The crisis of Venezuela: the role of the military

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Agenda

• The current role of the military in Venezuela
• The operational context of the Venezuelan military
• Components of military institutions
• Potential scenarios for the coming weeks
Venezuela versus Maduro: the role of the military

Hypothesis

The possibility of a military coup in Venezuela is very remote, but the armed forces aren’t an impartial witness to the Venezuelan crisis. They are part of the problem, not the potential solution.
The context of the military institution in Venezuela

- **Historical factor**
  - Civil War in Venezuela 1864-69
  - Pretorian conception of the military institution

- **Political role of the military (1958-98)**
  - Democratic governments
    - Modernization (academic curriculum and technology)
    - Professionalization (Exclusive dedication to the military mission)

- **Political role of the military (1999 to present)**
  - Political ideology of the military (Cuban influence)
    - Nature
    - Legal framework
    - Capabilities
The components of the military organization

Nature

Legal framework

Capabilities

Principles

Moral

Ethical

Capabilities
Potential scenarios for coming weeks

• **Scenario # 1** (with Constituent Assembly suspended)
  • The opposition continues to raise protest in the streets
  • A military wing rises against the narco general
  • The US government will apply sanction to top regime officials
  • Honorable departure of Maduro and some top leader not wanted by US

• **Scenario # 2** (after July 30 with Constituent Assembly held)
  • Protest with violence with dead and wounded by regime forces
  • PDVSA is embargoed by US
  • A military wing rises against the narco general
  • Honorable departure of Maduro and some top leader not wanted by US

*The main actors in both scenarios are: the military and the United States*