DFAT – DECLASSIFIED – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 LEX 13228

From: Global Watch Office
Sent: Saturday, 3 January 2026 6:17 PM
To: DM CCD EL2
Subject: GREY ALERT : Venezuela : Strikes in Caracas [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Global Watch Office
Grey Band Alert

Venezuela

Strikes in Caracas

On Saturday 3 January at approximately 0200 local time (1700 AEDT), witnesses reported several loud explosions, rising smoke and aircraft flying across the Venezuelan capital of Caracas.

Media reports indicate large areas of the city are without electricity.

The explosions come as US President Donald Trump, who deployed a navy task force to the Caribbean, had raised the possibility of ground strikes against Venezuela.

The US and Venezuelan government have currently not issued any statements relating to this event.

GWO is making urgent enquiries with the Embassy in Bogata to ascertain any impacts on Australia's interests.

There have been no calls to the Consular Emergency Centre in relation to this event.

GWO will continue to monitor and provide a Situation Report as new information becomes available.

Media

- Al Jazeera: Explosions heard over Venezuelan capital Caracas amid US tensions
- Reuters: Column of smoke seen, loud noises heard in Venezuelan capital
- AP: At least 7 explosions and low-flying aircraft are heard in Venezuela's Caracas
- CNN: CNN team witnesses multiple explosions in Venezuela's capital Caracas
- NYT: Explosions reported in Venezuela's capital
- Alarabiya: At least 7 explosions and low-flying aircraft heard in Venezuela capital

Image source: Google Maps

***Grey** alerts are issued for incidents/events that **may** impact Australians or Australian interests. This message has been sent to portfolio ministers' offices the DFAT Executive, Duty Officers from MLS, PMO, PM&C, NEMA, ASIO and Defence, relevant HOM, DHOM, SAO, RCO, RSO, bilateral desk/s and policy sections.*

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Ts 22(1)(a)(ii) | Ms 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media
Sent: Saturday, 3 January 2026 8:22 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Julie Shams; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) Media
Subject: Venezuela - media points [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SITREP 2 : Venezuela : Strikes in Caracas [SEC=OFFICIAL]; Re: [EXTERNAL] ABC non-urgent query re Venezuela [SEC=OFFICIAL]; [EXTERNAL] US operation in Caracas

Importance: High

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Good morning s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As requested, sharing the below media TPs prepared by line area in consultation with Bogota, Washington, UNNY and CCD.

POC is Acting FAS TID, Paul Schofield, s 22(1)(a)(ii) .

For your awareness, we received two enquiries overnight/this morning (attached) from s 47F(1) /AFP and s 47F(1) ABC. I have asked for a response by 8am this morning.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 7:08 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sarah deZoeten <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>; Harinder Sidhu <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; George Mina <George.Mina@dfat.gov.au>; Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; Adam Mccarthy <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; Kate Mitchell <Kate.Mitchell@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Shilpa Pullela <Shilpa.Pullela@dfat.gov.au>; John Larkin <John.Larkin@dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Julie Shams <Julie.Shams@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Beth Delaney <Beth.Delaney@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Rachel Moseley <Rachel.Moseley@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; Elizabeth Ward <Elizabeth.Ward@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Venezuela - media points [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached points cleared by Acting FAS TID, Paul Schofield.

With thanks to all who contributed.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Developments in Venezuela

- We are monitoring developments closely and call for calm.
- What is important now is a peaceful, democratic transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.
- We are consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.

Legality of US military action in Venezuela

- Call for de-escalation of tensions.
- We are consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.
- Not in a position to provide a running legal commentary.
- It is for the US to explain the legal basis of its actions.
- What is most important now is a peaceful, democratic transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

Legality of arrest of President Maduro and his wife and their transfer to US

- Not in a position to provide a running legal commentary.
- We are consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.
- It is for the US to explain the legal basis of its actions.

President Trump's stated intention for US to run Venezuela until a safe and judicious transition can take place

- Support a peaceful, democratic transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.
- We are consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.

President Trump's statement that it would be 'very tough' for (de-facto opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize recipient) Maria Corina Machado to lead Venezuela

- Support a peaceful, democratic transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

Does Australia recognize President Maduro?

- Australia has a longstanding policy of recognizing states, not governments

Has the US requested assistance or support for its actions?

- United States military action is a matter for the US Government.
- The US has not requested Australian support.

Will Australia condemn US actions?

- It is for the US to explain the legal basis of its actions.
- Call for de-escalation of tensions.

If pressed:

- We are consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.
- Australia's approach on issues of transnational crime is to cooperate with regional parties to disrupt and prosecute, where possible.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Has the US committed war crimes with respect to strikes on alleged drug boats in the Pacific/Caribbean

- Not in a position to provide a running legal commentary.
- We are consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

<u>Background</u>

s 33(a)(iii)

The US military also conducted air strikes (on military targets) in the Venezuelan states of Miranda, Aragua and La Guair.

In a press conference on 4 January 2026 President Trump said the US was going to run Venezuela "until such a time that we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition". s 33(a)(iii) Priorities were rebuilding Venezuela's oil industry, recovering money lost during the nationalisation of Venezuela's oil sector, and ensuring that the benefits flowed to the Venezuelan people and US investors (who would recuperate losses from past nationalisations). Trump was unclear the extent to which this would involve US boots on the ground.

The Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Maria Corina Machado, welcomed the US intervention, saying the country's "hour of freedom" had arrived and the opposition's candidate for the 2024 elections Edmundo Gonzalez (widely considered to have won with approximately 70% of the vote), should assume the presidency. President Trump said he had not spoken to Machado but that it would be tough for her to take over as leader as she doesn't have support or command respect within the country. He said Secretary of State Rubio had spoken to Venezuela's Vice President, Delcy Rodriguez, who he understood had been sworn in as President. She had expressed her willingness to do whatever is necessary.

The UNSC Presidency has scheduled a meeting on Venezuela for Monday 10am New York time.

As of 31 December, there have been at least 32 reported US strikes against vessels in the Southern Caribbean and Eastern Pacific which have resulted in 116 deaths of people who were allegedly smuggling illicit drugs. On 17 December (AEDT) President Trump ordered, via a Truth Social post, a blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela.

