

OFFICIAL GAZETTE¹

OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

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No. 6,954 Extraordinary

SUMMARY

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

Decree No. 5,200, whereby the State of Foreign Commotion is declared throughout the National Territory.

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

Decree No. 5,200 January 3, 2026

NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 3

In compliance with the constitutional mandate ordering the supreme guarantee of human rights, sustained by the ideals of the Liberator Simón Bolívar and the values of peace, equality, justice, independence, sovereignty, and liberty... and in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 226 and numerals 1, 2, and 7 of Article 236 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in accordance with Articles 337, 338, and 339 ejusdem, in conjunction with Articles 14 and 23 of the Organic Law on States of Exception, in Council of Ministers,

WHEREAS

It has recently been confirmed that an armed attack has been carried out by military personnel of the United States of America against the territory and population of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, constituting a grave violation of the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of the Nation,

WHEREAS

The armed attack executed by the United States of America... constitutes a flagrant violation of International Law, including Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a territory of peace (II CELAC Summit),

WHEREAS

Pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela possesses the inherent right to self-defense against a totally illegitimate and unjustified armed attack,

WHEREAS

The actions deployed by the Government of the United States... render necessary and urgent the adoption of extraordinary security and defense measures to repel the aggression,

WHEREAS

It is the responsibility of the President of the Republic, in Council of Ministers, to decree the state of exception of Foreign Commotion in the event of external conflict that seriously endangers the security of the Nation, its citizens, or its institutions,

WHEREAS

That Venezuela has a solid and long tradition of defending its national territory, making it historically impregnable, as a fundamental basis for the maintenance of the free and independent Republic bequeathed to us by our liberators and which we must protect and guarantee for future generations. In consultation with the National Defense Council and the Superior General Staff of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces.

Dictates the following:

DECREE WHEREBY THE STATE OF FOREIGN COMMOTION IS DECLARED THROUGHOUT THE NATIONAL TERRITORY

Article 1. A State of External Commotion is declared throughout the national territory, by reason of the circumstances of an external nature expressed through the armed aggression of the Government of the United States against the national territory, which seriously endangers the security of the Nation, its citizens, and its institutions; in order to proceed with the implementation of corresponding measures to protect the rights of the population and defend the sovereignty, independence, and integrity of the territory of the Republic.

Article 2. As a consequence of the declaration of the State of External Commotion referred to in this Decree, the following is immediately ordered:

1. The mobilization of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces throughout the national territory and the use of the existing potential as national power to repel foreign aggression. 31 The mobilization shall be under the direct authority of the President of the Republic, assisted by the National Defense Council and the Ministries and other involved agencies.
2. The militarization of public service infrastructure, the oil industry, and other basic State industries. 33 The personnel of such services or companies shall be temporarily subject to the military regime.
3. The reinforcement of patrolling and security at land, air, and maritime borders.
4. To implement the special public security deployment plans that have been prepared to address this juncture.
5. The deployment of the Command for the Integral Defense of the Nation and the Organs of Direction for Integral Defense in all states and municipalities of the country.
6. To make the necessary budgetary and financial provisions to address the extraordinary situation, which shall be qualified as inherent to the security and defense of the Nation.

Article 3. The President of the Republic may dictate all measures of a political, legal, administrative, economic, and social nature considered necessary to restore the situation, including the following:

1. To order the requisition of goods necessary for national defense.
2. To restrict entry into the national territory or close national borders.
3. To restrict the free movement of persons or vehicles of any class or type in the national territory.
4. To suspend the right to public meetings and demonstrations.
5. To order specific natural or legal persons, of a public or private nature, to cooperate with competent authorities for the protection of persons, property, and places, and to impose extraordinary services upon them by reason of their duration or nature.
6. To dictate other exceptional and transitory regulations that are necessary to repel any external threat or hostile action, restore internal order, and protect the rights of the population.
7. Any other measure necessary to protect the Venezuelan people, the integrity of the territory, and Venezuelan sovereignty.

Article 4. The President of the Republic, by Decree, may dictate other social, economic, or political measures deemed appropriate to the circumstances, expanding the powers of the National Executive, in accordance with Articles 337, 338, and 339 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Article 6 of the Organic Law on States of Exception, with the aim of restoring normalcy in the shortest possible time and overcoming the exceptional situation motivating this Decree.

Article 5. National, state, and municipal police agencies must immediately undertake the search and capture throughout the national territory of every person involved in the promotion or support of the armed attack by the United States of America against the territory of the Republic, for the purpose of placing them at the disposal of the Public Ministry and the criminal justice system for trial, in compliance with all procedural guarantees inherent to due process and the right to defense.

Article 6. In the execution of this Decree, all measures shall be taken to guarantee the rights to life; recognition of legal personality; protection of the family; equality before the law; nationality; personal liberty and the prohibition of the practice of forced disappearance of persons; personal, physical, psychic, and moral integrity; the prohibition of submission to slavery or servitude; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; legality and the non-retroactivity of laws, especially criminal laws; due process; constitutional amparo; participation, suffrage, and access to public office; and the right to information.

