

# *U.S. Announces New Sanctions Against Venezuela*

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Washington, July 27 (RHC)-- The U.S. Treasury Department has announced new sanctions on 13 senior officials of Venezuela's government.

On July 17th, President Donald Trump threatened Venezuela by stating that if the government goes ahead with its Constituent Assembly on Sunday, July 30, "the United States will take strong and swift economic actions."

Among those sanctioned on Wednesday were national elections director Tibisay Lucena, Elias Jose Jaua Milano, the head of the Presidential Commission for the National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab Halabi, Venezuela's Ombudsman and Maria Iris Varela Rangel, a Member of Venezuela's Presidential Commission for the National Constituent Assembly, Nestor Luis Reverol Torres.

According to the press release: "All assets of these individuals subject to U.S. jurisdiction are frozen, and U.S. persons are prohibited from dealing with them." The sanctions do not include broader financial or "sectoral" sanctions against Venezuela's oil industry -- although such actions, U.S. officials have said, are still under consideration.

Some sources in Washington said that the move was just an initial round of sanctions and that the Trump administration was ready to roll out more in the coming days.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday said his government would not recognize the new U.S. sanctions. He said that Washington was singling out "brave Venezuelans" who would instead be recognized for their service to the country.

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