledezma with plans to execute terrorist

activities in some cities in Venezuela.

The video shows the mechanisms of cooperation of the opposition leader in order to develop a series of destabilizing activities in Caracas.

Gómez Saleh details the interest that Ledezma has to recover from a health condition he supposedly suffers from at the moment in order to “go all in” with terrorist actions. “Ledezma is key (...) he’s an old fox. One can’t buy experience at a store (...) Ledezma is the politician that has supported us the most, that’s why he was our candidate for president,” said Gómez Saleh in the video.

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Gómez Saleh also confirms the support that his organization has always received from Ledezma to maintain the camps in Caracas where young people trained for violent street actions, led by Ronny Navarro, aka “guerrilla,” and which authorities subsequently dismantled.

After being deported to Venezuela, Lorent Gómez Saleh and Gabriel Valles were indicted by a court in Carabobo state, which issued a custodial sentence for both. During the judicial hearing, the Public Ministry charged them of having violated the parole issued in 2010, after having been apprehended in violent clashes. They were also accused for crimes regarding intimidation of the public and libel. Later, the Public Ministry accused Lorent Gómez and Gabriel Valles of conspiring.



Jhosman David Paredes, aka “El Pecas”

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Mayor Ledezma supports the terrorist and his mask NGO Operación Libertad (Operation Freedom).

ACCOMPLISHED THREATS

The investigations led by Venezuelan authorities regarding the organization directed by Lorent Gómez Saleh resulted in the capture of Jhosman David Paredes, aka “El Pecas,” a Venezuelan citizen of 21 years of age who was accused of executing a series of terrorist acts in Táchira state.

The investigators had access to a video in which Paredes is seen talking to an unknown person and offering him details of the violent acts to be executed.

Just like it had been announced, Paredes took part in terrorist activities with other Colombian nationals identified as Gregory Sanabria and Héctor Castiblanco, whose actions were led by Lorent Gómez Saleh.

Paredes, Sanabria and Castiblanco were responsible for burning the Táchira Tourism Board building in San Cristóbal on February 24, 2014. On the same date, they also participated in the burning of two nightclubs in San Cristóbal. They started the fires using explosive devices and there was total damage. On Friday, March 14, 2014, Jhosman Paredes, as well as Gregory Sanabria, burned the 5th Public Notary of Táchira state, also in San Cristóbal. Then, on March 18, 2014, they burned the campus of the National Experimental University of the Armed forces using explosive devices. On April 29, 2014, Paredes, as well as his terrorist group, took part in burning of a number of public transport buses that were in a parking lot in Táchira state.

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEOS THAT INCRIMINATE LORENT GÓMEZ SALEH

VIDEO 1. CONTACT 2/10, CÚCUTA CONNECTION, OPERATIONS IN SAN CRISTÓBAL

—**Lorent Saleh**: Soon, there will be some activity going on in Táchira state, do you know what I mean? We're not playing here, we are going to be very prompt when we hit. Do you understand?

—**Gabriel Valles**: You will definitely understand when you see a series of activities in the next coming days in Táchira state.

—**Lorent Saleh**: Look, we're getting ready to do a series of hard hits. Bro, I'm counting on you; you'll see how shit is going to hit the fan.

—**Unknown subject**: Go for it, dude. Go for it.

—**Lorent Saleh**: Well, look. We want to do some hard hits with "C."

—**Gabriel Valles**: C4.

—**Lorent Saleh**: C and the number. Do you understand?

— **Unknown subject**: Hum.

—**Lorent Saleh**: Do you understand?

— **Unknown subject**: Yes, I do!

—**Lorent Saleh**: We are going to do it in four places, bro. Those sons of bitches are going to curse us because we want to hit their pocket-books...bang, bang, bang.

---**Unknown subject**: When? When?

—**Gabriel Valles**: We've got intelligence, logistics...

—**Lorent Saleh**: Listen to me. I'm going to be very clear. Bro, we have the plasticizer. We already bought it; it's in our hands. We still needed the switch and we were having a hard time finding it



Gómez Saleh and Gabriel Valles during the conversation.

and activating it by telephone. Bro, we were moving so we didn't leave him behind...But we were about to move a group that is already here to the border, so that they could cross with some special forces that were going to help us with this plan, plus another group of men.