Bogotá Post confirmed all staff and dependents were safe and accounted for. There have been five calls to the Consular Emergency Centre in relation to this event and no consular calls to post.

s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

International Responses

- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he would speak with Trump to 'establish facts first' and consult allies, denying UK involvement and reaffirming his commitment to upholding international law.
- Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand said Canada 'refused to recognise any legitimacy of the Maduro' calling on 'all parties to respect international law and we stand by the people of Venezuela and their desire to live in a peaceful and democratic society'.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres said he was deeply alarmed by the escalation, which he described as 'a dangerous precedent', urging 'full respect, by all, of international law, including the UN Charter'.
- EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU was closely monitoring the situation and reaffirmed support for 'a peaceful and democratic transition'.
- EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas reiterated the EU 'has repeatedly stated that Mr Maduro lacks legitimacy and has defended a peaceful transition'.
- China's foreign ministry strongly condemned US actions and called on the US to 'stop violating other countries' sovereignty and security'.

- Indonesia's foreign ministry said (in Bahasa) it was monitoring the developments to ensure the safety of its nationals and called for de-escalation and respect for international law and the UN Charter.
- France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the US operation breached international law, with grave consequences to global security, but noted that Maduro had deprived Venezuelans of their freedoms.
- Spain's foreign ministry called for de-escalation and respect for international law and the UN Charter, offering to mediate a 'peaceful and negotiated solution to the current crisis', recalling it had never recognised Venezuela's 2024 elections.
    - Spain's Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said (in Spanish) he was monitoring the situation and maintaining close contact with counterparts from Portugal and Italy which, along with Spain, have the largest contingent of EU nationals in Venezuela.
- Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said (in Italian) he was monitoring events, particularly concerning the Italian community.
- Russia's foreign ministry said Moscow was extremely concerned and urged for 'immediate clarification', condemning US actions as 'an unacceptable encroachment on the sovereignty of an independent state'.
- Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Ukraine 'defended the right of nations to live freely, free of dictatorship, oppression, and human rights violations' questioning Maduro's legitimacy.
- Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Israel commended the 'US operation led by President Trump' who 'acted as the leader of the free world'.
- Switzerland called (in German) for 'de-escalation, restraint, and compliance with international law, including the prohibition on the use of force'.
- Iran's foreign ministry strongly condemned 'the US military attack on Venezuela and the blatant violation of the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity'.
- A number of other statements were released including by Qatar, Albania, Kosovo, Qatar and Türkiye.
- Protests have been called outside US embassies against US actions in Venezuela, including in Australia, UK, Germany, Spain, France and Türkiye.
- Multiple countries issued consular alerts or updated travel advisories to warn against all travel to Venezuela including Canada, UK, Ireland, India, South Korea, Japan and China.

Regional Responses

- Brazil President Inácio Lula da Silva said the 'bombings on Venezuelan territory and the capture of its president cross an unacceptable line'.
- Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum condemned 'the military intervention in Venezuela' with the foreign ministry affirming (in Spanish) Mexico's 'willingness to support any efforts to facilitate dialogue, mediation, or accompaniment that contribute to preserving regional peace and avoiding confrontation'.
- Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel denounced (in Spanish) the strikes as 'state terrorism'.
- Colombia mobilised its armed forced to the border with Venezuela amid concerns over a refugee 'influx' following condemnation by its president Gustavo Petro.
- Chile's President Gabriel Boric Font expressed (in Spanish) 'concern and condemnation' and reaffirmed Chile's commitment to international law.
- Argentina's President Javier Milei posted (in Spanish) an earlier statement in which he described Maduro as a regional threat and backing US pressure on Caracas.
- Panama's foreign ministry reaffirmed (in Spanish) its commitment to democracy and human rights, expressed concern over developments in Venezuela while condemning Maduro's authoritarianism and repression.
- Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar denied any participation in US military operations and reaffirmed 'peaceful relations with the people of Venezuela'.
- Uruguay's foreign ministry said (in Spanish) Uruguay 'rejects, as it always has, military intervention by one country in the territory of another and reaffirms the importance of respecting international law and the UN Charter'.
- Ecuador's President Gabriel Noboa Azin said (in Spanish) 'the time is coming for all the narco-Chavista criminals', reaffirming his support for the 'Venezuelan people'.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Director | Latin America and Caribbean Section
ALM | TID
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
M s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this page, together with the following pages (10-11) are irrelevant and have been removed

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From: Global Watch Office
Sent: Saturday, 3 January 2026 8:38 PM
To: DM CPB
Subject: SITREP 1 : Venezuela : Strikes in Caracas [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Global Watch Office
Situation Report

Venezuela
Strikes in Caracas

Key Developments

- Media is reporting US President Donald Trump ordered strikes on sites inside Venezuela.
  - At least seven explosions and low-flying aircraft were heard in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas around 0200 local time (1700 AEDT).
  - Media is reporting US strikes hit Fuerte Tiuna military base, La Carlota airbase, El Volcan signal antenna and La Guaira Port in Caracas.
  - Strikes were also reported in the states of Miranda and Aragua.
- President Trump said Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife were 'captured and flown out of the country'.
  - Trump said the operation was undertaken in conjunction with US law enforcement.
- Maduro earlier issued a statement (in Spanish), denouncing what he called an 'imperial attack' and declared a state of emergency.
  - Maduro said the goal of the attack was for the US to take possession of the country's oil and minerals. Venezuela rejected 'military aggression' by the US and said the US 'will not succeed' in taking the resources.
  - Venezuela said the strikes were a 'flagrant violation' of UN Charter Articles 1 and 2 and it reserved the right to 'exercise legitimate defence to protect its people, its territory and its independence'.
- The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a NOTAM prohibiting US commercial planes from flying at any altitude over Venezuela, citing safety risks 'associated with ongoing military activity.' The notice was effective for 23 hours starting at 0200 Saturday (local time).
- The US issued a security alert for Venezuela, advising US citizens to shelter in place.

Australian Government Response

- Bogota post confirmed all staff and their dependents were safe and well. To post's knowledge, there are no officers currently in Venezuela.
- There have been four calls to the Consular Emergency Centre in relation to this event.
- Smartraveller social media/travel advice have been updated. Venezuela is a Do Not Travel location.

International Responses

- Colombia's President Gustavo Petro said (in Spanish) 'Caracas is under attack right now. Alert the world: Venezuela has been attacked! They are bombarding with missiles. The OAS and the UN must meet immediately.'
    - Petro published what he claimed was a list of bombed installations in Venezuela, including the Cuartel de la Montaña barracks in Caracas, a military base that is home to the mausoleum of Nicolás Maduro's mentor, Hugo Chávez.
    - Colombia began a term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council on 2 January.

Media

- *Live updates: BBC, Bloomberg, CNN, Guardian, NYT, WP*
- Reuters: Venezuela blames explosions on US 'military aggression'
- AP: Explosions ring out in Venezuela as Maduro's government accuses US of attack

DFAT.GOV.AU

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Ts 22(1)(a)(ii) | Ms 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Saturday, 3 January 2026 9:33 PM
To: Paul Schofield; John Larkin; Dougal McInnes
Cc: Sarah deZoeten; George Mina; Harinder Sidhu; Kate Mitchell; Adam Mccarthy; Anna Oldmeadow; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: US strikes on Venezuela [redacted]

[redacted]

Hi all

Thanks for DFAT's updates so far tonight. From these, and messages below, we understand you're in touch with posts to seek further information overnight on Venezuela. **We would appreciate TPs by 7am**, as we will need to finalise shortly after that.

