

Press Releases: Sanctions Against Venezuelan Gold Sector

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 19, 2019

Today, the United States takes necessary actions to prevent the former Maduro regime from further plundering Venezuela's assets and natural resources.

On November 1, 2018, President Trump signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13850, which targets persons operating in the gold sector of the Venezuelan economy. Today, the United States is designating the Venezuelan state-owned gold-sector company, MINERVEN, and its president, Adrian Antonio Perdomo Mata, for operating in this sector.

Maduro and his illicit network are misusing Venezuela's gold-mining operations as another way to steal from the Venezuelan people after having mismanaged and plundered Venezuela's crumbling oil industry.

Today's action will prevent Maduro and other corrupt actors from further enriching themselves at the expense of the long-suffering Venezuelan people. In addition, it will help stop mining-related environmental damage and labor exploitation in Venezuela's gold industry.

U.S. sanctions need not be permanent. The United States has made clear that the removal of sanctions is available to those who refuse to take part in human rights abuses, and who take concrete and meaningful actions to restore democratic order; speak out against abuses committed by the former Maduro regime; and combat corruption in Venezuela.

The United States continues to stand with interim President Juan Guaido, the democratically elected National Assembly, and the people of Venezuela as they peacefully restore constitutional order and prosperity to their country.

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Press Releases: U.S.-Brazil Technology Safeguards Agreement

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On March 18, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation Christopher Ford and Brazilian Minister of Foreign Relations Ambassador Ernesto Araujo signed the Technology Safeguards Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on technology safeguards associated with U.S. participation in space launches from Brazil.

Upon entry into force, the Agreement will establish the technical safeguards to support U.S. space launches from Brazil while ensuring the proper handling of sensitive U.S. technology consistent with U.S. nonproliferation policy, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and U.S. export control laws and regulations.

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Press Releases: U.S.-Hosted Event on Human Rights Abuses in Venezuela

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On March 19, the United States co-sponsored an event with Albania, Argentina, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Romania, and the United Kingdom at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland to highlight the dire human rights situation in Venezuela. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Carrie Filipetti led a panel that included a former prisoner of conscience, an investigative journalist, a legal expert, and a Member of the National Assembly who shared firsthand accounts of repression and explained the depth of the human rights crisis under the former Maduro regime.

This event highlighted how the former Maduro regime has clung to power by abusing human rights and instilling fear in its citizens. Reports of widespread use of torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, raids by secret police, closure of independent media, and bans on political activity worsen by the day. The panelists presented a panorama of the former Maduro regime's systematic repression of human rights.

Please contact DRL-Press@state.gov for more information, visit <https://www.state.gov/j/drl.htm>, or follow us @StateDRL.

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Press Releases: The Department of State Dedicates the New U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 19, 2019

As a display of our enduring friendship and important partnerships with Indonesia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Joseph R. Donovan Jr., Chargé d'affaires for the U.S. Mission to ASEAN Jane Bocklage, and Director of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) Addison D. "Tad" Davis IV, along with Indonesian Government officials, dedicated the new U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia today.

The new complex provides a secure, modern, sustainable, and resilient platform for U.S. diplomacy in Indonesia and the ASEAN region.

Davis Brody Bond Architects and Planners of New York, New York is the design architect for the project and Page of Washington, D.C. is the architect of record. B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Alabama constructed the facility.

Since 1999, as part of the Department's Capital Security Construction Program, OBO has completed 154 new diplomatic facilities and has an additional 49 projects in design or under construction.

OBO provides safe, secure, functional, and resilient facilities that represent the U.S. government to the host nation and support our staff in the achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives. These facilities represent American values and the best in American architecture, design, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture, and construction execution.

For further information, please contact Christine Foushee at FousheeCT@state.gov, or visit www.state.gov/obo.

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[Press Releases: Remarks at Welcome Reception](#)

Remarks

Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Children's Mercy Park Stadium

Kansas City, KS

March 18, 2019

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. Thanks, Pat. I'm always reminded when I'm introduced as the 70th Secretary of State that President Trump is number 45. And so the turnover in my gig's a lot higher than in his, and so I'm enjoying every single minute. These days, I spend a lot of time in Washington and around the world, but truth be told, it brought a lot of joy to Susan and me to come back to the heartland, come back to Kansas. It's truly home for us. We love it; we miss it. And one fine day, I hope we find a way to make our way back here.

