

No Proof Has Appeared Against Brothers to the Rescue

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Since two weeks ago, when the Cuban authorities ordered the downing of the two small aircraft of Brothers to the Rescue, causing the death of their four crew members, the government of Fidel Castro has been stating that it possesses "irrefutable proof" that that organization was carrying out terrorist plans in the island, in connection with the Cuban American National Foundation.

With this accusation, the Cuban government justifies to a large degree its decision to down the small aircraft. Both Jose Basulto, president of Brothers to the Rescue, and the Foundation, have roundly denied these accusations.

Analysts of the Cuban situation expected that the Cuban minister of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Robaina, would offer concrete proof of these accusations in his speech last Wednesday before the United Nations General Assembly.

Nevertheless, Robaina limited himself to saying that "Cuba has sufficient proof" of the plans of Brothers to the Rescue "to dynamite towers of high tension wires in Havana, to sabotage the refinery in Cienfuegos and to carry out assassination attempts against the principal Cuban leaders, among other actions."

In this manner, the 54 minute speech of Robaina became a rhetorical exercise seasoned with statements that Brothers to the Rescue is a "paramilitary organization," and that it is financed "with the dark money of the extremist mafiosos of Miami."

Identical accusations were repeated by Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly of Peoples Power, during the meeting of the Congress of the International Civil Aviation Organization, which agreed to investigate the incident on Wednesday in Montreal, Canada.

Four days after the incident, Castro agreed to an interview in Havana of four and a half hours with executives and journalists of the U.S. magazine Time, in which he explained that he learned of the incident at approximately 4:00 p.m., after the small aircraft had already been downed, even though he admitted that the members of the Cuban military acted following orders agreed to at the end of January by the highest military commanders and the political leadership of the country.

According to the report published in the March 11th edition, which is already in circulation, Castro stated also that his government possesses proof of the ties between Brothers to the Rescue and the Foundation to carry out terrorist actions.

His statements with respect to the Foundation are not new. In his speech of last July 26, Castro said that that organization was implicated in the "preparation of terrorist acts against the people and assassination plots" against directors of the revolution. He added that it is "absolutely impossible" to think that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) did not know about the activities against the Cuban government organized by the exiles.

"Our security forces are alert, we do not speak without proof," Castro then said. "We gave a timely warning and we expect that no one will complain afterwards when the revolutionary

laws energetically confront these serious crimes, nor tries to appeal to the generosity of the revolution.”

To date, the evidence that Cuba characterizes as “irrefutable” have not appeared anywhere. The government has not presented it to the international press nor to the bodies of the UN.

Some analysts have indicated the possibility that the deserter Juan Pablo Roque, who was a member of Brothers to the Rescue, is the most important piece of this evidence that Cuba says it has. It is probable that Roque has utilized his ties with the FBI, the Foundation, and Brothers to the Rescue to sell some story to Cuban intelligence. Nothing strange, given that Roque appears to be a person of no feelings and who, moreover, maintains neither personal nor political loyalty.

"The only thing I miss in Miami is my Jeep Cherokee", declared Roque to Time.

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