In addition to Washington, and Bogota, if not already planned we'd also welcome any initial views from UNNY.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – appreciate if you could also include our Press Sec on duty, s 22(1)(a)(ii) and Anna Oldmeadow and s 22(1)(a)(ii) on any email updates.

Thanks very much
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this section, together with the following pages (15-16) are irrelevant and have been removed

From: Media
Sent: Saturday, 3 January 2026 9:53 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) Media
Subject: RE: **For FMO clearance** Media enquiries (various) re Venezuela developments [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further to my previous email, s 47E(d)

//

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

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From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 8:51 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: **For FMO clearance** Media enquiries (various) re Venezuela developments [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR CLEARANCE
JOURNALIST: Various
DEADLINE: ASAP
DFAT POC: Paul Schofield, a/g FAS TID, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful for your clearance on media enquiries for various journalists (attached and below) on the Venezuela developments.

In the event you do not have it, I attach the GWO sitrep noting five calls to Consular Operations.

MO background to follow.

//
Attributable to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson:
The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is monitoring developments closely.

What is most important now is a peaceful, democratic transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

Australia has been consistent in stating our position that adherence to international law is important.

Australia has a longstanding position of recognizing states, not governments.

We are making urgent enquiries with consular partners with diplomatic representation in Caracas to determine whether any Australians were impacted. We stand ready to provide consular assistance.

The Smartraveller advice for Venezuela was last updated on 3 January 2026. We continue to advise 'Do not travel' to Venezuela due to the dangerous security situation, the threat of violent crime, political and economic instability and risk of arbitrary detention (level 4 of 4).

//

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media
Sent: Saturday, 3 January 2026 9:59 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Media
Subject: RE: **For FMO clearance** Media enquiries (various) re Venezuela developments [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Noted with thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 8:58 AM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: **For FMO clearance** Media enquiries (various) re Venezuela developments [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you s 22(1)(a)(ii)

For now, can we please refer all requests for Aus Gov statement to the PM's statement until we have anything further:

https://x.com/AlboMP/status/2007566917935276386?s=20

Thank you

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2026 8:51 AM

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (22-23) are a duplicate and have been removed

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 LEX 13228

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEDIA TALKING POINTS
DISTRIBUTION: STANDARD

Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC
Subject: United States - Trump Administration

Originating Division: GPD

Version Date: 4/1/2026
Version: 51

Reason for Update: US military action in Venezuela
Expiry: 31/01/2026

Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

US military action in Venezuela

What is the Government's reaction to US strikes in Venezuela/capture of Maduro?

- *The Australian Government is monitoring developments in Venezuela.*
- *The situation is moving quickly and officials will continue to engage with international partners as circumstances evolve.*
- *As the Prime Minister has said, Australia has long held concerns about the situation in Venezuela, including the need to respect democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms.*
- *We continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.*

Were the US military actions in Venezuela legal?

- *We continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.*
- *Not in a position to provide a running legal commentary.*
- *It is for the US to explain the legal basis of its actions.*

What is the Government's response to President Trump's stated intention for US to run Venezuela until a 'safe and judicious transition' can take place?

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- *We continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.*

What is the Government's response to President Trump's statement that it would be 'very tough' for (de-facto opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize recipient) Maria Corina Machado to lead Venezuela?

- *Support a peaceful, democratic transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.*

Does Australia recognise President Maduro?

- *Australia has a longstanding policy of recognising states, not governments.*
- *Australia has long held concerns about the situation in Venezuela, including the need to respect democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms.*

Was Australia involved in the US actions/has the US requested assistance for its actions?

- *The US has not requested Australian support and Australia was not involved in these actions.*
- *No ADF personnel were involved in any stage of the operation.*

Will Australia condemn US actions?

- *It is for the US to explain the legal basis of its actions.*
- *We continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.*

If pressed:

- *Australia's approach on issues of transnational crime is to cooperate with regional parties to disrupt and prosecute, where possible.*

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this section, together with the following pages (20-36) are irrelevant and have been removed

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

US military actions in Venezuela

s 33(a)(iii)

The US military also conducted air strikes (on military targets) in several Venezuelan states.

In a press conference on 4 January 2026 (AEDT) President Trump said the US was going to 'run' Venezuela 'until such a time that we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition.' s 33(a)(iii)

the US could not take the chance that 'bad people' could take over. Priorities were rebuilding Venezuela's oil industry, recovering money lost during the nationalisation of the oil sector, and ensuring that the benefits flowed to the Venezuelan people and US investors. s 33(a)(iii)

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The Venezuelan Government issued a communique which 'rejects, repudiates, and denounces…the extremely serious military aggression' of the United States. It condemns the 'imperial aggression' as a violation of articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Charter, saying that it aims at seizing Venezuela's strategic resources and forcing regime change. The communique also calls the Venezuelan people 'to the streets' and directs 'all social and political forces in the country to activate mobilization plans and repudiate this imperialist attack'.

The Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Maria Corina Machado, welcomed the US intervention, saying the country's 'hour of freedom' had arrived and the opposition's candidate for the 2024 elections Edmundo Gonzalez s 33(a)(iii)
should assume the presidency. President Trump said it would be tough for her to take over s 33(a)(iii)
He said Secretary of State Rubio had spoken to Venezuela's Vice President, Delcy Rodriguez, s 33(a)(iii)
Late on 3 January, the Venezuelan Supreme Court reportedly directed Rodriguez to assume the powers and duties of acting president.

s 33(a)(iii) . s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian response

On 4 January, the Prime Minister posted on X:

'The Australian Government is monitoring developments in Venezuela. We urge all parties to support dialogue and diplomacy in order to secure regional stability and prevent escalation. Australia has long held concerns about the situation in Venezuela, including the need to respect democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.'

International responses

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At the request of Colombia, the United Nations Security Council President (Somalia) has scheduled an open briefing on Venezuela for Monday 5 January 10am (EST) (early morning 6 January AEDT). Colombia's request was supported by China and Russia. UN Secretary-General Guterres' spokesperson said he was 'deeply alarmed' and highlighted the 'dangerous precedent' of recent developments, saying he was 'deeply concerned that the rules of international law [had] not been respected.'

