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## US Declares Venezuelan Airspace Closed Amid Rising Regional Tensions



Published on November 29, 2025

Document Date: Fri, Jan 16 2026 08:35:25 am

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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**Sources** Anadolu Agency

The United States has sharply escalated its stance toward Venezuela, with President Donald Trump announcing on Saturday that all airspace above and around the South American nation should now be considered “completely closed.” The declaration, issued through Trump’s social media platform, Truth Social, warned airlines, pilots, and what he termed “drug dealers and

human traffickers" to avoid the area entirely.

The announcement marks the latest step in months of expanding US military activity across Latin America. Washington has deployed Marines, warships, fighter and bomber aircraft, submarines, and surveillance drones, fueling speculation of potential military action against Venezuela.

According to US officials, the military has already conducted 21 operations targeting suspected drug-smuggling vessels in regional waters. These actions have resulted in the deaths of at least 83 individuals, whom the administration has labelled "narco-terrorists."

Speaking on Thursday, Trump said the United States would "very soon" begin operations aimed at stopping suspected Venezuelan drug traffickers on land, signalling further escalation in Washington's campaign.

The move also follows the US decision to formally designate the Venezuela-based Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organization. Washington accuses Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and senior officials of leading the alleged network. The Venezuelan government dismissed the designation as "ridiculous," insisting that the so-called cartel does not exist and accusing Washington of fabricating allegations for political purposes.

The developments underscore a rapid rise in tensions between the two countries, with both sides exchanging sharp rhetoric amid growing international concern over the possibility of broader conflict.