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## Venezuela Cuts Gas Ties With Trinidad & Tobago After U.S. Oil Tanker Seizure

**Venezuela announced the immediate termination of all gas-related contracts with Trinidad & Tobago, blaming the island nation for supporting U.S. military actions, while Trinidad's prime minister rejected the claims and downplayed any economic impact.**

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**Venezuelan oil tanker recently seized by the U.S.**

The recent [seizure of an oil tanker](#) by United States military forces has had swift repercussions on Trinidad & Tobago, accused by Venezuela of collaborating with the U.S. in an act of piracy.

In a [communique shared on Monday](#) by Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, Venezuela announced the decision to “immediately terminate any contract, agreement, or negotiation for the supply of

natural gas” to Trinidad & Tobago.

The announcement blames Trinidad Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar for pursuing “a hostile agenda against Venezuela since her arrival in government.” In pursuit of this agenda, Ms. Persad-Bissessar has “turned the territory of Trinidad and Tobago into a U.S. aircraft carrier,” Venezuela alleges, calling the country's hosting of U.S. troops and equipment “an unequivocal act of vassalage.”

Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar [reportedly responded via WhatsApp message](#) to Trinidadian journalists, dismissing Venezuela's allegations. She reportedly placed full responsibility for the oil tanker seizure on the United States, suggesting that Venezuela take the issue up with President Trump. “In the meantime we continue to have peaceful relations with the Venezuelan people,” Ms. Persad-Bissessar is reported to have said.

In her WhatsApp message to Newsday journalists, the Trinidadian prime minister also downplayed the impact to local industry of the abrupt cessation of the country's Venezuelan oil supply. Trinidad & Tobago has “adequate reserves” of natural gas and has “never depended on Venezuela” for supplies of that product, Ms. Persad-Bissessar said. The problem is bureaucracy, which is “hindering our exploration and production.” Trinidad & Tobago is “aggressively working” on eliminating bureaucratic friction to “speed up approvals for energy companies,” Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar said.