UK PM Starmer stressed that the UK was not involved in the US action, reiterated support for international law, and said he wanted to speak to President Trump and allies to establish the facts. Canadian PM Carney 'welcome[d] the opportunity for freedom, democracy, peace, and prosperity for the Venezuelan people' and called on all parties to respect international law. New Zealand FM Peters said he was 'concerned' and expected all parties to act in accordance with international law. All supported a democratic transition.

In the region, Mexico condemned US military actions in Venezuela and urged respect for international law. Central American responses varied, with El Salvador and Honduras supporting the strikes and Guatemala voicing concerns similar to Mexico. Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama backed Venezuela's democratic transition. Colombia mobilised its armed forced to the border with Venezuela amid concerns over a refugee 'influx' following condemnation by its president Gustavo Petro. Cuba demanded Maduro's release and an international response. s 33(a)(iii) *. Caricom issued a short statement describing the situation as 'of grave concern to the Region with possible implications for neighbouring countries.'*

Selected further international reactions as at 1700 4 January (AEDT):

- *EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU was closely monitoring the situation and reaffirmed support for 'a peaceful and democratic transition'*
  - *EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas reiterated the EU 'has repeatedly stated that Mr Maduro lacks legitimacy and has defended a peaceful transition'.*
- *France's President Emmanuel Macron (in Spanish) called for a quick and peaceful transition of power to Edmundo González Urrutia*
  - *France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the US operation breached international law, with grave consequences to global security, but noted that Maduro had deprived Venezuelans of their freedoms.*
- *Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Maduro had led his country to ruin and the most recent election was rigged. Germany did not recognise his presidency.*
- *Spain's foreign ministry called for de-escalation and respect for international law and the UN Charter, offering to mediate a 'peaceful and negotiated solution to the current crisis', recalling it had never recognised Venezuela's 2024 elections.*
- *Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Maduro presided over a brutal and repressive dictatorship and end of his regime offers hope. It is not the time to comment on the legality.*
- *China's foreign ministry strongly condemned US actions and called on the US to 'stop violating other countries' sovereignty and security'*
  - *according to media reports, China's foreign ministry has called for Maduro's immediate release.*

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- *Russia's foreign ministry said Moscow was extremely concerned and urged for 'immediate clarification', condemning US actions as 'an unacceptable encroachment on the sovereignty of an independent state'.*
- *Brazil President Inácio Lula da Silva said the 'bombings on Venezuelan territory and the capture of its president cross an unacceptable line'.*
- *Chile's President Gabriel Boric Font expressed (in Spanish) 'concern and condemnation' and reaffirmed Chile's commitment to international law.*
- *Argentina's President Javier Milei posted (in Spanish) an earlier statement in which he described Maduro as a regional threat and backing US pressure on Caracas.*
- *Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar denied any participation in US military operations and reaffirmed 'peaceful relations with the people of Venezuela'.*
- *Uruguay's foreign ministry said (in Spanish) Uruguay 'rejects, as it always has, military intervention by one country in the territory of another and reaffirms the importance of respecting international law and the UN Charter'.*
- *Ecuador's President Gabriel Noboa Azin said (in Spanish) 'the time is coming for all the narco-Chavista criminals', reaffirming his support for the 'Venezuelan people'.*
- *Indonesia's foreign ministry said (in Bahasa) it was monitoring the developments to ensure the safety of its nationals and called for de-escalation and respect for international law and the UN Charter.*
- *Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Israel commended the 'US operation led by President Trump' who 'acted as the leader of the free world'.*

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Handling Notes

Media Interest

Approval	
Consultation	N/A
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) , GPD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Dougal McInnes, Assistant Secretary US Branch

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this section, together with the following pages (42-43) are irrelevant and have been removed

From: Media
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 3:47 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) Media
Subject: RE: Venezuela consular response [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Categories: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Many thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We responded to the below who enquired on the consular angle:

s 47F(1) /10 News
s 47F(1) /ABC
s 47F(1) /ABC
s 47F(1) /7 News
s 47F(1) /SMH

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P +61 2 6261 1555
dfat.gov.au | X | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 2:24 PM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Venezuela consular response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you for clarifying. Please can you send to those who have enquired on the consular angle?

I believe there was channel 10 and channel 7 (and you may have received others).

From: "Media" <media@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 4 January 2026 at 1:01:02 pm
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Media" <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Venezuela consular response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR CLEARANCE
JOURNALIST: Various
DEADLINE: ASAP
DFAT POCs:

- Paul Schofield, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Trade Resilience Indo-Pacific Economic and Latin America Division – s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Dougal McInnes, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Geostrategy and Partnerships Division (AS US Branch) – s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- s 22(1)(a)(ii) , SES DO CCD - s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

CCD confirmed Venezuela was designated 'Do Not Travel' on 12 February 2019. I have included a line below indicating that date.

Grateful for your clearance of the response below to all journalist consular enquiries regarding Venezuela.

We will use this response for the remainder of today/the weekend, pending updates. Let us know if you would like the PM's statement included.

//

Please see the Prime Minister's statement:

https://x.com/AlboMP/status/2007566917935276386?s=20

Attributable to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is making urgent enquiries with consular partners with diplomatic representation in Caracas to determine whether any Australians were impacted. We stand ready to provide consular assistance.

The travel advice for Venezuela remains "Do Not Travel" due to the dangerous security situation. Smartraveller advises Australians, if they're in Venezuela, to leave as soon as it's safe to do so.

If Australians are in Venezuela despite our advice, be prepared to shelter in place. Monitor media and subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Background (for reporting, not for attribution):

The Smartraveller ~~advice for Venezuela was last updated on 3 January 2026.~~ advice for Venezuela was updated to "Do Not Travel" on 12 February 2019. It continues to advise 'Do not travel' to Venezuela due to the dangerous security situation, the threat of violent crime, political and economic instability and risk of arbitrary detention (level 4 of 4).

Australia does not have an Embassy in Venezuela; our ability to provide consular assistance in Venezuela is severely limited. We remain in close contact with like-minded partners in Caracas.

Australians in Venezuela who need assistance can contact the 24/7 emergency consular assistance team at +61 2 6261 3305 from anywhere in the world or 1300 555 135 from within Australia.
//

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 11:28 AM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Venezuela consular response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

I know we have received a few questions regarding Australians affected. Have pulled the below from things you have sent, but can we please clarify when Venezuela was made "Do Not Travel"? I want to be clear that it is not in reaction to this. Happy for a different formulation of that language also to clarify.

Attributable to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is making urgent enquiries with consular partners with diplomatic representation in Caracas to determine whether any Australians were impacted. We stand ready to provide consular assistance.

The travel advice for Venezuela remains "Do Not Travel" due to the dangerous security situation. Smartraveller advises Australians, if they're in Venezuela, to leave as soon as it's safe to do so.

