

# *Venezuela calls U.S. 'violator of rights' amid Mike Pence Latin American visit*

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Caracas, June 28 (RHC)-- As U.S. Vice President Mike Pence was visiting Brazil, where he called for more “pressure” against Venezuela, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza highlighted the “irony” of an anti-Latino-immigrant government interfering in Latin American affairs.

“What an irony and hypocrisy that @VP Pence, whose racist government separates families and cages innocent children, intends to interfere in the affairs of our region. Venezuela and Brazil reject the presence of such violator of Latin American immigrants' human rights,” Arreaza said via Twitter.

The Venezuelan foreign minister's comments came in response to Pence's earlier comments against the government of Nicolas Maduro. “The U.S. asks Brazil to adopt firm attitudes towards Nicolas Maduro's regime, which destroyed democracy and has built a brutal dictatorship that has made Venezuela a poor country,” Pence, who is touring Latin America, said in a press conference accompanied by Brazil's Senate-imposed President Michel Temer.

Brazil, a member of the so-called Lima Group, is an important U.S. ally in the region. Pence said: “Brazil has led efforts to expel Venezuela from MERCOSUR, joined the U.S. to suspend Venezuela from the

Organization of American States."

Despite Brazil's adherence to U.S. foreign policy, Brazilian immigrants have suffered the same fate as other Latin American immigrants who try to cross into the U.S., escaping harsh economic conditions and violence at home.

According to local media, at least 49 Brazilian children have been taken from their parents after crossing the Mexico-U.S. border illegally, a policy applied by Donald Trump's administration. Temer and Pence talked about this issue and discussed ways to send the Brazilian children back to Brazil while their parents remain in U.S. prisons.

Pence is visiting Ecuador on Thursday and will then travel to Guatemala for a meeting with presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. To the people of these countries, Pence said: "Don't risk your lives or your children's lives trying to come to the United States."

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