

# Press Releases: Signing of Protecting Power Arrangement for the United States in Venezuela

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 5, 2019

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The United States and Switzerland reached an arrangement on April 5, 2019 regarding the Swiss acting as a protecting power for U.S. interests in Venezuela.

Until further notice that the arrangement is operative, the Swiss will not be able to provide services. Where possible, U.S. citizens in Venezuela who require emergency assistance should continue to visit the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in another country.

We continue to warn U.S. citizens against travel to Venezuela and urge remaining U.S. citizens to leave Venezuela immediately. U.S. citizens who decide to remain in Venezuela should enroll their travel plans in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP.state.gov](http://STEP.state.gov)) so they can receive timely security alerts and other important updates to our public information on Venezuela.

The United States extends our deepest appreciation to the Swiss for offering to undertake this important function and assist U.S. citizens on our behalf.

For press inquiries, please contact [CAPRESSREQUESTS@state.gov](mailto:CAPRESSREQUESTS@state.gov).

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