If Australians are in Venezuela despite our advice, be prepared to shelter in place. Monitor media and subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Background (for reporting, not for attribution):

The Smartraveller advice for Venezuela was last updated on 3 January 2026. It continues to advise 'Do not travel' to Venezuela due to the dangerous security situation, the threat of violent crime, political and economic instability and risk of arbitrary detention (level 4 of 4).

Australia does not have an Embassy in Venezuela; our ability to provide consular assistance in Venezuela is severely limited. We remain in close contact with like-minded partners in Caracas.

Australians in Venezuela who need assistance can contact the 24/7 emergency consular assistance team at +61 2 6261 3305 from anywhere in the world or 1300 555 135 from within Australia.

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Thank you,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Global Watch Office
To: DM CPB
Subject: SITREP 2 : Venezuela : Strikes in Caracas [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Sunday, 4 January 2026 5:03:59 AM
Attachments: image005.png
image006.png
image001.png

OFFICIAL

Venezuela

Strikes in Caracas

Key Developments

- US President Donald Trump said the US would 'run' Venezuela 'until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition' following the capture of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro.
  - Trump shared a photo of Maduro in captivity and footage of the strikes on Caracas.
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio asserted Maduro was not Venezuela's legitimate president but the leader of a cartel under US indictment for drug trafficking.
  - The Department of Justice released the indictment of Maduro, his wife and son.
- US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said Trump was 'deadly serious about getting back the oil that was stolen from us and deadly serious about reestablishing American deterrence and dominance in the Western Hemisphere'.
- US Vice President JD Vance said Trump had offered 'multiple offramps' and was clear 'the drug trafficking must stop, and the stolen oil must be returned to the United States'.
- US Attorney General Pamela Bondi announced Maduro and his wife would face multiple charges in the Southern District of New York, including 'narco-terrorism conspiracy' and 'cocaine importation conspiracy'.
- Media reported the US Army's Delta Force, an elite special forces unit, conducted the mission with the CIA tracking Maduro's location for some time.
- Travel to, from and throughout the Caribbean is expected to be severely disrupted with major US and international airlines cancelling flights across the region, including to Puerto Rico and Aruba.
- Following the US FAA's NOTAM, the EU's aviation safety agency issued an advisory recommending EU airlines not operate in Venezuelan airspace.
  - Flight tracking monitoring sites show Venezuelan airspace is entirely empty of commercial flights.
- Internet monitoring metrics indicated ongoing connectivity losses in parts of Caracas.

Australian Government Response

- Bogotá Post confirmed all staff and dependents were safe and accounted for. To post's knowledge, there were no Australian Government officers in Venezuela.
  - Bogotá post advised it would raise its Crisis Action Plan (CAP) level to Yellow.
- There have been five calls to the Consular Emergency Centre in relation to this event and no

consular calls to post.

- Smartraveller travel advice and social media updates have been updated. Venezuela remains classified as a 'Do Not Travel' destination.

Local Government Response

- Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said Maduro's whereabouts were 'unknown' and demanded 'proof of life' from the US. She remains the highest-ranking official in the country.
    - Some media were reporting she was now in Russia, accompanied by her brother, Jorge Rodríguez, the head of the national assembly.
- Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino López accused US forces of attacking 'residential areas populated by civilians' and announced Venezuela would initiate a 'massive deployment of all land, air, naval, riverine and missile capabilities ... for comprehensive defence'.
- Foreign Minister Yván Gil Pinto called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. Colombia, currently a Council member, confirmed it will request an emergency session. South Africa also voiced support for convening the UNSC.

International Responses

- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he would speak with Trump to 'establish facts first' and consult allies, denying UK involvement and reaffirming his commitment to upholding international law.
- Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand said Canada 'refused to recognise any legitimacy of the Maduro' calling on 'all parties to respect international law and we stand by the people of Venezuela and their desire to live in a peaceful and democratic society'.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres said he was deeply alarmed by the escalation, which he described as 'a dangerous precedent', urging 'full respect, by all, of international law, including the UN Charter'.
- EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU was closely monitoring the situation and reaffirmed support for 'a peaceful and democratic transition'.
- EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas reiterated the EU 'has repeatedly stated that Mr Maduro lacks legitimacy and has defended a peaceful transition'.
- China's foreign ministry strongly condemned US actions and called on the US to 'stop violating other countries' sovereignty and security'.
- Indonesia's foreign ministry said (in Bahasa) it was monitoring the developments to ensure the safety of its nationals and called for de-escalation and respect for international law and the UN Charter.
- France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the US operation breached international law, with grave consequences to global security, but noted that Maduro had deprived Venezuelans of their freedoms.
- Spain's foreign ministry called for de-escalation and respect for international law and the UN Charter, offering to mediate a 'peaceful and negotiated solution to the current crisis', recalling it had never recognised Venezuela's 2024 elections.
    - Spain's Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said (in Spanish) he was monitoring the situation and maintaining close contact with counterparts from Portugal and Italy which, along with Spain, have the largest contingent of EU nationals in Venezuela.
- Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said (in Italian) he was monitoring events, particularly concerning the Italian community.
- Russia's foreign ministry said Moscow was extremely concerned and urged for 'immediate clarification', condemning US actions as 'an unacceptable encroachment on the sovereignty of an independent state'.
- Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Ukraine 'defended the right of nations to live freely, free of dictatorship, oppression, and human rights violations' questioning Maduro's legitimacy.
- Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Israel commended the 'US operation led by President Trump' who 'acted as the leader of the free world'.
- Switzerland called (in German) for 'de-escalation, restraint, and compliance with international

law, including the prohibition on the use of force'.

- Iran's foreign ministry strongly condemned 'the US military attack on Venezuela and the blatant violation of the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity'.
- A number of other statements were released including by Qatar, Albania, Kosovo, Qatar and Türkiye.
- Protests have been called outside US embassies against US actions in Venezuela, including in Australia, UK, Germany, Spain, France and Türkiye.
- Multiple countries issued consular alerts or updated travel advisories to warn against all travel to Venezuela including Canada, UK, Ireland, India, South Korea, Japan and China.