—**Gabriel Valles**: They're professionals.

—**Lorent Saleh**: All of them are professionals. They don't play around. We already found two old school guys, bro. Old school, bro. A bunch of old dudes from previous governments who used to be political police, bro.

—**Unknown subject**: So, how much did you pay for that plasticizer?

—**Lorent Saleh**: We paid about 50 thousand bolivars or more. I don't remember because we've bought many things. We had to buy many other things, bro.

— **Unknown subject**: ¿How much is that in US dollars?

—**Lorent Saleh**: I'll ask Nesmer for that. But for us is a matter of hours now.

—**Lorent Saleh**: But the problem is that doing that leaves traces. This is not a grenade. You can

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buy a grenade in the black market for 50 dollars, bro! We need it because we are going to start this mayhem and I want it to happen after the elections, after election Sunday.

— **Unknown subject:** Ok.

—**Lorent Saleh:** True...but our partners want us to do it now. Bro, I've delayed it this plan. It was going to be done before the elections in San Cristóbal. But I've been delaying and delaying it, fuck! I want it done after the elections because it's not the same doing it with Zuluaga than doing it with the support of Santos. Do you understand? Look bro, what was I saying? I am going to try to delay the plasticizer for October. If it's not on Monday, then we'll do it on Thursday.

— **Unknown subject:** Fuck, because you told me that it caught on fire. I did some research and

it was an accident in the border town of Ureña.

—**Lorent Saleh:** Listen to me. What's happening here in the border is no "accidents," bro.

— **Unknown subject:** Are you sure?

—**Lorent Saleh:** Bro, things are getting heated here. The border was closed again today. The gasoline smugglers are pissed off, bro.

—**Gabriel Valles:** In Ureña.

—**Lorent Saleh:** In Rubio there was a big protest and here in San Antonio everything is closed. Right now I am keeping a low profile. I'm playing dumb because they are following me closely. But we want to hit their pocketbooks. We have some things here. We want to hit them simultaneously. We can't hit one day and stop for two days and so forth. We want to do one big hit on the same day.

— **Unknown subject:** How many objectives do



Photography of his stay in Colombia spread by Gómez Saleh himself.

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you want to do simultaneously?

—**Lorent Saleh:** Four.

—**Unknown subject:** Damn, that's a lot, bro! What infrastructure? Still same thing? Warehouses, movie theaters, bridges, cars?

—**Lorent Saleh:** One is an insurer's office. Another is a parking lot filled with trucks used to smuggle gasoline. Then another one is a political icon: the state government building, as well as a bank.

— **Unknown subject:** Is that a government bank?

—**Lorent Saleh:** Indeed.

— **Unknown subject:** Ok. Is everything near the border?

—**Lorent Saleh:** No, everything is in San Cristóbal. Why the fuck would I hit here?

—**Gabriel Valles:** There's nothing here, bro.

— **Unknown subject:** That's what I was going to say.

—**Lorent Saleh:** No, there's nothing to do here. Everything is in San Cristóbal: the state government building and the other thing, boom, boom. Then, I'd remove my team from San Cristóbal and I would have it here in Colombia just chilling. They're setting everything up to become active so that when the plan rolls they would be out of danger, that is, in secure territory.

— **Unknown subject:** Are you thinking of Governor Vielma?

—**Lorent Saleh:** It's not worth hitting Vielma. There is another person that is worth more. At the end of the day, Vielma is there practically against his will.

— **Unknown subject:** Who are you thinking about?

