

Organization of American States warns of sham elections in socialist Venezuela

OAS on the upcoming vote: "It cannot be accepted by the international community.'

The international Organization of American States (OAS) has called on its 35-member nations to reject the parliamentary elections planned by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro next month on Dec. 6.

"It cannot be accepted by the international community. We must be clear about it, reject that idea and any political margin to try to validate that process," Luis Almagro, Secretary-General of the OAS said during a press conference earlier this week, according to El Nacional.

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"It is definitely unacceptable from every point of view," he added. "These elections are one more mechanism of impunity and cooptation of the Powers of the State."

Almagro believes that Maduro is attempting to seize power over the opposition-controlled National Assembly - a sentiment shared by the leader of the government body Juan Guaido, who is recognized by the United State and the European Union as the acting president of Venezuela.

"We will not recognize the results of these elections and reiterate our demands for free and fair presidential elections, which is the only way to resolve this now international crisis," a State Department spokesperson told Fox News.

Guaido has already denounced the December election as "fraud," and points to Venezuela's Maduro loyalist-Supreme Court having appointed officials to the nation's top electoral body, instead of recognizing parliament's role in the process, France 24 reported.

The National Assembly is the only body currently under control by the opposition but was deemed ineffective by the Supreme Court in 2017 when the high court found it in contempt and effectively revoked the body's powers.

But Maduro is still looking to gain control of the legislative body.

"Here we don't elect Donald Trump, [Jair] Bolsonaro or [Ivan] Duque," Maduro said earlier this month, commenting on who he associates as right-wing leaders in the U.S., Brazil and Colombia - all of which denounce the Maduro presidency and regime.

Almagro said that Venezuela's dictatorship began under Hugo Chavez and "has accelerated with the inauguration of Nicolás Maduro."

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"Dictators must leave the country and be tried for their crimes," Almagro said Wednesday.

"The U.S. government agrees with calls from the Organization of American States (OAS) that the illegitimate Maduro regime's fraudulent parliamentary elections to be held December 6 will not meet the conditions for free and fair elections," said a spokesperson from the Department of State. "These electoral conditions, fraught with regime manipulation, censorship, and harassment, are the worst that have been seen in modern Venezuelan history."

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