Regional Responses

- Brazil President Inácio Lula da Silva said the 'bombings on Venezuelan territory and the capture of its president cross an unacceptable line'.
- Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum condemned 'the military intervention in Venezuela' with the foreign ministry affirming (in Spanish) Mexico's 'willingness to support any efforts to facilitate dialogue, mediation, or accompaniment that contribute to preserving regional peace and avoiding confrontation'.
- Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel denounced (in Spanish) the strikes as 'state terrorism'.
- Colombia mobilised its armed forced to the border with Venezuela amid concerns over a refugee 'influx' following condemnation by its president Gustavo Petro.
- Chile's President Gabriel Boric Font expressed (in Spanish) 'concern and condemnation' and reaffirmed Chile's commitment to international law.
- Argentina's President Javier Milei posted (in Spanish) an earlier statement in which he described Maduro as a regional threat and backing US pressure on Caracas.
- Panama's foreign ministry reaffirmed (in Spanish) its commitment to democracy and human rights, expressed concern over developments in Venezuela while condemning Maduro's authoritarianism and repression.
- Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar denied any participation in US military operations and reaffirmed 'peaceful relations with the people of Venezuela'.
- Uruguay's foreign ministry said (in Spanish) Uruguay 'rejects, as it always has, military intervention by one country in the territory of another and reaffirms the importance of respecting international law and the UN Charter'.
- Ecuador's President Gabriel Noboa Azin said (in Spanish) 'the time is coming for all the narco-Chavista criminals', reaffirming his support for the 'Venezuelan people'.

Media

- *Live updates: abcNEWS, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, CBS, CNN, euronews, France 24, NYT, WP*

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Ts 22(1)(a)(ii) | Ms 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2026 7:51 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Sarah deZoeten <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>; Harinder Sidhu <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>; George Mina <George.Mina@dfat.gov.au>; Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; Kate Mitchell <Kate.Mitchell@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Shilpa Pullela <Shilpa.Pullela@dfat.gov.au>; John Larkin <John.Larkin@dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Julie Shams <Julie.Shams@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Beth Delaney <Beth.Delaney@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Rachel Moseley <Rachel.Moseley@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth Ward <Elizabeth.Ward@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Venezuela - media points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

No worries s 22(1)(a)(ii) .AS

Views from Washington Post are set out in s 22(1)(a)(ii) which was sent a few hours ago. I will also forward it to you. Also worth noting s 22(1)(a)(ii) from Bogotá post. And yes UNSC point was from UNNY.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards
Paul

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 4 January 2026 at 06:24:57
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Sarah deZoeten" <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>, "Harinder Sidhu" <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>, "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>, "George Mina" <George.Mina@dfat.gov.au>, "Anna Oldmeadow" <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>, "Adam Mccarthy" <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Dougal McInnes" <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>, "Kate Mitchell" <Kate.Mitchell@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Shilpa Pullela" <Shilpa.Pullela@dfat.gov.au>, "John Larkin" <John.Larkin@dfat.gov.au>, "Media" <media@dfat.gov.au>, "Julie Shams" <Julie.Shams@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Beth Delaney" <Beth.Delaney@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Rachel Moseley" <Rachel.Moseley@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth Ward" <Elizabeth.Ward@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Venezuela - media points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Huge thanks for the updates and proposed TPs below, particularly in the timeframe you've had over a shutdown weekend.

Pending any views you've gotten back from posts overnight; we wanted to check two things:

- Are there any initial views from UNNY or DC? (noting we presume point about UNSC meeting is from UNNY)
- Is DFAT comfortable with us saying that we are engaging with international partners on this issue (we'd plan to keep it general enough to encompass engagement in coming days).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Best regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Paul Schofield
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 2:45 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Sarah deZoeten; Dougal McInnes
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; John Larkin
Subject: Re: Venezuela media response - your review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) Liaising with relevant posts and will come back to you ASAP.

Kind regards
Paul

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 4 January 2026 at 14:10:54
To: "Sarah deZoeten" <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>, "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>, "Dougal McInnes" <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Venezuela media response - your review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah, Paul and Dougal

Further to our chat earlier Sarah, we are finalising a line for media this afternoon on engagement with international partners. We'd welcome your review and clearance, or comments, as soon as you're able on the sentences below.

"The Australian Government is monitoring developments in Venezuela. The situation is moving quickly and officials will continue to engage with international partners as circumstances evolve."

Thanks very much
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: Global Watch Office
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 5:16 PM
To: DM CCD EL2
Subject: SITREP 3 : Venezuela : Strikes in Caracas [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Global Watch Office
Situation Report

Venezuela
Strikes in Caracas

Key Developments

- Nicolás Maduro was taken to New York City to face federal drug charges. Media is reporting he will be held at the Metropolitan Detention Center.
  - Maduro was extracted from Venezuela on the USS Iwo Jima and transported to Guantanamo Bay, before being flown to New York Stewart International airport.
  - An arraignment hearing is expected.
- Media reports at least 40 Venezuelan soldiers and civilians were killed during the US attack.
- US President Donald Trump said US forces in the region remained 'at a high state of readiness' (s 22(1)(a)(ii)
  - Trump said major US oil companies would move into Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves, and refurbish badly degraded oil infrastructure as part of the takeover.
- The UN Security Council is scheduled to meet on Monday as requested by Colombia, supported by Russia and China (s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Venezuela's air space continues to be empty (Flightradar24).
- US Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy said restrictions on Caribbean airspace were expiring at midnight local time (1600 Sunday 4 January AEDT).
  - Delta and United Airlines confirmed preparations to resume most flights from Sunday
  - Delta, United Airlines, Frontier Airlines, Spirit Airlines and JetBlue Airways earlier cancelled flights in compliance with the flight restrictions on Saturday (local time).
- Open source reporting indicates no public ferries are currently operating.
- Media reported security at the Venezuelan borders with Brazil and Colombia was strengthened.
  - Venezuela temporarily closed its border with Brazil (also see s 22(1)(a)(ii)
  - Colombia's President Gustavo Petro said he had deployed security forces at the country's border in case of a 'massive influx of refugees'.

- A US security alert was issued for Venezuela, advising the situation was fluid, commercial flights were not currently operational and to enrol in the Smart Traveler Enrolment Program.
- The US issued alerts for demonstrations outside US Embassies in Latin America (including Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico).

Australian Government Response

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged all parties to support dialogue and diplomacy to secure regional stability and prevent escalation.
- Leader of the Opposition Sussan Ley stated the Coalition welcomed the announcement that Nicolás Maduro had been taken into custody ...
- Bogota post reported on the situation in Caracas in s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Bogota post activated the Crisis Action Plan (CAP) for Venezuela to Yellow. The CAP for Colombia remains at Green s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Smartraveller travel advice was updated for Venezuela.
    - Smartraveller social media was updated to reflect expected flight disruptions in the region.
- There have been eight (8) calls to the Consular Emergency Centre and Bogotá Post in relation to this event.

Local Government Response

- Venezuela's Supreme Court directed Vice President Delcy Rodriguez to assume the powers and duties of acting president on Saturday evening (local time).

