

# U.S. President Donald Trump Holds Major Press Conference After Announcing Capture of Venezuelan Leader Nicolás Maduro

In a dramatic and deeply contentious development on the global stage, U.S. President \*\*Donald Trump announced that the United States had launched a “large-scale strike” in **Venezuela** and successfully captured Venezuelan President **Nicolás Maduro** along with his wife, **Cilia Flores**, in a high-risk military operation early Saturday morning. The announcement, made via Trump’s social media platform, triggered an immediate reaction worldwide as Trump prepared to address the press in a live news conference from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Anadolu Ajansı+1

Trump’s press briefing — broadcast live across major networks — followed hours of explosions and reports of heavy military activity around **Caracas**, Venezuela’s capital. Witnesses described a series of loud detonations and low-flying aircraft in the early hours before Trump’s declaration of victory. mint

## Operation Details and Trump’s Statement

According to Trump, the operation was conducted “in conjunction with U.S. law enforcement,” though he did not specify which agencies led the mission. In his statement, the President said the United States had executed a successful mission to capture Maduro and his wife and that the two had been “flown out of the country.” Anadolu Ajansı

Trump scheduled a formal press conference for **11:00 a.m. ET** where he would outline the operation’s details, defend the legal basis for the strike, and discuss future U.S. involvement in Venezuela. Foreign Policy

In televised remarks and social media posts, Trump lauded the operation as a triumph of American military precision and strategic planning. He described observing the mission in real time, emphasizing its effectiveness and asserting that no U.S. troops were killed during the engagement. The Times of India

## Military Action and Maduro’s Capture

The strike reportedly involved U.S. special forces and military assets targeting strategic locations including military installations and key sites around Caracas. Explosions were reported

across multiple areas, causing power outages and significant disruption early Saturday morning.  
mint

Multiple sources reported that **Delta Force**, an elite U.S. Army unit, was involved in seizing Maduro. The Venezuelan leader and his wife were taken aboard a U.S. warship — potentially the **USS Iwo Jima** — and are expected to be transported to **New York** to face longstanding criminal charges, including allegations related to narco-terrorism and drug trafficking. AP News+1

## Global Reaction and Legal Questions

Trump's announcement drew immediate global attention. World leaders reacted decisively — with some condemning the operation as a breach of international law and a violation of Venezuela's sovereignty. Nations including **Brazil, Mexico, China, and France** publicly criticized the U.S. action, calling for respect for international norms and peaceful conflict resolution. Axios

Critics both at home and abroad have raised serious questions about the **legality of the military strike**. U.S. lawmakers debated whether Congress had been properly consulted or authorized the use of force. The U.S. Constitution delegates war-making powers to Congress, and many legal analysts and political leaders argue that such a significant military intervention should require congressional approval. Axios

## Venezuelan Government and Domestic Response

The Venezuelan government, for its part, repudiated the attack. Officials denounced the assault as an act of aggression and demanded proof of life for Maduro and his wife. In statements broadcast on state media, Vice President **Delcy Rodríguez** confirmed that Maduro and Flores were unaccounted for and urged international bodies to investigate. WMTW

Reports from inside Venezuela conveyed a mixture of reactions among the general population. Some citizens expressed relief at the removal of Maduro, a polarizing figure whose 12-year rule was marked by economic collapse, human rights concerns, and mass emigration. Others feared instability and a potential power vacuum that could lead to chaos or internal conflict. Reuters

## What's Next for Venezuela?

During his press conference, Trump indicated that the United States would play a significant role in shaping Venezuela's future. Trump said the U.S. intends to be heavily involved in managing the transition process and could even participate in the administration of Venezuelan resources, including its vast oil industry. The Guardian

The U.S. strategy appears to include both legal prosecution of Maduro and Flores in American courts and a broader geopolitical plan to influence governance and stability in Venezuela.

Trump's comments suggested a long-term U.S. engagement in the region that could have profound implications for Latin American politics and global diplomacy. The Guardian

## **International Law and Human Rights Implications**

International law experts have characterized the operation as extraordinary and without modern precedent. Forcing regime change through military force — especially without a UN Security Council mandate — raises critical questions about **sovereignty, international law, and human rights protections**. Scholars caution that such actions could erode longstanding norms against unilateral intervention. Axios

Human rights organizations also pointed to the potential risk to civilians, noting that military strikes in urban areas — such as Caracas — inevitably carry the danger of collateral damage. Reports of explosions in densely populated regions have already sparked concern for civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. mint

## **Conclusion**

President Trump's announcement that the United States had captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife has set off one of the most significant and controversial geopolitical events in recent history. With a complex mix of military success, legal uncertainty, international backlash, and future governance questions, the ramifications of this operation are likely to reverberate around the globe for months, if not years, to come. Public interest remains intense as world leaders, legal scholars, and average citizens continue to digest the impact of America's bold move in Venezuela