

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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January 5, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

On January 3, 2026, at my direction, and pursuant to a request from the Attorney General of the United States, the Armed Forces of the United States conducted targeted and limited military strikes within the territory of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. These strikes were in furtherance of the successful apprehension, arrest, and transfer to the United States of Nicolás Maduro Moros ("Maduro"), and Cilia Adela Flores de Maduro ("Flores"), who claimed -- notwithstanding the clear contrary mandate of the Venezuelan people -- to be the President and First Lady of that country.

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York had issued arrest warrants for both of these individuals based on grand jury indictments for their involvement in a wide-ranging conspiracy to conduct narcoterrorism and cocaine trafficking. Maduro led the regime-sponsored enterprise *Cártel de los Soles*, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, which coordinates with and relies on *Tren de Aragua*, also a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization that commits brutal crimes, including murders, kidnappings, extortions, and human, drug, and weapons trafficking, and other organizations, all to carry out its objective of using illegal narcotics as a weapon to "flood" the United States. Under his leadership, Venezuela is an ally of and haven for Cuba, Iran, Hezbollah, and other malign anti-U.S. state and non-state actors. Maduro ran a hybrid criminal state that has perpetrated an invasion of and predatory incursion into the United States, destabilized the Western Hemisphere, caused massive death and human suffering, and which poses a substantial danger to the United States.

Maduro unlawfully refused to peacefully cede power after Venezuelans voted him out of office in the most recent election. Instead, he and Flores employed the full weight of the Venezuelan military to protect themselves and the narco-terrorists with whom they are aligned. And for months, they have resided at a heavily fortified and closely guarded

location beyond the ordinary reach of United States law enforcement, protected by combat-equipped armed associates. The United States Department of Justice anticipated that Maduro and Flores would resist capture by all available means, including by resorting to extreme violence. United States military forces were therefore necessary to help effectuate their apprehension, arrest, and transportation to the United States for criminal prosecution.

The actions of our Armed Forces have been directed by me consistent with my responsibility to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad; to take care that the laws are faithfully executed; to conduct the foreign relations of the United States; and in furtherance of United States national security and foreign policy interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donald Trump", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Charles Grassley
President pro tempore
of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510