

CBS Mornings

01/05/26

7:02:34 a.m.

20 seconds

NATE BURLESON: We're also learning more about the operation early Saturday to arrest Maduro, including a report in *The New York Times* that dozens of Cubans and Venezuelans were killed. Trump now says American service members were injured during the raid, but no one died. As for the worldwide response, it's been mixed. Many Venezuelan exiles are celebrating, others protesting.

(....)

7:05:37 a.m.

2 minutes and 8 seconds

GAYLE KING: All right. Matt Gutman, first, before you say anything else can we say welcome to CBS. It's really good to have you here.

MATT GUTMAN: Thank you.

KING: When I saw your name on the rundown, I go today is the day. But you've got a unique perspective on this story, I actually remember this. Back in Venezuela — you've covered this country a lot — in 2016, you were detained by intelligence officials for several days. I remember in the industry, we were saying, "did you hear what happened to Matt Gutman?" Don't want to bring up any unpleasant memories for us, but can you tell us what happened there?

GUTMAN: Well, you reaching out to me for the first time right afterwards and the weeks afterwards, Gayle, was one of the great things that happened. And so, thank you. We were basically in Venezuela to report on the kleptocracy there, on the corruption, focusing specifically on one hospital, this pediatric ward, because Maduro's regime was stealing all of the medicine in the country literally leaving young children to die in their own hospitals. And, after reporting there, locals are not allowed to do that kind of reporting, we were leaving, we were pointed out by some of the local militias, then the local police took us in, then the national police finally — the secret police — we were taken to a black site, I was there for five days. They accused me of being a CIA spy, obviously that's not true. They threatened that they would keep me there for years to come. Now, I was never physically mistreated, but right beside me for days I saw people who were physically mistreated. Obviously, the regime has tortured people and left people in unlawful detention for many years and killed people as well. And obviously, all of this relates to the charges here and that terrible corruption that we have seen. But one lighter note, nine years after that happened, one of the people I worked with in Venezuela who was held with me was Carlos Beltran, a producer who he and I reunited for the first time yesterday physically in the same space for the first time in nine years since we left each other and parted in that black site in Venezuela. So, a pretty incredible full circle here, Gayle.

KING: I'll say. Boy, that's — that's a nice note to the story because I remember being very, very concerned and worried. We're glad you are okay and glad you are with us at CBS.

GUTMAN: Thank you.

KING: We will be seeing more of you.

GUTMAN: I'm so glad to be here.

(...)

8:00:38 a.m.

5 minutes and 41 seconds

KING: Were going to begin this hour, though, with a global response to the arrest of Nicolas Maduro. Venezuelas ousted president is set to be arraigned soon on a wide range of charges here in New York, along with his wife. They will be in a New York City courtroom later this afternoon after spending the weekend in jail. Think about that for a second. The attack that led to his capture is raising questions among U.S. allies and the adversari — and the adversaries, rather — they are responding, too. Ramy Inocencio is following this story from London. Remy, good morning to you. What can you tell us?

REMY INOCENCIO: Gayle, yes, good morning. Well, condemnation is coming down on the United States from strategic adversaries like China, like Russia, and Iran. All of them saying that this is a violation of Venezuelas sovereignty. China, which buys most of Venezuelas oil, said that it was deeply shocked and that the U.S. clearly violated international law, but there is also rising concern, Gayle, that President Xi Jinping could use Trumps actions to finally invade Taiwan just off the coast. From Moscow, former President Dmitry Medvedev said Trumps actions were illegal, but he portrayed it as Trump defending Americas national interests since Venezuela has the worlds largest proven oil reserves and as Moscows own invasion of Ukraines resource-rich east hits four years. And from Tehran, hit by mass protests since last week, Irans supreme leader said we will not yield to the enemy, that after Trump last week said the U.S. is “locked and loaded” if protesters were killed, and he stressed that again on Air Force One overnight. In response to the capture of Maduro, though, Venezuela called for an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting for today. Nate?

