

6 Jan, 2026 07:57 / Home / World News

# Trump putting Venezuela's interim leader on 'short leash' – Politico

The US wants to “whip” Delcy Rodriguez into taking several pro-American steps and then “dispose of her,” a source told the outlet



Vice President of Venezuela Delcy Rodriguez reacts after being sworn in as Acting President of Venezuela. © Getty Images

The administration of US President Donald Trump is demanding that Venezuela's interim leader, Delcy Rodriguez, adopt a series of pro-American measures and then expects her to be removed once she complies, Politico reported on Monday, citing sources.

Rodriguez, a former vice president and staunch ally of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, was sworn in as interim president after Maduro was kidnapped by US forces in an unprecedented raid on

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Caracas. While Rodriguez condemned the US and vowed that the country *“will never return to being the colony of another empire,”* she has signaled openness to *“cooperation”* with Washington.

Now, the US wants Rodriguez to crack down on drug trafficking, expel Iranian, Cuban, and other operatives hostile to Washington, and halt oil sales to US adversaries, two Politico sources claimed. US officials also reportedly expect Rodriguez to eventually hold free elections and step aside, though no definite deadlines have been set.

One person close to the administration told Politico that Rodriguez was on a *“short leash,”* adding that the Trump team was *“confident they can whip her in whatever direction they want before they dispose of her and move on.”*

Aside from the threat of launching a second military operation against Venezuela, the US reportedly sees sanctions relief and access to Rodriguez's financial assets as leverage. However, several Politico sources said they were unaware of any plans to lift sanctions or provide significant humanitarian aid at this stage.

The Trump team is also seeking the release of Americans detained in Venezuela, though people familiar with the matter said Washington has not demanded the release of all Venezuela's political opposition figures, according to Politico.

However, the odds of Rodriguez complying with the demands are low due to rivalries among Venezuela's top officials, one person familiar with the matter told the outlet, describing the political landscape as *“an unstable pit of vipers.”*

President Donald Trump has openly asserted that Washington will *“run”* Venezuela until an *“orderly transition,”* while warning that Rodriguez could pay an even *“bigger price”* than Maduro if she resists US demands.

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 **PA Sucks (Pasuxx)** 1/6/2026 at 3:16 PM

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«the US wants Rodriguez to crack down on drug trafficking, expel Iranian, Cuban, and other operatives hostile to Washington, and halt oil sales to US adversaries, two Politico sources claimed. US officials also reportedly expect Rodriguez to eventually hold free elections and step aside, though no definite deadlines have been set.»

As far as the elections go, Venezuela probably has something akin to the USs COG program. She would probably finish off Maduro's term and then regular elections would probably take place. As far as the other stuff? First off, keep doing what you're doing and the whole world will be adversaries of Washington... Also, stop pretending the world is your oyster... Venezuela is a sovereign nation and protected from your threats by UN treaties and agreements.

[Reply](#)

 **Robin Olsen** 1/6/2026 at 4:38 PM ↕

-1

Treaties mean nothing as long as nations are not willing to back them up with military action of their own and no one will. If the Venezuelan people themselves are not willing to fight for their own nation and sovereignty then they will not have it. Simple.

[Reply](#)

 **Yemoot Toomey** 1/6/2026 at 5:43 PM ↕

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Venezuela WAS a sovereign nation but is now a US colony. We don't want to govern this 3rd world country, we just want the oil!! Venezuela is now governed from Miami by Viceroy Narco Rubio. We got the worse that Venezuela had to offer, the wealthy class.. They are all over



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Florida like mosquitoes!!

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 M 1/6/2026 at 7:12 PM ↕

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I have read somewhere that once the acting president is out, new presidential elections must be conducted within 30 days. That's why Maduro wasn't removed, but merely declared temporarily out of office.

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 Jean Wyman 1/6/2026 at 8:16 PM ↕

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Yes, I think that's true. A wise move on Delcy's part.

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 Bee Somsak 1/6/2026 at 6:19 PM

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Trump has turned into a sicko

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 Libertus 1/6/2026 at 7:16 PM ↕

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Trumpstein was always one. Epstein told Larry Summers in an email word by word, «Recall what I've told you — i have met some very bad people, none as bad as Trump. Not one decent cell in his body.»

[Reply](#)

 Jean Wyman 1/6/2026 at 8:13 PM ↕

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Thank you.

[Reply](#)

 Frank Blangeard 1/6/2026 at 7:17 PM

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Venezuela's political landscape is an 'unstable pit of vipers'. The same could be said for nearly any country's political landscape. That is what politics is all about.

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 Jean Wyman 1/6/2026 at 8:13 PM ↕

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The same could and definitely is said about Tadolf's regime in DC.

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**A** August Blom 1/6/2026 at 6:41 PM

-5

I doubt Delcy Rodriguez will stay in the position much longer. The Venezuelans will replace her.

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**G** GeorgeBMac 1/6/2026 at 7:02 PM ↕

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Venezuelans elected her and Maduro.

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**T** Tyrone 1/6/2026 at 7:26 PM ↕

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Maduro's son looks ready to lead Venezuela and punch Trump's teeth out through the back of his skull

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