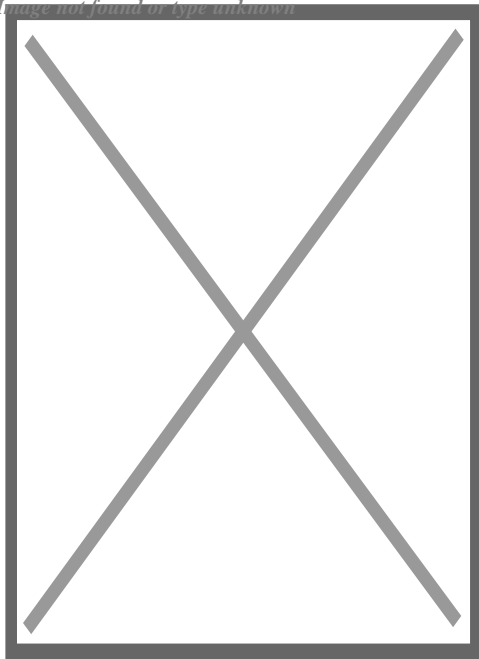


Venezuela rejects interference by the U.S. Southern Command

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Caracas, March 15 (RHC)-- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil denounced Thursday the interference of the U.S. Southern Command in domestic political affairs and the Essequibo dispute.

"Here we see how the head of the US Southern Command, Laura Richardson, is self-proclaimed political chief of the Venezuelan right and commander of the surnames that serve her, supporting ExxonMobil against Venezuela and threatening once again the peace and stability of our region," Gil posted on his account on the social network X.

For his part, the Venezuelan Minister of Defense, Vladímir Padrino López, expressed on his X account that "the Southern Command, acting as an agent of ExxonMobil, makes clear its intention to continue carrying out "military exercises" in the Essequibo territory, irresponsibly meddling in a controversy where only Venezuela and Guyana are parties under the umbrella of the Geneva Agreement and the commitment assumed in the Argyle Agreements not to involve foreign powers."

Furthermore, Venezuela's top diplomat added that "they always act with their false mask of democracy, so applauded by the flattering Venezuelan extreme right wing, and thus legitimize their interventionism in Latin America and the Caribbean, threatening the peace of the region, as they have always done."

The Venezuelan foreign minister reiterated that the "FANB is aware of this reality and maintains its operational deployment in the region to face any provocation in a proportional and forceful manner."

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