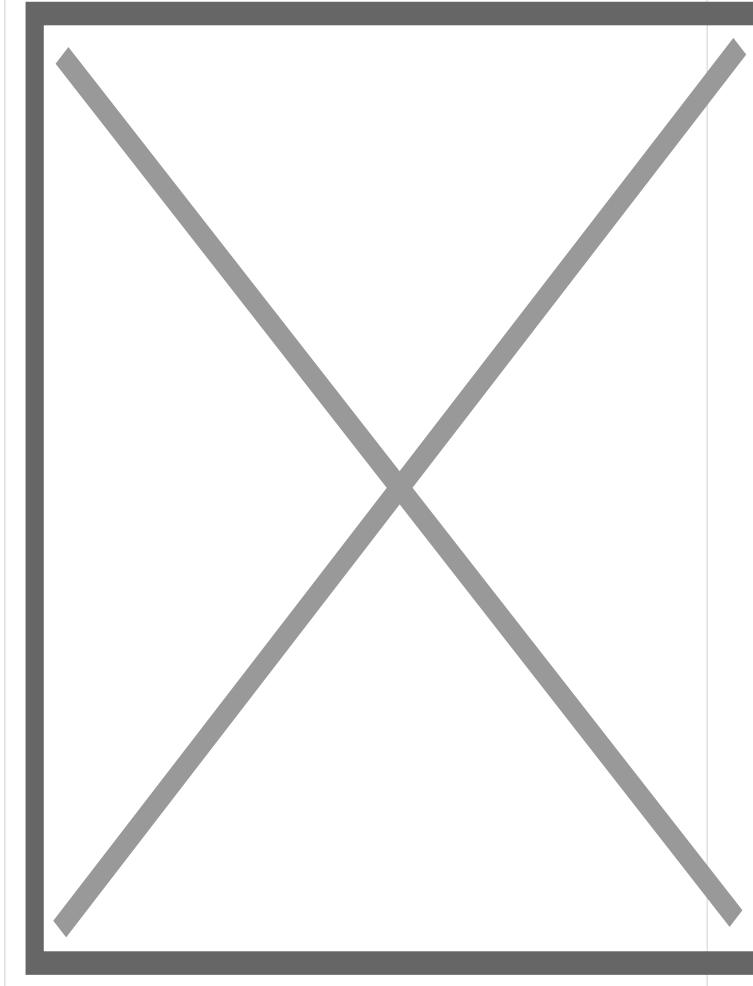
ALBA-TCP condemns U.S. request to seize Venezuelan aircraft



ALBA-TCP countries expressed their support to the Venezuelan government in securing its assets

Caracas, August 8 (RHC)-- The member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People's Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) have condemned the request of the U.S. Department of Justice to confiscate a Boing-747 aircraft owned by Empresa de Transporte Aerocargo del Sur (Emtrasur), a subsidiary of the Venezuelan airline Conviasa.

"The illegitimate and illegal seizure order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia is a consequence of the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the U.S. government that threaten the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and violate the fundamental rights of the United Nations Charter and International Law," the ALBA-TCP communiqué states.

The integration organization expressed its rejection of the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by the White House against the people and the Government of Venezuela, and at the same time requested the international community to demand the immediate cessation of sanctions against the South American nation.

Since June, the plane has been stranded at Ezeiza International Airport, in Buenos Aires, after being refused by the Uruguayan Government to make a technical refueling stopover while covering the Argentina-Montevideo-Caracas route.

The crew was forced to return to the air terminal from where it had departed some time before, with only 17,000 liters of fuel, far below the 20,000 liters regulated by Emtrasur, endangering the lives of the crew members.

In July, a U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia issued an order for the seizure of the aircraft, an action that Venezuela considers unacceptable and has repudiated in various forums.





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