¹ The English and French translations were produced with the assistance of artificial intelligence. In the event of any doubt regarding their interpretation, the original Spanish version shall prevail.

Every measure dictated based on this declaration of State of External Commotion, as well as its execution or implementation, must be proportional to the situation to be addressed regarding gravity, nature, and scope of application.

This declaration of State of External Commotion in no way interrupts the functioning of the organs of Public Power.

Article 7. I instruct the Strategic Operational Command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (CEOFANB) to fulfill the effective execution of the command and control tasks of the operations to be carried out by reason of the declaration of State of External Commotion of this Decree over the entire geographical space of the Nation: continental, insular, aquatic, and aerospace areas, keeping the President of the Republic permanently informed.

Article 8. I order the Militia, Militiamen, and Militiawomen designated to execute Military Defense actions to remain in their Natural Command and remain at the disposal of the Territorial Defense System until the State of Exception declared in accordance with the provisions of this Decree concludes.

Article 9. Public Powers, governors, mayors, garrison commanders, citizen security agencies, administrative police, the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, and any other duly constituted authority are obliged to collaborate with the full compliance of the measures referred to in this Decree.

Article 10. The Minister of People's Power for Foreign Relations shall notify the Security Council of the United Nations of the measures taken by the Republic in exercise of the right to self-defense against the armed attack by the United States of America, requesting, in turn, the adoption of additional measures to maintain international peace and security. 55The Minister of People's Power for Foreign Relations shall also timely inform the international community, the United Nations, and other international multilateral bodies of the illegitimate and unjustified aggression to which the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is subjected, as well as the measures taken through this Decree to protect the existence of the Republic and the rights of the population.

Article 11. The entire population, in every corner of the country and throughout the national territory, is exhorted to assume the defense of our Nation with firm patriotic fervor, collaborating and actively involving themselves in the implementation of this Decree, in civic-military-police union, for the peace of the country, our independence, our sovereignty, and the right to development.

Article 12. This Decree has the rank and force of Law and a duration of ninety (90) days, counted from its publication in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, renewable for ninety (90) additional days according to the constitutional procedure. 58Upon the entry into force of this Decree, articles in current laws that are incompatible with the measures dictated in said decree are temporarily suspended.

Article 13. This Decree shall be submitted to the National Assembly within eight (8) continuous days following its issuance for consideration and approval. 60Within the same period, it shall also be submitted to the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice for a ruling on its constitutionality, in accordance with the Organic Law on States of Exception.

Article 14. This Decree shall enter into force on January 3, 2026.

Granted in Caracas, on the third day of the month of January of two thousand twenty-six, 215th Year of Independence, 166th of the Federation, and 26th of the Bolivarian Revolution.

Execute it,
(L.S.)

NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS.



NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS
Presidente de la República
Bolivariana de Venezuela

Countersigned by the Executive Vice President and the Cabinet of Ministers:

- Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez (Executive Vice President)
- Vladimir Padrino López (Defense)
- Freddy Alfred Nazaret Nández Contreras (Communication and Information)
- Anabel Pereira Fernández (Economy and Finance)
- Coromoto Godoy Calderón (Foreign Trade)
- Alex Nain Saab Morán (Industries and National Production)
- Luis Antonio Villegas Ramírez (National Commerce)
- Leticia Cecilia Gómez Hernández (Tourism)
- Julio César León Heredia (Productive Agriculture and Lands)
- Juan Carlos Loyo Hernández (Fisheries and Aquaculture)
- Carlos Augusto Leal Tellería (Food)
- Aníbal Eduardo Coronado Millán (Office of the Presidency)
- Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez (Hydrocarbons)
- Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto (Foreign Relations)
- Héctor José Silva Hernández (Ecological Mining Development)
- Diosdado Cabello Rondón (Interior Relations, Justice, and Peace)
- Ricardo José Menéndez Prieto (Planning)
- Ricardo Ignacio Sánchez Mujica (Higher Education)
- Magaly Gutiérrez Viña (Health)
- Ricardo Antonio Molina Peñalosa (Ecosocialism)
- Clara Josefina Vidal Ventresca (Indigenous Peoples)
- Yelitze de Jesús Santaella Hernández (Women and Gender Equality)
- Raúl Alfonzo Paredes (Habitat and Housing)
- Carlos Guillermo Mast Yustiz (Water Management)
- Ángel Jovanny Prado Padua (Communes and Social Movements)
- Sergio Julio Lotartaro Tovar (Youth)
- Franklin Amílcar Cardillo Romero (Sports)
- Ramón Celestino Velásquez Araguayán (Transport)
- Julio José García Zerpa (Penitentiary Service)
- Juan José Ramírez Luces (Public Works)
- Germán Eduardo Piñate Rodríguez (Labor Process)
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- Jorge Elieser Márquez Monsalve (Electric Energy)
- Héctor Vicente Rodríguez Castro (Education)
- Gabriela Servilia Jiménez Ramírez (Science and Technology)
- Magally Viña Castro (Older Adults)