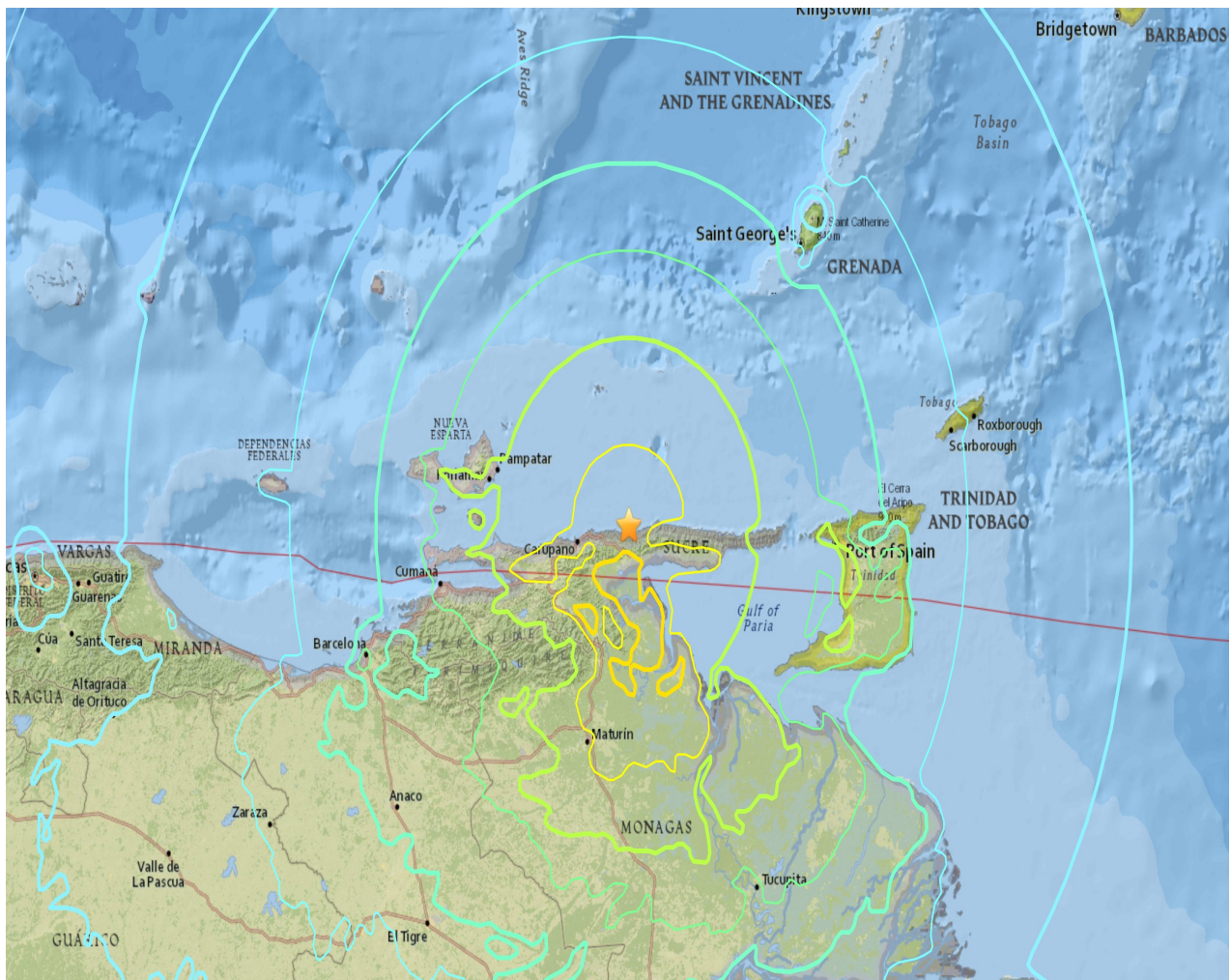


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Watch: Trinidad, Grenada And Venezuela Struck By 7.3 Magnitude Earthquake

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CARIBBEAN -- A 7.3 magnitude earthquake occurred near the northern coast of Venezuela on Tuesday and affected the South American country along with Grenada Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean islands, the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) has announced.

Videos of the earthquake's effect on the Caribbean islands have surfaced, many of which were captured in Trinidad and Tobago and show cars, a grocery store and restaurant shaking as a result.

According to U.S.G.S., the earthquake was a result of oblique reverse faulting at intermediate depth. It was felt more than 600km east in Caracas, Venezuela, where the nation's political leaders were celebrating a "revolutionary" new economic plan they claim will rescue Venezuela's crumbling economy, even as economists fear the plan will make the economy worse, according to The Guardian.

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The Associated Press said the moments after the quake were captured on Venezuelan state television as Diosdado Cabello, one of Venezuela's most powerful politicians, was delivering a speech at a pro-government rally. "Earthquake!" many members of the audience cried, pointing to the ground, as Mr. Cabello and others looked from side to side. "I had never felt such a strong earthquake ?," tweeted María Ramírez Cabello, a Venezuelan journalist who was in Ciudad Bolívar at the time of the quake, alongside images of people running out of a supermarket, according to The Guardian.

According to U.S.G.S., the earthquake had a depth of 76 miles. Its epicenter was northwest of Yaguaraparo, near the Caribbean coast, about 100 miles west of Trinidad and Tobago. According to The New York Times, which quoted the Associated Press, the quake was also felt in Colombia's capital, Bogotá, about 900 miles away.