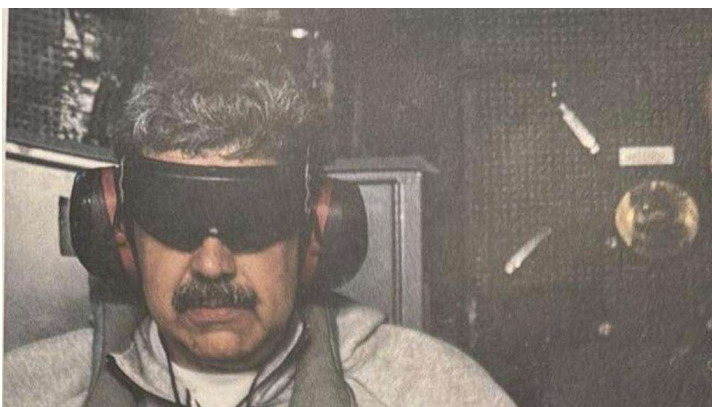


Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live

Watch live



Summary

Trump is giving an update after the US launched strikes on Venezuela and captured its President Nicolas Maduro - **press watch live above**

The US president says the US is going to "run" Venezuela "until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition"

He says no US servicemen were killed in the operation and the US is "ready" to stage a second "and much larger" attack on the country if needed

Just before he began speaking, Trump **shared a photo** he said was of Maduro on board the USS Iwo Jima - the image shows him blindfolded and wearing ear defenders

A little earlier, Maduro was **indicted in New York on drugs and weapons charges** - the US

▶ 1:32

Venezuela's interior minister calls for calm

▶ 0:16

Large explosion captured an hour and a half from Caracas

Live Reporting

Edited by Jemma Crew, Emily McGarvey and Dulcie Lee, with Latin America editor Vanessa Buschschlüter

08:51

US ready to stage second 'much larger' attack on Venezuela if needed, says Trump

Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live

American courts

Venezuela has declared a national emergency, denouncing "extremely serious military aggression" - **BBC Verify identifies locations hit in the attack**

*Venezuelans in the capital Caracas say they had been expecting a US military strike for some time - one resident says the **explosions were like "nothing I'd heard before" while another says it's "almost a relief"***

country .

He adds the US is "ready" to stage a second "and much larger" attack on the country if needed.

He says they were initially prepared to do a "second wave" and had assumed it would be necessary, that but given the success of last night's attack, it probably would now not be.

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08:49

Trump says Venezuelan forces were 'waiting for us'



REUTERS

Donald Trump continues to speak, flanked by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth (R) and Secretary of State Marco Rubio (L)

Trump thanks the military for their "breathtaking speed, power, precision and competence".

He says these "highly trained warriors" were operating in collaboration with US law enforcement.

Venezuelan forces were "waiting for us", he says, with "many ships out".

Despite being in a "ready position", Trump says Venezuelan forces were "completely overwhelmed and very quickly incapacitated".

Not a single US serviceman was killed, and no equipment was lost, he adds.

Trump says the US has "knocked out 97% of drugs coming in by sea", and alleges that each boat carrying drugs kills 25,000 people on average.

08:47 **BREAKING**

US will run Venezuela until 'safe, proper and judicious transition' - Trump

Trump says the US is "going to run" Venezuela until "such a time that we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition" of power.

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08:46

Maduro and his wife 'now face American justice' says Trump

Trump says the US force went against "a heavily fortified military fortress" in the heart of Caracas to bring Maduro "to justice".

He compares it to previous military operations against Iran - including against nuclear targets.

"No nation in the world could achieve what America achieved yesterday," he says.

All Venezuelan military capabilities were "rendered powerless" in the attack, he says.

He adds the lights of Caracas were turned off during the operation "due to a certain expertise" that America has.

Both Maduro and his wife "now face American justice" says Trump, adding they have been indicted in the southern district of New York for their "campaign of deadly narco-terrorism" against the US and its citizens.

 Share

08:43

Trump calls Venezuela military operation 'extraordinary'

Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live



Trump begins by referring to the "extraordinary" military operation conducted in the capital of Venezuela overnight and into this morning at his direction.

He says "overwhelming" American military power by "air, land and sea" was used.