BURLESON: Ramy, thank you. For more on the reaction, lets bring in chief foreign affairs correspondent and *Face the Nation* moderator Margaret Brennan. Margaret, good morning.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Good morning to you, Nate.

BURLESON: Alright, now, there has been strong reaction on the global stage to the U.S. intervention of Venezuela. What implications could this have on our relationship with the rest of the world?

BRENNAN: Well, Nate, we will see that at that emergency meeting at the U.N. today, but for now we already know that America's ally, France, says the U.S. violated international law. We know that the head of the United Nations himself echoed that feeling and he called the operation a dangerous precedent. But at that emergency meeting later this morning, the Trump administration's ambassador, Mike Walz, is going to argue that this is not regime change. They will try to say that this is just a law enforcement operation that involved help from the United States military, not a military operation itself. But the critics here are going to argue that the United States showing disregard for the consequences may effectively be interpreted as a green light to China and to Russia to conduct their own snatch and grab operations of leaders that they view as criminals.

DIAZ: So, Margaret, do you think there are further military operations planned, or is this mission accomplished?

BRENNAN: It's not mission accomplished yet. Secretary Rubio told me yesterday, and he really put the emphasis here on economic pressure, not military pressure, he said cutting off the oil trade is their main leverage to get the regime to comply, but you heard President Trump himself say a second military operation could be an option. They seem to be implying here that the other indicted regime officials could face arrest, something like we already saw with Maduro himself. The idea of a military occupation, like an Iraq-style situation, seems far less likely, but it is not being explicitly ruled out.

KING: Yeah. I saw the secretary of state making the rounds yesterday, I watched him of course on your show on *Face the Nation*. What was your main takeaway in your conversation with him because he was everywhere yesterday?

BRENNAN: He was exhausted, clearly working around the clock on this issue. I was struck by a few things. One of them the focus now on access to oil, but also the language that the secretary used. He really pushed back on me when I was questioning him and he said there needs to be realism. He said the Trump administration is not demanding a transition to democracy or handing over power right now to the leaders, Gayle, who won that last election. The President-Elect Edmundo Gonzalez is in exile, you have Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado who was planning to serve as his vice president. The United States is not saying that they need to take control. In fact, the President is trying to test out whether the United States can leave in place those Maduro regime officials and get them to give access to oil, get them under U.S. control, including the current President Delcy Rodriguez and others who are wanted by U.S. law enforcement for drug trafficking and those really deep ties to American adversaries like Russia. Take a listen.

[RUBIO CLIP]

BRENNAN: So really, Gayle, and Adriana and Nate, it is an open-ended question and when he argues the U.S. will run Venezuela, it really means trying to control. That was my takeaway through that conversation, rather than being on the ground.

DIAZ: Margaret, I was glued to that interview, it was riveting. Thank you so much.

(....)

8:13:44 a.m.

6 seconds

DIAZ: Speaking of this briefing later today —

SENATOR TIM KAINE (D-VA): Glad to be with you.

DIAZ: — with members of Congress — thank you so much — what do you think the White House needs to tell Congress in this briefing?

(....)

8:15:14 a.m.

10 seconds

DIAZ: So, senator, what is the role of Congress here? This operation went forward without a lot of members' knowledge, but you do have the power of the purse. Do you plan to use that to have influence?

(....)

8:16:16 a.m.

13 seconds

BURLESON: Let's stay right there for a quick second. Even if that passes the Senate and then the House, it would need to be signed by President Trump himself, correct? So why move forward with that —

KAINE: That is correct.

BURLESON: — resolution if that is unlikely?

(....)

8:17:29 a.m.

20 seconds

BURLESON: Senator, speaking of that running of Venezuela, President Trump said that the U.S. needs total access to the oil in Venezuela and threatened the interim president, Delcy Rodriguez, that if that does not happen she will, "be in a situation described worse than Maduro" if that access isn't granted. What do you make of that?