

# *Venezuela rejects new US State Department attack on its democracy*

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Caracas, Feb 9 (RHC)-- The Venezuelan government has rejected a statement from the US State Department that calls into question the legitimacy of the presidential elections convened for April 22 and the democratic institutions of Venezuela.

"The supremacist, xenophobic, racist and warmongering administration of the White House, in pretending to tarnish the will of the Venezuelan people to decide their destiny without interference or tutelage, arrogates an attribution that nobody has granted to them: qualifying and prejudging the results of an electoral process that has not happened," denounced the Venezuelan authorities in a statement by its Foreign Ministry.

The State Department release issued on Thursday criticized the National Electoral Council's (CNE) decision to advance the presidential elections, a step taken in compliance with a decree approved by the National Constituent Assembly.

According to the US agency, the announcement was unilateral and the electoral and democratic process would not have guarantees to ensure free, fair and internationally-validated elections.

In addition to accusing President Nicolás Maduro of maintaining an "authoritarian" rule, Washington threatened to implement more measures against the Venezuelan people and reiterated its support for the national right, which last year attempted to stage a violent coup which resulted in some 120 people killed, thousands of people injured and millions in damages.

In responding to the new hostile remarks, Venezuelan authorities reiterated their denunciation of the White House campaign against the South American country's democracy and sovereignty and denounced that Washington's sanctions affect the stability and the quality of life the Venezuelan society.

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