

Advertisement

Make eye problems disappear
Try iQ today FREE for 30 Days
» Learn more about iQ RestorEyes

TRY IT FREE →
www.iqcosmetics.com

Clinically PROVEN

- NEWS
- POLITICS
- OPINIONS
- LOCAL
- SPORTS
- ARTS & LIVING
- CITY GUIDE
- JOB
- CARS
- REAL ESTATE
- RENTALS
- CLASSIFIEDS

SEARCH: Try Our New Search go washingtonpost.com Web | Results by **Google**™ | [Search Archives](#)

washingtonpost.com > World > Wires

[Print This Article](#)
[E-Mail This Article](#)

Latest World News: [Pawn shops poised as Britons run up debt](#)

OAS Warn Venezuela Concerning TV Station

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**
The Associated Press
Friday, January 5, 2007; 9:04 PM

CARACAS, [Venezuela](#) -- The [Organization of American States](#) warned Friday that the possible closing of an opposition-aligned TV station by [President Hugo Chavez's](#) government could undermine press freedom and democracy in [Venezuela](#).

Chavez has said his government will not renew the broadcast license of Radio [Caracas](#) Television, or RCTV, when it expires in May, accusing the channel of having backed a brief coup against him in 2002 and of other subversive activities.

"The closing of a mass communications outlet is a rare step in the history of our hemisphere and has no precedent in the recent decades of democracy," [OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza](#) said in a written statement.

Insulza said any move that forces RCTV to close "gives the appearance of a form of censorship against freedom of expression and at the same time serves as a warning against other news organizations, leading them to limit their actions at the risk of facing the same fate."

The government did not immediately respond to the OAS statement, though Chavez has said the decision is final.

RCTV President Marcel Granier told [The Associated Press](#) that the station would be forced to close if the government went ahead with what he called an "illegal" move to revoke its license.

Tensions have risen to a new level between the government and Venezuela's largely opposition-aligned private media since Chavez's December re-election to a fresh six-year term.

Chavez has promised radical changes, including revising the constitution _ possibly to get rid of presidential term limits _ and creating a single, pro-government party.

Many Chavez critics say they fear that Venezuela is heading toward the tightly regulated communist system of [Cuba's Fidel Castro](#),

Advertisement

I want a
\$510,000

Mortgage for Under
\$1,498 /Month!

Think You Pay Too Much for Your Mortgage? Find Out!

[Click to Rate Your Mortgage](#)

★★★★★
397 Ratings

Select Your State
Alabama

Select Your Rate
3.00% - 3.99%

Select Your Credit
Good

LowerMyBills.com

Advertisement

Advertisement

- MOST VIEWED ARTICLES**
Updated 12:46 p.m. ET
- [China's Muckrakers for Hire Deliver Expos?s With Impact](#)
 - [Calls Mount for Olmert to Step Down](#)
 - [Rice Meets with Iraq's Prime Minister on Eve of Conference](#)
 - [Bush, Democrats begin search for Iraq compromise](#)

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS

View a Sample and Sign Up [Today's Headlines & Columnists](#)
[Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Manage Your Newsletters](#)

Advertisement

PHOTOS

EYE ON : The World
The week's events from around the world, captured in pictures.
» [VIEW THIS WEEK'S PHOTOS](#)

SAVE & SHARE ARTICLE [What's This?](#)

[Digg](#) [Google](#)
[del.icio.us](#) [Yahoo!](#)
[Reddit](#) [Facebook](#)

Chavez's ally and mentor.

During the campaign, Chavez said he regretted not having shut down RCTV and other channels critical of his administration immediately after a 2002 coup, which he claims they supported.

During the short-lived coup, several private channels broadcast regular programs such as cartoons and movies instead of the leader's return to power during giant street protests.

Insulza said the Venezuelan government's charges against the channel are serious, but that in a democracy such accusations should be addressed through the courts.

[Print This Article](#)

[E-Mail This Article](#)

More on washingtonpost.com

[Chavez: Will Nationalize Telecoms, Power](#)

[Venezuela Seeks Retraction From OAS](#)

[Venezuelan Teen Detained in Hacking Case](#)

» [Related Topics & Web Content](#)

powered by 

People who read this also read ...

[Jazz Saxophonist Tommy Newsom; Played on 'Tonight Show'](#)

[Clinton Campaign Tries to Keep Heat on Obama Over Debate Response](#)

[Tenet Details Efforts to Justify Invading Iraq](#)

[Stephen Barr - Bad Apples Fall in Bunches](#)

FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

[Refinance Rates As Low As 2.9% - FREE QUOTES!](#)

[\\$300,000 Mortgage for \\$965/mo! Refinance & Save \\$1,000's!](#)

[Retirement plans for small businesses from Fidelity.](#)

[Be Prepared. Fight Identity Theft! Equifax.com.](#)

[Earn 5.05% APY* on your savings](#)

[>>\\$599,000 Loan for ONLY \\$1,997/mo. - LendingTree®](#)

[The Police Tickets, Nationals Tickets, NASCAR Tickets](#)

[Asbestos, Mesothelioma Lawyer, Lung Cancer, Med Mal](#)

[Mother's Day Gifts, T-shirts, Custom Hats, Koozies](#)

[Cool Gadgets, Great Deals, Visit CircuitCity.com](#)

[Try Email Marketing with Constant Contact](#)

[2 Week Heart and Artery Makeover](#)

© 2007 The Associated Press

Ads by Google

[Polycom FX - \\$2,499](#)

Buy a Viewstation FX with 1-year warranty and on-call tech support
www.323.tv

SEARCH:



washingtonpost.com

Web

Results by 

[NEWS](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [OPINIONS](#) | [LOCAL](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ARTS & LIVING](#) | [CITY GUIDE](#)

[JOBS](#) | [CARS](#) | [REAL ESTATE](#) | [RENTALS](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#)

washingtonpost.com: [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Make Us Your Home Page](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#) | [Archives](#)
The Washington Post: [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#) | [About The Post](#) | [National Weekly](#)
The Washington Post Company: [Information and Other Post Co. Websites](#)

© Copyright 1996-2007 The Washington Post Company | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#)