

# [Press Releases: Protecting Venezuela's Assets for Benefit of Venezuelan People](#)

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 29, 2019

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On January 25, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo certified the authority of Venezuela's interim President Juan Guaido to receive and control certain property in accounts of the Government of Venezuela or Central Bank of Venezuela held by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or any other U.S. insured banks, in accordance with Section 25B of the Federal Reserve Act. This certification will help Venezuela's legitimate government safeguard those assets for the benefit of the Venezuelan people.

We call on other governments to recognize interim President Juan Guaido and take similar steps to protect Venezuela's patrimony from further theft by Maduro's corrupt regime.

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## [Press Releases: Special Representative](#)

# for North Korea Stephen Biegun Travels to Palo Alto, California

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 28, 2019

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Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun will travel to Palo Alto, California January 31 to meet with experts from Stanford University and give remarks at the Walter Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center on U.S. efforts towards the final, fully verified denuclearization of the D.P.R.K.

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## Press Releases: U.S. Condolences on Burst Dam in Brazil

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 28, 2019

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We are deeply saddened by the tragic accident in Brumadinho, Brazil, where a burst dam has led to terrible loss of life and property. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected, and we offer our condolences to the families of those who have passed away.

Our hearts are with the Brazilian people in this terrible moment, and we are continuing to monitor events on the ground. The United States stands ready to assist the Brazilian government in any way possible.

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## **Press Releases: Sanctions Against PDVSA and Venezuela Oil Sector**

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
January 28, 2019

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

The United States has determined that persons operating in Venezuela's oil sector may now be subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13850 signed by President Trump on November 1, 2018. Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) has been designated for operating within this sector.

Maduro and his cronies have used state-owned PDVSA to control, manipulate, and steal from the Venezuelan people for too long, destroying it in the process.

Today's action will prevent Maduro and other corrupt actors from further enriching themselves at the expense of the long-suffering Venezuelan people. It will also preserve the core pillar of Venezuela's national assets for the people and a democratically elected government.

These new sanctions do not target the innocent people of Venezuela and will not prohibit humanitarian assistance including the provision of medicine and medical devices, which are desperately needed after years of economic destruction under Maduro's rule. The Department of the Treasury is issuing a series of general licenses to support U.S. companies, interests, and allies.

The United States will continue to take concrete and forceful action against those who oppose the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela, and serve their own interests rather than those of the Venezuelan people.

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

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## **Press Releases: Representative of the Government of Venezuela to the United States**

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
January 27, 2019

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The United States accepted interim President Juan Guaido's designation of Carlos Alfredo Vecchio as the Chargé d'Affaires of the Government of Venezuela to the United States on January 25. Mr. Vecchio will have authority over diplomatic affairs in the United States on behalf of Venezuela.

After his accreditation, Mr. Vecchio met with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale, who reaffirmed the United States' strong support for interim President Guaido's leadership of Venezuela. The United States looks forward to working with Mr. Vecchio and other diplomatic staff as designated by interim President Guaido.

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