

# *Venezuelan President Condemns New U.S. Sanctions against Government Officials*

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Caracas, February 3 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Monday condemned the new visa sanctions imposed earlier in the day by the U.S. Congress on Venezuelan officials and their families. He noted that these new measures came just a few days after he denounced that U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was heading a coup plan along with other government agencies to topple him.

Maduro noted that Washington should worry about its "domestic violation of human rights," referring to recent cases of police shootings of young, unarmed African-Americans, as well as alleged terrorists incarcerated in Guantanamo who have suffered tortures over many years.

The Venezuelan president also criticized Venezuelan opposition representatives in the U.S. for constantly pressing on lawmakers and government officials to declare his government as a "narco-state." Maduro said: "They want the U.S. to have a new policy towards Venezuela and treat us like a country that lives on drug trafficking. I call upon all revolutionary forces to defend our sovereignty, with justice and truth."

Washington imposed visa restrictions Monday on officials involved in alleged human rights abuses and those believed responsible for public corruption in the oil-exporting country.

Earlier in the day, prior to knowing about the new sanctions, Maduro said that he will write a letter to Obama because he perceives that the U.S. head of state doesn't dictate directly his administration's policies towards Venezuela.

Maduro said this new "behavior" by the White House will lead to another failure "just as it did with Cuba," referring to Washington's major shift on policies towards Havana in December.

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