International Responses

- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer stated the UK has long supported a transition of power in Venezuela, and would shed no tears about the end of Maduro's regime.
- Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada had imposed additional sanctions on the Maduro regime in March, unequivocally condemning his grave breaches of peace and security ...
- Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand issued a statement reiterating that Canada refused to recognise the legitimacy of the Maduro regime and called for restraint ...
- New Zealand's Foreign Minister Winston Peters said NZ was actively monitoring developments and expects all parties to act in accordance with international law.
- Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs David van Weel confirmed the Netherlands did not recognise the Maduro regime and urged all parties to prevent further escalation.
- France's President Emmanuel Macron (in French) called for a quick and peaceful transition of power to Edmundo González Urrutia
    - Macron further stated (in Spanish) that France supports María Corina Machado's call for the liberation and the protection of the political prisoners of Nicolás Maduro's regime.
- Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Maduro had led his country to ruin and the most recent election was rigged. Germany did not recognise his presidency ...
- Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Maduro presided over a brutal and repressive dictatorship and end of his regime offers hope. It is not the time to comment on the legality ...
- The African Union released a communique that expressed solidarity with the Venezuelan people and called for all parties to exercise restraint, responsibility and respect for international law ...

Regional Responses

- s 33(a)(iii)
- Cuba issued a statement condemning the 'cowardly US aggression' and pledge support for Executive Vice President Delcy Rodriguez.

- Peru released a statement (in Spanish) that the 'illegitimate government of Nicolás Maduro violated the human rights of the Venezuelan people', and called for a swift resolution in favour of a transition with 'full respect for international law'.
- Guyana's President Dri Irfaan Ali pledged Guyana's support towards efforts that uphold democratic norms.
- Jamaica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement to clarify their primary concern remained for the people of Venezuela, the maintenance of democracy ...
- CARICOM stated it was actively monitoring the situation including possible implications on the Caribbean community.
- Trinidad and Tobago confirmed its airspace remained open despite the US ban on commercial flights in Venezuelan airspace (s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media

- *Live updates: Al Jazeera, CNN, France 24, NYT, WSJ*
- AP: US plans to 'run' Venezuela and tap its oil reserves, Trump says, after operation to oust Maduro
- Reuters: US lifts Caribbean airspace curbs after attack on Venezuela
- Reuters: Brazil says US crossed 'unacceptable line' on Venezuela as officials track border
- Al Jazeera: Venezuela temporarily closes border with Brazil following US strike

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Australian Government Global Watch Office
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 4 January 2026 6:58 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan <Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>; Sarah deZoeten <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>; George Mina <George.Mina@dfat.gov.au>; Ravi Kewalram <Ravi.Kewalram@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; Shilpa Pullela <Shilpa.Pullela@dfat.gov.au>; Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: NSC Brief - US military actions in Venezuela [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Happy new year.

Please find attached a brief for NSC tomorrow concerning the US actions in Venezuela, cleared by A/g DepSec deZoeten. We'll provide any required updates in the morning before 8.00, including updating international reactions. We'll also add in a legal paragraph in the background.

s 47E(d)

Separately we'll update the whole-of-government US TPs with lines on the Venezuela situation this evening.

Please let us know if you need anything further.

Thank you,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | United States Global Issues Section
US Branch | Geostrategy and Partnerships Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 34(1)(c) – this page, together with the following pages (61-6) are irrelevant and have been removed

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 2:05 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media; Media
Subject: **MO Only Background** s 47F(1) /Capital Brief - Venezuela [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see MO only background.

//

s 47E(d)

//

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 1:04 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: **For FMO Clearance** s 47F(1) /Capital Brief - Venezuela [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR CLEARANCE
JOURNALIST: s 47F(1) /Capital Brief
DEADLINE: 2pm today
POC: s 22(1)(a)(ii), A/g AS US Branch, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Good afternoon s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As requested, please see below response for s 47F(1) /Capital Brief regarding Venezuela.

Legal Division and Trade Resilience Indo-Pacific/Latin America Division were consulted on this response.

MO only background to follow.

//

On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution):
Further to the Prime Minister's statement, we continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

It is for the United States to set out the facts and explain the legal basis for its actions. We are not in a position to provide a running legal commentary.

//

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Media enquiry: Venezuela [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Can you please draft a response to the below?

Thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 3:43 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media; Media
Subject: **For FMO Clearance** s 47F(1) /Seven News - Venezuela UN [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR CLEARANCE
JOURNALIST: s 47F(1) /Seven News
DEADLINE: 4pm today
POC: s 22(1)(a)(ii), A/g AS US Branch, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii) ,

Grateful clearance for the below response to go to s 47F(1) /Seven News regarding Venezuela and the UNSC.

Alternatively, would suggest the same statement as being provided to s 47F(1) /Capital Brief.

//

On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution):

Further to the Prime Minister's statement, we continue to support international law and a peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

Officials are engaging with international partners and will continue to do so as circumstances evolve.

//

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 10:55 AM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Media enquiry: Australia's role in further global dialogue over US action in Venezuela (The West/The Nightly) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED – RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 LEX 13228

Hello,

We have received the below. Could you please assist with a draft response?

If useful, this is what we had from TPs on engagement:

- Officials are engaging with international partners and will continue to do so as circumstances evolve.
- Australia does not have an Embassy in Venezuela, so officials are engaging with partner missions both in Venezuela and the region.

Thank you

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Global Watch Office
Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 5:09 AM
To: DM CCD EL2
Subject: SITREP 4 : Venezuela : Strikes in Caracas [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Global Watch Office
Situation Report

Venezuela
Strikes in Caracas

Key Developments

- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said President Donald Trump did not want to 'publicly rule out' US occupation of Venezuela or deploying troops.
  - Rubio added that acting president Delcy Rodríguez was not Venezuela's legitimate leader.
- US Vice President JD Vance said Venezuela remains linked to drug trafficking and criticised its past expropriation of US oil assets as justification for US military action.
- The UN Security Council is scheduled to meet on Monday (Tuesday AEDT) to address the issue.
- Nicolás Maduro is expected to appear in a Manhattan federal court on Monday (Tuesday AEDT).
  - US Homeland Security confirmed its investigation into Maduro had been 'ongoing for more than a decade'.
- Caracas and other areas in Venezuela appear calm, with utilities functioning and food supplies sufficient. Some rationing was reported, though open stores remain stocked despite reports of limited panic buying (s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Starlink said it was providing free broadband service until 3 February.
- Diplomatic contacts advised Venezuelan airspace has reopened and some Venezuelan airlines have recommenced domestic and international flights.
  - Commercial air traffic over Venezuelan airspace continues to appear limited (Flightradar24).
  - At least one international airline (COPA Airlines) is scheduled to recommence flights from 6 January (s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Airlines began resuming flights into the Caribbean following the lifting of US restrictions. Delays and cancellations continue on some routes including into Saint Maarten, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Puerto Rico and Aruba.
  - Disruptions have eased for The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Mexico (Cancún).

