

# *Caracas rejects Washington's threat to send U.S. Navy ships off coast*

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Caracas, April 2 (RHC)-- Donald Trump has announced that he would launch anti-drug operations in the Venezuelan Caribbean and other seas in the Western Hemisphere in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, supposedly as part of the National Security plan. Venezuelan Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez called the deployment a "desperate attempt to distract attention from the tragic humanitarian crisis" in the U.S. caused by the coronavirus.

Trump's announcement occurred on Wednesday at the White House daily press conference on COVID-19, which has left much of the country's population confined to their homes. According to estimates, the virus could cause 100,000 to 240,000 deaths, even if social distancing measures are taken into account.

In Caracas, Jorge Rodriguez sarcastically said that for "the first time" in decades, the U.S. is trying to limit the supply of cocaine, which mostly comes from Colombia, one of the U.S. allies in the region.

In statements following this announcement, President Nicolas Maduro called on the

Trump administration to stop meddling in the internal affairs of Venezuela and called for a "humanitarian agreement" between all the political actors in the country to deal with the real issue, which is the fight against COVID-19.



**Radio Habana Cuba**