—**Lorent Saleh:** Damn, the situation is that we still don't have the capacity to reach the higher echelons. We are going to hit the operatives; that is, the one that calls and mobilizes the motorcycle

gangs. Do you understand? We need to hit the guys who coordinate the thugs. Why is that? Because they're easy to reach: they're brazen and dumb. If you hit any of those guys they would lose street strength and the collective movements would disband. We're not talking about hitting Diosdado Cabello or people like that. I would be bullshitting you if I told you that we have the capacity to reach that level now. We don't need to reach those guys because they would overreact to that, but if we hit the coordinators and the thugs there wouldn't be much fuss. They couldn't do much fuss and they couldn't replace him easily. The idea is to hit those guys and once we do – once we hit the boss of those organizations – they would immediately turn to shit and start killing each other. That's when we hit. The idea is not to hit Vielma and he then survives. Just imagine that, bro. It would be a show that they're going to capitalize on politically. But if we hit one of the coordinators and bosses of the government's triggermen here in San Cristóbal and they would lose. The idea is not to give them hits so they can take advantage. The idea is to hit their thugs and bosses. If you hit the thugs the rest will scam and shit in their pants. That would be social cleansing, bro.

Audio transcript, Lorent Gómez Saleh, broadcasted Monday, September 15, on Zurda Conducta TV program

VIDEO 2. WARMING UP TÁCHIRA STATE

—**Lorent Gómez:** Táchira state will be our bastion. We will put up a good fight there. Listen, find me the vests there and I would look for them. They are way cheaper there. Let me know.

— **Unknown subject:** [Laughter]

—**Lorent Gómez:** [Álvaro] Uribe is coming here next Saturday and on Monday we are going to close the border bridge. It's going to be hard! We are slowly heating things up in Táchira state. Have

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Propaganda of the uribista candidate Óscar Zuloaga decorates Gómez Saleh's computer.



Costa Rica's former president, Óscar Arias, received Gómez Saleh and other Venezuelans in February, 2014 and stated, together with the terrorist, that human rights are not respected in Venezuela.

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you felt Táchira state becoming fiercer and fiercer? We are going to put pressure on the headquarters.

— **Unknown subject:** What headquarters?

— **Lorent Gómez:** In Villa Del Rosario.

— **Unknown subject:** Great!

— **Lorent Gómez:** We have good Internet connection but we are also looking for technology. Things are looking up in San Cristóbal.

— **Unknown subject:** Ok.

— **Lorent Gómez:** You'll see. On Monday, we are going to try to block and fill Simón Bolívar Bridge with people. We are going to block it, but it won't be necessary to create a big buzz so we can move the hardcore kids in San Cristóbal. Do you know what I'm saying? That's why we don't want to create a big buzz but to activate hard factions. But we are going to wait until those guys harden up first. If they do, we are going to hit them hard, bro, really hard, because we have the means to do so from here. We have everything here. We have all kinds of weapons here. Listen: the important thing is what to do after all of this. We are going to heat things up systematically. We are going to hit hard and then things will get even hotter. Thus we need to do a full training with specialists. That training would be in Bogotá, with ten people. There is a comprehensive training: explosives, strategy, personal defense, skydiving...the works. That would start right after elections, but we need to start mobilizing our kids little by little to Bogotá, because that's where the training will take place. Here we can do training with the field that we have. But the one in Bogotá is just for ten people and specialists. We have found some things for the groups. We already have the camping backpacks. They come with other things. We are only missing the vests, the "9s" and the rifles, but we have everything else we needed. What we are missing now is the rifles and ammo, but you know how those people in Bogotá are. They told me that it had to be done with



In Bogotá, Gómez Saleth stays in the building Colombia Herida, an uribista residence.

military people. In fact, we have a few things now. We are missing now is and explosives expert, who I already found. We have everything. We are going to do it with professionals. We have it all: C4, lots of it and gasoline.

— **Unknown subject:** Of course. But what about here in Venezuela?

— **Lorent Gómez:** Of course. We are near. It's like I said before. But we need supplies. We need all the vests, weapons, ammo and then the diplomatic influence, especially with the people in parole, with the human rights office. So, are we on? The first thing we need to do here is to deactivate liquor stores and nightclubs in San Cristóbal. They need to be blown up and torn down. Fire, fire! Then, we hit Estanislao and the National Electoral Council (CNE). Fire, fire! When there is a bunch of people there – people who are supposed to be super hard – I come in and I would say "fire!" You tell me what you are going to take care of. I will take care of this or that nightclub; if you want, I can take care of the CNE; I can set things up at the CNE.



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