

# *Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Rejects Obama's Signing of Sanctions*

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Caracas, December 19 (RHC-teleSUR) — In response to U.S. President Barack Obama signing legislation to impose sanctions on Venezuelan government officials, Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro said that the Americas will never be a colony of the United states.

The Venezuelan president rejected on Thursday sanctions signed by U.S president Barack Obama. The legislation was passed by U.S. Congress last week, authorizing sanctions against Venezuelan officials.

"President Obama has taken a false step against our country, by signing the sanctions, despite the national and continental rejection of them. On the one hand, he recognizes the failure of the aggression against and blockade of Cuba... which with dignity, has resisted and won, and on the other hand he has started a stage of increased aggressions against (Venezuela)," said Maduro via Twitter.

The U.S claims the sanctions are in retaliation for the so-called repressive or violent role of government officials earlier this year.

Some right-wing opposition supporters participated in blockades, burning over 100 public buses, stations, and buildings, shot at Chavista marchers, while also physically and verbally attacking people trying to get to school or hospitals between February and April this year. Forty three people were killed, the majority being civilians and members of the pro-government national guard.

The government arrested some of the people perpetrating violence, although most of those arrested have been released.

The U.S sanctions would deny visas and freeze assets of government officials.

On Monday, Venezuelans marched against the sanctions. The country also celebrated 15 years of a constitution which gave them protagonistic participation in decision making, and broad rights.

Maduro, along with various other Latin American nations, has denounced the U.S. sanctions.

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