

 **Current: 82°**
87° / 71°
Complete Forecast





**Low fares.
More airline.**

*Get a great fare on
a world-class airline.*

From: (City)	To: (City)	PASSENGERS: 7	GET FARE
DEPARTURE DATE: MAY 3	RETURN DATE: JUN 30	DATES FLEXIBLE:	

Search: MiamiHerald.com Archives for

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
The Miami Herald
Subscriber Services

[Back to Home](#) > [News](#) > [Americas](#) > [Venezuela](#)

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Venezuela

Posted on Wed, May. 02, 2007

[email](#) [print](#) [reprint or license](#)
[del.icio.us](#) [Digg it](#)



Enter Keyword(s): Select a Category:

- All Job Categories -

City: State:

- All United States -

- Jobs**
- Cars**
- Real Estate**
- Apartments**
- Local Shopping**
- ShopLocal
- Newspaper Ads
- All Classifieds**
- Create an Ad
- Find an Ad
- Pets

SECTIONS

! TODAY'S EXTRAS

News

- Legislature 2007
- 5-Minute Herald
- Breaking News
- Miami-Dade
- Broward
- Florida Keys
- Florida
- Nation
- Americas
- Cuba
- Haiti
- Venezuela
- Canada
- World
- Action Line
- Lottery
- Politics
- Education
- Environment
- Issues & Ideas
- Special Reports
- Weird News
- Weather
- Hurricane
- Photo Gallery
- Corrections
- Obituaries

Sports

Entertainment

Business

Tropical Life

- Health
- Travel

Opinion

- Columnists

Visitor's Guide

EINuevoHerald.com

ONLINE FEATURES

Calendar of Events

Contests

Message Boards

Special Publications
 Today's Front Page
 Traffic Reports
 Web Cams
 Podcasts

SITE SERVICES

Advertise
 RSS Feeds
 News by Email
 News by mobile
 About Us
 Site Map
 Past Articles

PARTNERS

WLRN | Miami Herald News
 CBS 4 WFOR-TV
 Newspaper in Education
 More Partners

VENEZUELA

TV CEO out to stop Chávez from taking station

The CEO of RCTV, Marcel Granier, has embarked on a mission to save his TV station, and he believes he will prevail.

BY PABLO BACHELET
 pbachelet@MiamiHerald.com

WASHINGTON -- Marcel Granier has gone from the hard-hitting world of TV production to the soft-touch arena of advocacy and diplomatic lobbying.

Granier, 65, is the CEO of RCTV, the Venezuelan TV station that President Hugo Chávez has vowed to take over come May 27, sparking an international row that, in the eyes of rights activists and media watchdog groups, has become a marker of sorts of Chávez's true democratic intentions.

Granier, convinced that Chávez must be stopped now or Venezuela will see its democratic space shrink dramatically, has been touring Latin America and Europe attempting to drum up international support.

"I feel Venezuela is on an accelerated road to authoritarianism," he told The Miami Herald in an interview. "This marks him as another Latin American dictator."

Chávez accuses Granier and RCTV of backing a failed 2002 coup against him.

PRESS FREEDOM SCORES

On Tuesday, Granier was in Washington to address a gathering organized by The Freedom House, an advocacy group that issued its annual report on press freedom. Venezuela was declared "not free" with a score of 74. The higher the score -- in a scale of 1 to 100 -- the less media freedom. Cuba, last in the hemisphere, scored 96.

Granier, who has worked for the channel since 1969, is reluctant to give details of his agenda in Washington. "Chávez doesn't need to know what we're up to," he said.

EQUIPMENT TO REMAIN

Granier has not said what he will do with the station's 3,000 employees or the 16 studios of one of Latin America's premier broadcasters if Chávez wins out. Since the Venezuelan government is taking over the frequency and not the installations, he could continue broadcasting over cable. He says, however, that there is no guarantee that Chávez won't go after him there, too.

But Granier says he is confident that the legal injunctions he is seeking from the Venezuelan supreme court will prevail.

The Venezuelan Supreme Court is packed with Chávez appointees.

FOREIGN SUPPORT

If Granier senses his interlocutors are interested in his station's case, he hands them a binder with copies of international expressions of solidarity, from the OAS Freedom of Expression Rapporteur to a resolution by the Chilean Congress asking President Michelle Bachelet to protest the station's seizure.

His cause got a boost last month when an OAS human rights unit referred the case to the San José-based Inter-American Court of Human Rights, whose rulings are binding for Venezuela. Chávez has threatened to leave the OAS.

Granier says he understands how difficult it can be for governments to speak out against the closure of RCTV and then have to face Chávez's public condemnations afterwards.

"For many," he said, "the decision is whether to defend [democratic] principals or let realpolitik run its course."



RODRIGO ARANGUA/AFP-GETTY IMAGES

Marcel Granier, director of Radio Caracas Television, or RCTV, speaks at the 63rd Inter-American Press Association meeting in March in Cartagena, Colombia. Granier has denounced Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's decision that RCTV go off the air when its broadcast license expires on May 27.



All Rights Reserved