I especially love talking to the business community here, very special people. As I explained in my keynote today, I used to be one of you. I used to be a risk taker with my own money, now I'm spending yours again, and doing my best to be a good steward of that.

Right now, we're standing in a true monument to entrepreneurship, what it can do for the strength of American communities. Children's Mercy Park started as a dream of local business owners whose business happens to be soccer. That's football – I know we have Dutch friends here – that's football. I know our football, real football hasn't caught on in your country yet, but we're going to keep trying. Robb Heineman, the CEO of Sporting KC, broke ground on this stadium almost 10 years ago in 2010. It was recognized that year as one of the biggest deals in all of North America, and since then it's become a true community hub, a boon for the economy and frankly for the spirit of this city

as well. I know the mayor's here. Where you at, mayor? Where – someplace. Thank you, too, for being – good to see you, Mayor – good for you. Thanks for being here with us.

I was doing a little research myself – just had my phone when they let me have it – and I saw – I remember – I saw this morning KC won the U.S. Open two years ago, but this year it didn't go quite as well. But I'm hoping that our Dutch friends bring a little of their European football luck with them.

We're hosting the Road to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit here in the heartland. It's to celebrate entrepreneurs; it's to talk about the State Department's role there and how American innovation is dependent on an environment, free enterprise environment, a system that we have so deeply held as the very roots of what we are here in America. Every state in the union has entrepreneurs with great ideas and investments to scale up, and I want to make sure that everyone knows that that's just as true here in places like Kansas and Missouri and in Iowa as it is for California, New York, and Massachusetts. That's why the Department of State has investors from all across the world. We want to make sure that you all have the ability to connect and to sell and to create your ideas and attract investment from all across the world. It is a fundamental mission of the State Department to assist you in achieving that.

Also today, you'll see – and they're sprinkled around the room – they've got a little State Department pin. You'll see them. They're staff members from our economic bureau. Where is Manisha Singh who runs the bureau? Right back here. Please say hi to them. I hope you get a chance to meet them, to learn about how we do this. We have 1,500 officers at embassies all across the world trying to help you all deliver value to your shareholders and your businesses, and to make America's economy even stronger. And for all the American entrepreneurs here, I encourage you to talk to the team, to learn about these programs and the way it is you can connect up, so that we can help you as you try and grow your business internationally.

I'm not complaining, but the State Department doesn't often get credit for the role we play in American prosperity. If you heard my keynote address from a little earlier this afternoon, you will have seen that those officers have a real task and are on mission. This is what they do. It is not their secondary mission. It is their primary goal to open markets for Americans all across the world and to connect investors who want to come invest through foreign direct investment here in our country, and to make sure that we have a level playing field, that American companies get a fair shake each time they compete for business across the world.

I'm going to get a chance in the first week of June to travel to the Hague. We'll get a chance to tell the American story there. We'll be bringing 400 of America's best and brightest entrepreneurs to the Netherlands as part of our delegation. It should be fun, but more importantly I think it will deliver great value to the United States, and I hope great value to our European partners as well.

I wanted to – two things before I close. I gave a shout-out to Mayor Riordan

who's done remarkable work here. I can't say enough about your willingness to help. The Kansas Chamber's willingness to cohost this event – Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's willingness to cohost this event, thank you for that. I think this is important.

And then finally, having founded a company here in Kansas, I know that the important work happens where you all are, on the ground, and that the hard work that you do, the risks that you take, are the things that make success for your communities. I know local chambers bring people together. This event is certainly exhibit A. Frankly, I wish I'd have taken advantage of opportunities like this 20 years ago.

So I hope you will do that. I hope you'll shake some hands, trade some business cards. It looks like there might be a cocktail or two. That's actually not in the script, but I hope there might be – I hope there might be a cocktail or two. And try to enjoy this special evening where folks from all across the state and people from all across the world have come together with the aim of building better economies and better businesses. Thank you. I look forward to seeing a whole bunch of you in the Netherlands in June. Have a great and wonderful evening. Thanks. (Applause.)

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