



## Commercial Passenger and Cargo Flights Between U.S. and Venezuela Suspended

By Holland & Knight

Because of security concerns, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on May 15, 2019, [ordered the suspension of all commercial passenger and cargo flights](#) between the United States and Venezuela.

The suspension of flights is effective immediately and will remain in effect indefinitely. In the meantime, DHS will continue to monitor the situation, and said it will reconsider the measure if and when conditions in Venezuela change.

It is important to point out that the last major U.S.-based airline providing passenger and cargo flights between Venezuela and the U.S. announced in March 2019 the indefinite suspension of its flights to Venezuela.

However, international airlines that have maintained service between Venezuela and the U.S., via connection flights from other countries, do not expect their operations to be affected by the recent measure.

The flight suspensions will seriously impact Venezuelans, who receive medical donations from the United States through air courier services. It will also affect those who rely on donations or remittances from relatives abroad.

Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro opposed the U.S. decision, expressing that it violates passengers' freedom and rights. On the other hand, opposition leader Juan Guaidó, recognized by the U.S. as Venezuela's interim president, has asked to meet with U.S. government officials, through his ambassador in Miami, to request assistance for the humanitarian crisis.

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