- Diplomatic contacts advised ferry services are not operating into Venezuela.
- There continues to be reports of ongoing small-scale protests outside US embassies globally.

Australian Government Response

- Bogotá post's Crisis Action Plan (CAP) for Venezuela remains at Yellow.
- There have been 11 calls to the Consular Emergency Centre and Bogotá post in relation to this event.

Local Government Response

- During a meeting of the National Defence Council, acting president Delcy Rodríguez reaffirmed her support for Maduro as president.
- Minister of Defence Vladimir Padrino López issued (in Spanish) a statement reaffirming his support for Maduro, while recognising Rodríguez as acting president.

International Responses

- Spain, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay issued (in Spanish) a joint statement condemning unilateral military actions in Venezuela as a violation of international law, urging a peaceful resolution through dialogue and rejecting the appropriation of resources.
- China's foreign ministry called on the US to release Maduro and his wife and 'stop toppling the government of Venezuela and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiations'.
- India's foreign ministry said it was 'deeply concerned' by recent developments and called on all parties to address issues peacefully through dialogue.
- Thailand's foreign ministry urged all parties to resolve tensions peacefully in accordance with the UN Charter and international law and called for restraint to avoid escalation.
- Indonesia's foreign ministry reiterated it was monitoring the developments and called for restraint and respect for international law and the UN Charter.
- Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the seizure of Maduro was a clear violation of international law, called for his release and urged dialogue and de-escalation.
- Malaysia's foreign ministry reaffirmed opposition to foreign intervention and the use of force, citing UN Charter principles and urged restraint and dialogue.
- Singapore's foreign ministry said it was 'gravely concerned' by the US intervention, reaffirmed commitment to international law and the UN Charter, urging restraint and a peaceful resolution.
- Sweden's Foreign Minister Maria Stenergard said Sweden 'sheds no tears' over Maduro's loss of power calling for a swift and peaceful transition.
- Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said 'the American military operation in Venezuela is not in accordance with international law', urging a peaceful transition to democratic governance.
- Austria's President Alexander Van der Bellen asserted (in German) that Maduro was not a legitimate president and stressed that international law must be upheld.
- Belgium's Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot said 'Venezuelans deserve a democratic and legitimate regime' and stressed that 'international law must be respected, in all circumstances'.
- Finland's Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen said 'all states have a responsibility to respect and act in accordance with international law', reaffirming support for a peaceful, democratic transition.
- Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said (in Japanese) Japan would advance diplomatic efforts toward restoring democracy in Venezuela, reaffirming respect for international law and the UN Charter.
- Japan's foreign ministry reaffirmed Japan's commitment to 'freedom, democracy and respect for international law', adding it will pursue diplomatic efforts to restore democracy in Venezuela and coordinate with G7 and regional partners.

- South Korea's foreign ministry urged all parties to ease tensions and expressed hope that democracy would be restored through dialogue and respect for the will of the people.
- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed support for the 'determined decision and action of the US to restore freedom and justice to that part of the world as well'.
- Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said during a phone call with his Venezuelan counterpart that the US action was 'a clear example of state terrorism and a blatant assault on sovereignty', reaffirming Iran's support for Maduro's government.
- Georgia's foreign ministry expressed hope developments in Venezuela will align with the Venezuelan people's interests and lead to the reversal of Venezuela's recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states.
- The DPRK's foreign ministry denounced 'the US hegemony-seeking act committed in Venezuela as a wanton violation of the UN Charter and international law'.
- Bolivia's foreign ministry voiced (in Spanish) support for restoring democracy in Venezuela and urged coordinated international action in line with human rights and the UN Charter.
- Paraguay urged (in Spanish) democratic solutions for an orderly transition in Venezuela and warned that criminal networks in power threaten regional stability.
- The US Embassy in Guyana issued an alert advising of flight disruptions in the Eastern Caribbean.

Media

- *Live updates: BBC, DW, CNN, NYT, Al Jazeera*
- AFP: Australia, NZ back international law after US raid on Venezuela
- NBC: Secretary of State Marco Rubio says US capture of Maduro is not a war against Venezuela
- Reuters: World reacts to US strikes on Venezuela
- Reuters: Venezuela's interim government says it remains united behind Maduro after his U.S. capture

DFAT.GOV.AU

Australian Government Global Watch Office
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 6:41 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media
Subject: RE: **For FMO Clearance** Multiple Enquiries - Venezuela Consular [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Many thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 5:12 PM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: **For FMO Clearance** Multiple Enquiries - Venezuela Consular [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

No problem. Cleared as is then.

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 5:03 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: **For FMO Clearance** Multiple Enquiries - Venezuela Consular [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s 22(1)(a)(ii)

CCD have come back advising the estimated number of Australians in Venezuela is a very rough estimate and they advise against including the figure in the media response.

Please let us know if you need further assistance.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 4:04 PM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: **For FMO Clearance** Multiple Enquiries - Venezuela Consular [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can you please run the addition below by desk? We would like to add it if they are comfortable doing so.

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 3:30 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: **For FMO Clearance** Multiple Enquiries - Venezuela Consular [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR CLEARANCE

JOURNALIST: Below

DEADLINE: Not specified

POC: Claire Rochecouste, AS Consular Communications and Policy Branch, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii) ,

Grateful clearance for the below response to go to the below journalists regarding the Department's consular statement on Venezuela:

- s 47F(1) /News Corp
- s 47F(1) /ABC – follow up
- s 47F(1) /SBS News – follow up

For outlets that already have the statement, propose responding that the Department has nothing further to add at this stage.

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CCD has confirmed there are very minor updates to the statement (highlighted line). We will provide this response to other enquiries on this matter.

Updated MO only background to follow.

//

Attributable to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson:

The travel advice for Venezuela remains "Do Not Travel" due to the dangerous security situation.

Smartraveller advises Australians, if they're in Venezuela, to leave as soon as it's safe to do so.

If Australians are in Venezuela despite our advice, be prepared to shelter in place. Monitor media and subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).

Background (for reporting, not for attribution):

The Smartraveller advice for Venezuela was updated to "Do Not Travel" on 12 February 2019. It continues to advise 'Do not travel' to Venezuela due to the dangerous security situation, the threat of violent crime, political and economic instability and risk of arbitrary detention (level 4 of 4).

Australia does not have an Embassy in Venezuela; our ability to provide consular assistance in Venezuela is severely limited. We remain in close contact with like-minded partners in Caracas.

DFAT does not track the movements of Australians overseas. It is estimated that around 50 Australians live in Venezuela and around 50 Australians visit Venezuela each year. We have not received any requests for consular assistance.

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//

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

_____

Media Liaison Section

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)