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08:39 **BREAKING**

Trump news conference begins

Stick with us as we bring you the key lines.

[Share](#)

08:35

Maduro expected to land in New York later today, say sources

Two sources tell the BBC's US news partner, CBS, that the US military plane carrying Maduro is expected to land later today at New York Stewart airport.

It's a public military international airport in Orange County, New York, located in the Hudson Valley, about 60 miles north of Manhattan.

The sources say he's in custody of the US military and is expected to be turned over to federal authorities when he lands.

Maduro is expected to be arraigned in New York Federal court in the southern district of New York next week - possibly as early as Monday.

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Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live

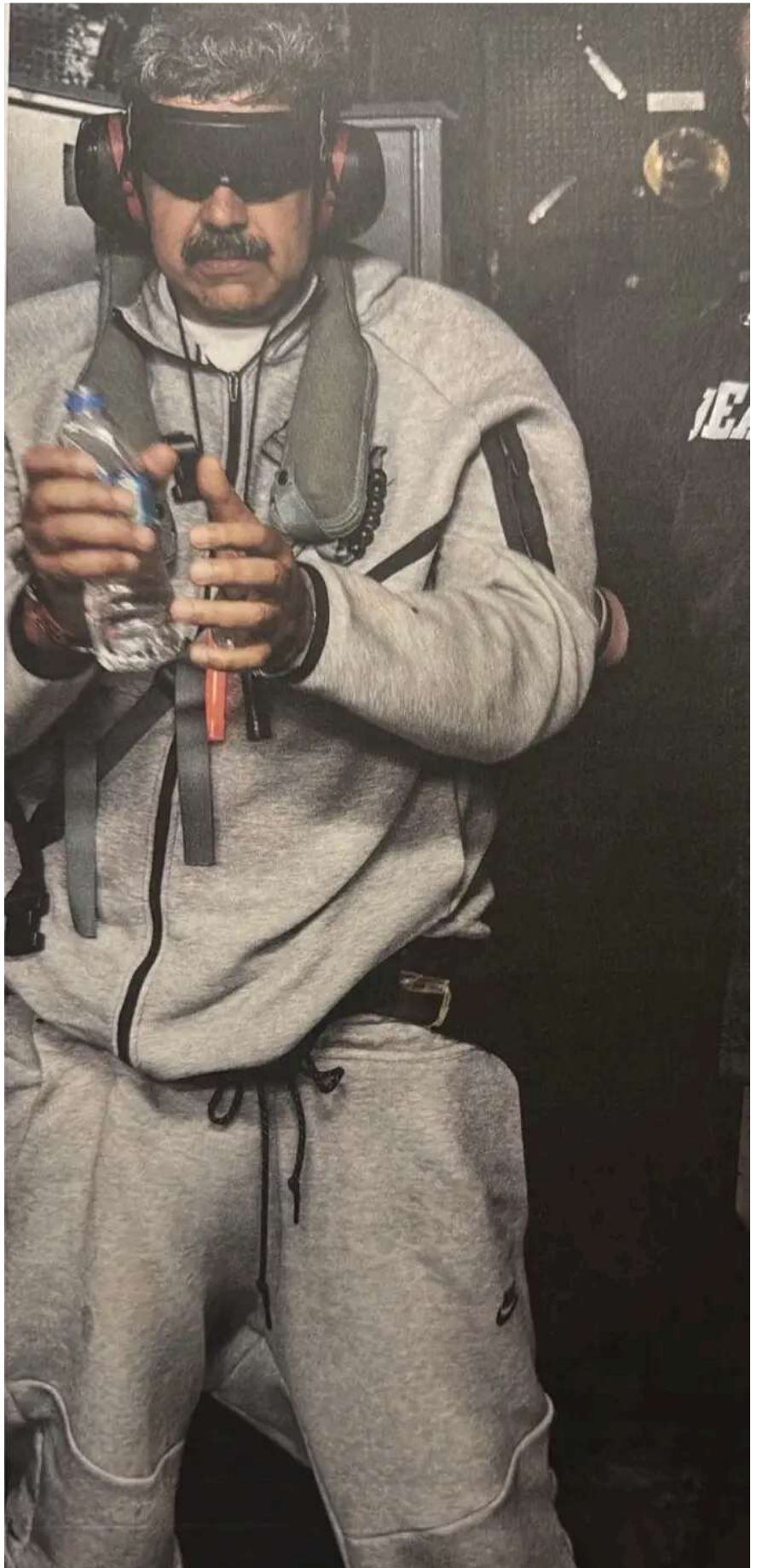
Trump shares image he says shows Maduro on board Iwo Jima

Trump has just shared a new image on Truth Social that he says shows "Nicolas Maduro on board the USS Iwo Jima" - this is the boat he earlier told Fox News was bringing the Venezuelan leader to the US.

