



Markets

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Venezuela's RCTV Off Air by Monday

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CARACAS, Venezuela — An opposition-aligned TV station must stop broadcasting while the Supreme Court reviews the station's appeal to have its license renewed, the high court ruled Wednesday.

In a statement posted on its Web site, the Supreme Court said it "decided to accept the appeal" presented by Radio Caracas Television, or RCTV, but rejected its request for "protect measures." That means the commercial station must stop broadcasting Monday and will be replaced by a public-service station, as previously announced by President Hugo Chavez.

Although the ruling is a setback for RCTV, the court is still reviewing its challenge to the government shutdown.

The channel and Venezuela's opposition argue that Chavez — a close ally of Cuban leader Fidel Castro — is trying to silence criticism. Chavez rejects the allegations, arguing the new, state-financed TV station will respect freedom of expression by opening its doors to all Venezuelans.

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