

VENEZUELA REGIME CHANGE

Trump takes huge political gamble

Democratic party leaders call US operations 'reckless'

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump crowed over the US military triumph in Venezuela on Saturday, but his sudden enthusiasm for intervention abroad puts him in a political minefield back home.

Trump has railed against US entanglements abroad for years. When he branded the post 9/11 Iraq invasion "a stupid thing" a decade ago, he was setting out a central tenet of the nationalist, isolationist MAGA ideology that would win him the White House.

So, Saturday's operation by special forces to swoop into Caracas and seize Venezuela's leader Nicholas Maduro was doubly risky.

The service members in the complex assault -- including troops ferried in by helicopter, jets bombing sites around



Jesus Linares, 48, stands with a local resident as he looks at his damaged apartment building in Catia La Mar, Venezuela, yesterday, following a US strike.

PHOTO: REUTERS

OPERATION ABSOLUTE RESOLVE How the US captured Nicolás Maduro

REUTERS, Washington

At a press conference earlier on Saturday, General Dan Caine described in detail how the US carried out its attack on Venezuela and captured President Nicolas Maduro. Here are the key points that were mentioned:

-- Air, ground, space, maritime and intelligence personnel coordinated over a period of months to plan the mission.

-- At 22:46 ET on 2 January (03:46 GMT) Donald Trump gave the mission the go-ahead.

-- Operation 'Absolute Resolve' saw 150 aircraft launched towards Venezuela from 20 different bases across the Western Hemisphere.

-- An extraction force made up of helicopters and a ground team approached Maduro's compound in Venezuela at 01:01 ET (02:01 local time) on 3 January to capture the leader and his wife.

-- The force was protected overhead by F-22, F-35, F/A-18, EA-18, E-2 aircraft, B-1 bombers and drones.

-- Helicopters came under fire and



one was hit -- although it "remained flyable" during the rest of the mission.

-- Maduro and his wife embarked on the USS Iwo Jima at some time after 03:39 ET (08:39 GMT).

-- As the troops left Venezuelan territory, Caine said, they were involved in "multiple self defense engagements."

-- By 3:20 am EST, the helicopters were over water, with Maduro and his wife on board.

-- Almost exactly seven hours after Trump announced the operation on Truth Social, he made another post.

-- This time it was a photograph of the captured Venezuelan leader blindfolded, handcuffed and wearing grey sweatpants.

-- "Nicolas Maduro on board the USS Iwo Jima," Trump wrote, referring to the amphibious assault ship.

-- Trump said the Venezuelan leader had tried to reach a safe room but was unable to close the door. "He got bum rushed so fast that he didn't get into that," Trump said. Some US forces were hit, Trump said, but none were killed.

16 dead in Iran during week of protests

Says rights group; 582 arrested

REUTERS, Dabai

At least 16 people have been killed during a week of unrest in Iran, rights groups said yesterday, as protests over soaring inflation spread across the country prompting violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

Deaths and arrests have been reported through the week both by state media and rights groups, though the numbers have differed.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to come to the protesters' aid if they face violence, saying on Friday "we are locked and loaded and ready to go".

That warning prompted threats of retaliation against US forces in the region from senior Iranian officials and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians in Gaza

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli forces shot and killed at least three Palestinians in separate incidents in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis yesterday, local health authorities said.

Medics reported that the dead included a 15-year-old boy, a fisherman killed outside areas still occupied by Israel in the enclave, and a third man who was shot and killed east of the city in areas under Israeli control.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the reported incidents. Israel has carried out repeated air strikes since a ceasefire took effect in October, saying they are aimed at preventing attacks or destroying "militant infrastructure".

Gaza's health ministry says 420 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire began. Israel and Hamas have traded blame for violations of the ceasefire agreement brokered under Trump.

Israel retained control of 53 percent of Gaza under first phase of Trump's plan, which involved the release of hostages held by Hamas members in Gaza and of Palestinians detained by Israel.



26 dead in Nigeria boat capsizes 13 others rescued

AFP, Maiduguri

At least 26 people drowned and 14 others are missing after a boat carrying farmers and fishermen capsized in northeastern Nigeria, the emergency services said yesterday.

The incident happened late Saturday, when a rudimentary passenger boat going from Jigawa State to Yobe State capsized, Mohammed Goje, executive director of the State Emergency Management Agency in Yobe state, told AFP.

"So far, emergency volunteers and rescue teams have recovered 26 bodies," he said. His agency said in a statement that 14 others were missing.

Thirteen other passengers were rescued, he said, adding that search and rescue operations were still underway.

Accidents are common on Nigeria's busy rivers, often caused by overloaded boats, poor maintenance or failure to comply with safety regulations.

'Not thrilled' with Putin

Says Trump over war in Ukraine; one killed in drone attack in Russia's border region



REUTERS, Kyiv

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he was frustrated with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the continued war in Ukraine, repeating that he had initially believed that ending the war would be easy.

"I'm not thrilled with Putin. He's killing too many people," Trump told reporters at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, during a press conference to discuss the overnight US military operation in Venezuela and capture of its President Nicolas Maduro.

Trump said he did not discuss Maduro with Putin when the two leaders spoke by telephone for over two hours on Monday, shortly before the US president met with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky in Palm Beach.

Trump on Monday initially expressed sympathy for Russian allegations that Ukrainian drones attacked one of Putin's residences. He later appeared more skeptical and shared a New York Post editorial accusing Russia of blocking peace in Ukraine.

The Wall Street Journal later reported that US national security officials had found Ukraine did not target Putin or one of his residences in a drone strike.

Meanwhile, one man was killed and a woman and a four-year-old child were injured by a Ukrainian drone attack on a vehicle in Russia's western border region of Belgorod, the governor said yesterday.

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Invitation for e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)

Memo No. 723(2) Engg

Dated: 04/01/2026

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1175185	XEN/Elect-2/DU/25-26/03	Supply and Installation of 03 (Three) Nos. new split type air coolers in place of 03 (Three) Nos. old air coolers. Two for the office room of the Honorable Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka and one for the computer room.	14-Jun-2026 17:00	15-Jan-2026 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Invitation for e-GP Tender Notice

Memo No. 3017(2) Engg.

Dated: 4/01/2026

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Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Tender system	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1204049	prokou/civil/du/2025-2026/25	OTM	Necessary repair works for Provost Banglow of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall at University of Dhaka.	15-01-2026 12:30	15-01-2026 15:30

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