



EU Parliament criticizes Venezuela over cancelation of TV license

The Associated Press

Published: May 24, 2007

CARACAS, Venezuela: The European Parliament criticized Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's decision not to renew the license of an opposition-aligned television station, warning it could chill freedom of speech.

In a 43 to 22 vote Thursday in Strasbourg, France, EU lawmakers approved a resolution saying the action could set "an alarming precedent" and "deprive a great portion of the public of diverse information."

RCTV, one of Venezuela's oldest private networks, says Chavez is trying to silence criticism by booting it off the air at midnight May 28. Chavez accuses RCTV of supporting a short-lived coup against him in 2002 and says the frequency will be turned over to a new, state-financed station.

Chavez laughed off the EU resolution, noting that only 65 representatives voted on the measure in a legislative body with nearly 800 members.

"This is a gigantic demonstration that the European political class thinks this is of no interest to them," he said in a speech to scholars.

Today in Americas

U.S. lawmakers approve fresh funds for Iraq war

U.S. opens a sheltered path to asylum for some Iraqis

Violence mars effort to cut fees paid by Mexican guest workers

"I want to thank the European socialist parties," he said. "They simply refused to be part of this game of the European extreme right, allied with the Venezuelan extreme right."

On Wednesday, Venezuela's Supreme Court rejected an RCTV petition seeking an injunction letting it remain on the air while it appeals its case.

- E-Mail Article
- Listen to Article
- Printer-Friendly
- 3-Column Format
- Translate
- Share Article
- Text Size

Introducing TimesSelect

25 years of archived articles, special features from our columnists and more from The New York Times and the International Herald Tribune

[Learn More](#)

Most E-Mailed Articles

Last 24 Hours Last 7 Days Last 30 Days Subscribe

1. France's universities could be first test for Sarkozy
2. Meanwhile: Do not disturb! Author at work
3. The problem is beyond Musharraf
4. French are more positive on immigrants, poll shows
5. The politics of Turkey
6. Germany and Japan press U.S. for action on climate change
7. Assad grows into role of Syria's iron ruler
8. The chairman of a South Korean conglomerate faces assault charges
9. Europe, Japan to pass U.S. in growth this year
10. South Africa name-game opens old wounds



AudioNews: IHT.com on the go

Listen to IHT articles on your computer, and create custom podcasts for your portable music player. [Try it now.](#)

Ads by Google

Rail Europe Trains
Visit Many Countries And Save Check Out Our Rail Passes Online
www.RailEurope.com

A Muslim Europe?
Edward Luitwak on Turkey's plans for the Islamisation of Europe
www.thefirstpost.co.uk

President Hugo Chavez
Will his "21st Century Socialism" succeed in Venezuela?
www.realtruth.org/Venezuelan-News

Margarita Is., Venezuela
3 mile beach, B&B & cottages on popular Margarita, Venezuela
www.casatrudel.com

- More Features**

 - Blogs
 - Top Ten Articles
- The Newspaper**

 - Today's Page One in Europe
 - Today's Page One in Asia
 - IHT Electronic Edition
 - E-Mail the Editor
- Services**

 - Funds Inside
 - Classifieds
 - Advertise with the IHT
- Other Formats**

 - E-Mail Alerts
 - AudioNews
 - Mobile
 - RSS

