



(Artist unknown.)

## Running Venezuela - and the U.S. - Into the Ground: Another War for Oil from an Aspiring Nobel Peace Prize Candidate

On January 3, in a blatant violation of international law, the U.S. military kidnapped Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife at the direction of the Trump administration, following a strike on Caracas by over 150 U.S. aircraft that killed at least 40 civilians and soldiers. Maduro was then brought to New York on Saturday afternoon to face federal drug charges. In a press conference after the raid, Trump announced that the United States will now "run the country" until a "safe, proper and judicious transition" of power is arranged. He stated that he is not "afraid of boots on the ground" to achieve this goal, and that he intends to seize Venezuela's nationalized oil fields "for the energy we need."

**Translation:** the US is planning an open-ended military occupation of Venezuela with US State and War Department overseers as governors in yet another war and occupation for control of oil found under the soil of another country. And it will likely encompass exploitation of Venezuela's mineral and rare earths resources as well.

Does any of this sound familiar? We've definitely been here before, most recently in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The lies that were told by another US President, George W. Bush, in order to pillage the oil of a different country got us into the war on Iraq with disastrous consequences: millions of casualties, chaos, insurgency, the birth and growth of ISIS, decades of endless war.

Trump's blatant attempt to claim US hegemony over the Western Hemisphere (what he gleefully calls the "Donroe Doctrine") follows more than a century of equally disastrous US and CIA interventions in Central and South America, most of which resulted in rightwing takeovers and authoritarian regimes that helped to create the political and economic refugees that the United States is now deporting to torture camps or to persecution and certain death.

*"This moment is a test. Trump and his advisors will be looking to see Americans' reactions to this horror. Any silence will be seen as acceptance. If we don't loudly push back against more endless war, then the administration will escalate this violence, not just in Venezuela, but across the globe. These unauthorized attacks demand immediate congressional intervention. Under the War Powers Resolution, we need votes now—in both the House and Senate—to halt this illegal war. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) has called for an emergency vote without delay.... The peace movement must rise with clarity and resolve, proving that democratic guardrails still hold when citizens demand them."*

Go to <https://www.peaceaction.org/get-involved/alert-trump-launches-war-with-venezuela/> to send a message to your congressional representatives. Demand that your Senators and House representatives support a War Powers resolution calling for an end to this illegal, imperialist war. But don't stop there: call your congresspeople: call or write them directly, show up on the streets at protests, and get Congress to do its job!

***New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice:***

***<https://newhavensundayvigil.org>***

***January 4, 2026***

***Resist this Endless War.***

***Resist fascism now (before it's too late.)***