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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

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For Immediate Release

PRESS STATEMENT  
MICHAEL R. POMPEO, SECRETARY OF STATE

August 28, 2019

Creation of the Venezuela Affairs Unit

The Department of State announces the opening of the Venezuela Affairs Unit (VAU), under the leadership of Charge d'Affaires James Story.

The VAU is the interim diplomatic office of the U.S. Government to Venezuela, located at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, and has been established with bipartisan support from the U.S. Congress. The VAU is continuing the U.S. mission to the legitimate Government of Venezuela and to the Venezuelan people. The VAU will continue to work for the restoration of democracy and the constitutional order in that country, and the security and well-being of the Venezuelan people.

The VAU interacts with the government of interim president Juan Guaido, the democratically elected National Assembly, Venezuelan civil society, and the people of Venezuela. The United States welcomes the support of the Government of Colombia, which is a further demonstration of its steadfast commitment to democracy and peace in the region.

The United States stands with interim President Juan Guaido, the National Assembly, and the people of Venezuela as they seek to regain their democracy.

Media inquiries about the VAU should be sent to [VAUMediaUnit@state.gov](mailto:VAUMediaUnit@state.gov).

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