

Venezuela opposition leader Edmundo González lands in Spain after fleeing country

Opponent of Nicolas Maduro - widely seen as legitimate election winner - seeks asylum in Spain after being accused of a series of crimes

The Venezuelan opposition leader and former presidential candidate, Edmundo González, has gone into exile in Spain, dealing a bitter blow to opponents of the country's authoritarian president, Nicolás Maduro.

The Spanish government said on Sunday that a Spanish air force plane carrying González and his wife had landed at the Torrejón de Ardoz military base outside Madrid

"He has ... requested asylum and the Spanish government will of course process this and concede it," Spain's foreign minister, José Manuel Albares, told the public broadcaster RTVE on Sunday. "I have been able to speak to [González] and once he was aboard the airplane he expressed his gratitude toward the Spanish government and Spain," he added.

"Of course I told him we were pleased that he is well and on his way to Spain, and I reiterated the commitment of our government to the political rights of all Venezuelans."

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