

VENEZUELA: DRUG TRAFFICKING ALLEGATIONS

“The 2025 UNODC report is crystal clear and should embarrass those who have demonized Venezuela through rhetoric. The report only briefly mentions Venezuela, stating that a small amount of Colombian drug production passes through the country en route to the United States and Europe. According to the UN, Venezuela has consolidated its status as a territory free from the cultivation of coca leaves, cannabis and similar crops, as well as from the presence of international criminal cartels.

This document merely confirms the findings of the previous 30 annual reports, which did not address Venezuelan drug trafficking because it does not exist., – *Pino Arlacchi, former Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*

OUR ASK

Vote for a War Powers Resolution to prevent unauthorized military action against Venezuela.

8%

of Colombia's drug production leaves from the Caribbean coasts and the Colombian Guajira.

87%

of the drugs produced in Colombia are trafficked through Pacific routes, destined for the United States and Europe

5%

of Colombia's drug production is moved through Venezuelan territory, destined for the Caribbean islands and Europe.



“The Maduro regime probably does not have a policy of cooperating with TDA and is not directing TDA movement to and operations in the United States.... Venezuelan intelligence, military, and police services view TDA as a security threat and operate against it in ways that make it highly unlikely the two sides would cooperate in a strategic or consistent way.” – April 7, 2025 memo from the National Intelligence Council

Cartel de los Soles

There is no evidence that this cartel actually exists. The Cartel of the Suns term was first used in 1993 – long before former President Chávez, let alone President Maduro, was elected president. The Drug Enforcement Agency's 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA) dedicates 13 pages to cartels in the Americas; the Cartel de los Soles is not mentioned. In fact, in the publicly available NDTAs since 2010, the DEA has not written a single word about the Cartel de los Soles.

Tren de Aragua (TDA)

Even the DEA recognizes that TDA is not a cartel, but a criminal organization that engages in “small scale drug trafficking.” In its 2025 NDTA, the DEA notes that Tren de Aragua engages in human trafficking and extorting migrants.

Two Missile Strikes Kill 14

Could the Trump administration have committed a war crime?

Attacking a boat full of civilians (and even alleged drug traffickers are still civilians) in international waters runs counter to international law and due process. This was an extrajudicial killing that could easily have been avoided. Because of the Trump administration's decision to strike – rather than seize – the alleged drug boat carrying 11 people, many questions remain unanswered. For starters, local media in Venezuela are reporting that it was a fishing boat with four motors, not a go-fast boat typically used by drug smugglers.

Secretary of State Rubio initially acknowledged that the boat was “probably headed to Trinidad,” before changing stories and saying it was going to the United States. Regardless of what kind of boat it was, it could never have made the 30+ hour, 1,200 nautical mile trip from Venezuela to Florida – it would not have been able to carry sufficient fuel.

Go-fast boats typically have a crew of three people and can carry three tons of cocaine. With 11 people on board, it makes it unlikely that this boat was trafficking drugs, as it's easier to haul more cargo with fewer passengers. If this was a Tren de Aragua boat (another unanswered question), it is more likely to have been engaged in human trafficking. Did the Trump administration kill several migrants escaping U.S. threats of war? Congress needs to investigate.