The image shows what appears to be Maduro, with an eye mask and headphones on and wearing a grey tracksuit.

[LIVE](#) 74,970 viewing

Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live



08:13 **BREAKING**

News conference at Mar-a-Lago to begin shortly



| Reporters are gathering at Mar-a-Lago

We're expecting the news conference at Trump's Florida residence Mar-a-Lago to begin shortly.

Earlier on, Trump told Fox News the conference would include Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and General Dan Caine.

"We're going to have a pretty open news conference," he said.

We'll bring you the key lines - stick with us.

[Share](#)

08:13

CIA source helped US track Maduro's location

A CIA source inside the Venezuelan government helped the US track Nicolas Maduro's location in the lead-up to his capture by the US Army's elite Delta Force, CBS News has learned, as first reported by NYT.

The human source was part of an extensive network of other intelligence inputs, including overhead and signals intelligence, that informed the operation, which was the result of months of meticulous planning and partnership between the CIA and Department of Defense.

CIA Director John Ratcliffe has previously said the agency would prioritise the recruitment of human sources.

It could not be immediately determined when the source was recruited.

08:11

Maduro loyalists rally in the streets, while opponents hope for change



Vanessa Buschschlüter
Latin America and Caribbean editor



As we wait for Trump, let's turn back to Venezuela for a moment, where supporters of the Maduro government are holding a rally in the capital, Caracas.

They're demanding that the US release the Venezuelan leader.

Some are chanting "we want Maduro" as they are being led in a march by Caracas Mayor Carmen Meléndez, who is a firm government loyalist.

Wearing a military uniform, the mayor said that she and others had taken to the streets to protest against what she described as Maduro's "kidnapping".

Opponents of the government meanwhile are expressing their hope that the capture of Maduro and his wife will lead to a change of government in messages they exchange with like-minded friends and family.

When protests erupted in 2024 after the government-dominated electoral council declared Maduro the winner of the presidential election, even though voting tallies collected by the opposition showed that their candidate had won by a landslide, the government cracked down hard.

Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live

Just a few weeks ago, the National Assembly, which is also dominated by Maduro loyalists, passed a law declaring anyone who expresses support for the US naval blockade a "traitor".

So the danger to those who speak out publicly against Maduro and in favour of the US's actions are very real.

Many of the close to eight million Venezuelans who have left Venezuela since Maduro came to power celebrated openly in the streets of the cities where they have settled.



REUTERS

A woman dances during a celebration in the Spanish capital, Madrid, after news of Maduro's capture broke

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08:05

Nobel Peace Prize winner and opposition leader Machado welcomes US intervention



Ione Wells

South America correspondent in London

The opposition leader of Venezuela - and Nobel Peace Prize winner - Maria Corina Machado has welcomed the US intervention, saying the country's "hour of freedom" has arrived.

She said on social media that President Maduro was removed from power after refusing a negotiated exit, and the opposition's candidate for the 2024 elections - Edmundo Gonzalez - should now "assume" the presidency.

Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela until 'safe transition can take place' - watch live

Such a transition is certainly what the US wants. But it may not be as simple as the opposition claim.

Maduro still has allies in the country, many of whom may not want to go without a fight if they fear repercussions themselves.

Even some fierce critics of Maduro are uncomfortable with US intervention, fear this could lead to further destabilisation, and have not supported Machado's close alliance with the Trump administration.

But, some critics see this as a final resort to get rid of what they believe was an authoritarian and oppressive regime.



GETTY IMAGES

Maria Corina Machado waves to supporters during her trip to Norway in December, where she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

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07:57

What we've heard from Trump so far



Anthony Zurcher
North America correspondent