

Venezuela Foreign Minister condemns US interference in region



Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Yván Gil

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Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Yván Gil has condemned US interference in the Petrocaribe energy alliance, following United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio's ongoing tour of Jamaica, Guyana, and Suriname this week.

In a statement published on Telegram on Wednesday, Gil stated that Washington promotes an energy model rooted in "extortion and submission," contrasting it with Venezuela's approach of "sovereign energy cooperation free from blackmail or foreign military bases."

On Wednesday, Rubio called on Prime Minister Stuart Young to support moves against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's administration during a bilateral meeting in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Donald Trump administration has taken a hard stance against Venezuelan oil and gas extraction, production and sales, by threatening heavy sanctions against countries that do energy business with the Maduro regime.

Trump recently ordered sanctions against countries that purchase oil and gas from Venezuela, imposing tariffs of 25 per cent.

After talks in Jamaica on Wednesday, Rubio left for oil-rich Guyana, which has a border dispute with Venezuela.

Gil criticised the US, stating, “It is shameless to lecture on democracy while funding countless coups in Latin America.”

Gil framed recent US interference efforts as that country’s frustration over failed attempts to dismantle the Petrocaribe arrangement, asserting, “They couldn’t destroy Petrocaribe, so now they resort to lies.”

He dismissed US-backed oil projects in Guyana and Suriname as a “hoax to justify ExxonMobil’s plunder,” accusing US corporations of exploiting regional resources.

The foreign minister emphasised Petrocaribe’s role in providing energy supplies without political strings, unlike what he termed “colonial US aid.”

“Petrocaribe guarantees energy sovereignty today and tomorrow,” he added, framing the alliance as a model of “true solidarity among peoples” that defies US hegemony.

Gil also condemned Rubio’s recent statements in which he called the deployment of Cuban medical missions “atrocious.”

On his Telegram account, Gil said this Cuban medical programme has saved millions of lives around the world.

“Only the ‘atrocious’ envy and extreme hatred of someone like Marco Rubio could lead him to question a mission of love and solidarity with the entire world,” Gil said.

On Wednesday, Maduro asserted that in the face of the economic sanctions imposed by the United States on the Venezuelan people, his government will respond with an independent, sovereign, and free economic model.

“Right now, I’m in a phase of reorganising and optimising all the plans, all the missions, major missions, and public works. Because much more and better can be done with the resources we have,” Maduro said during the inauguration of the General-in-Chief Eleazar López Contreras Cultural Center in Caracas.

Tariff imposition denounced

Venezuelan economist Carlos Mendoza Potellá also added his voice to the debate and condemned the US government. He said the Trump administration’s decision to impose 25 per cent tariffs on countries that buy Venezuelan oil “must be denounced collectively and internationally.”

In an interview with Venezuelan radio station Unión Radio, he also stated that this announcement “is a war against the country and must be accepted as such by the entire nation.”

“It’s not about negotiating better conditions or prices, but rather a political decision that is expressed in continued aggression, even taken to new levels, against Venezuelans in the United States,” Potellá said.

The Venezuelan economist said in his view, Trump’s decision has nothing to do with oil but rather that they are using crude oil “because it is the most important resource for Venezuelans, in the fundamental production that sustains the country.”

Regarding the consequences of the current “blockade,” Potellá emphasised that the country will feel the consequences.

“Venezuela’s exports to India and China are minimal compared to imports from those countries, which could easily supply them with oil from Iraq, Iran, or any of those closer countries,” he argued.

Meanwhile, the ALBA group of Caribbean and Latin American countries which falls under Venezuela’s sphere of influence, also criticised the United States’ latest moves against Venezuela.

This group includes St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Bolivia, Honduras, Cuba and Honduras.

In a statement, the group said the measures implemented by the US government undermine the peace and economic stability of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

“Such a measure violates the most basic rules of international trade, creating blatant discrimination against Venezuela, with the obvious goal of harming its national income and the health of its economy, causing suffering among its population,” the document reads in part.