

**Entrevista exclusiva de Rachel Campos-Duffy con  
María Corina Machado en Fox & Friends Weekend (PT 1)**  
January 17, 2026

No.	Transcript
1	Maria, you just left the White House.
2	How did it go?
3	It go very well. It went very well. I'm
4	very grateful for the opportunity I had
5	to to speak with President Trump.
6	Something I've been looking forward for
7	a very long time. It was a huge
8	responsibility because I did it on
9	behalf of a Venezuelan people that
10	appreciate so much what he has done for
11	not only the freedom of the Venezuelan
12	people but I would say the whole
13	hemisphere.
14	What was your purpose when you went in
15	there? Did you have a mission? Did you
16	have something you wanted to accomplish
17	when you were in this meeting in this
18	lunch with the president?
19	Yes, certainly. First of all, I wanted
20	to share with President Trump my
21	profound trust in the Venezuelan people
22	and I told him that please trust the
23	Venezuelan people. We are people that
24	love United States of America that share
25	values that admire the strength of your

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26	institutions that want to live with
27	democracy and dignity and justice and
28	freedom. We want to have our children
29	coming back home and and work together
30	for the security of of the whole
31	hemisphere. And and I wanted to convey
32	this to him and and for him to know how
33	much support and hope there is today in
34	Venezuela regarding what he's doing in
35	our country. This was a high stakes
36	meeting.
37	What was your impression of President
38	Trump? Oh, I'm I'm I'm really impressed.
39	Um I had never had the chance to talk to
40	him personally. Of course, I follow him
41	for a very long time and and uh
42	certainly I admire his determination,
43	courage, and the way he has uh faced the
44	threats that uh that repres that that
45	that we suffered, you know, in the
46	Americas. But I never expected to have
47	this, you know, frank, opened, honest. I
48	mean, he's the president of the United
49	States and and he was very very,
50	you know,

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51	open and sincere and informed, I have
52	to say, with the details of everything
53	that's going on in Venezuela.
54	During the lunch, you gave the president
55	a rosary. What was the significance of
56	that rosary to you?
57	Well, it it it's huge actually. And I I
58	I I
59	thought about it because I thought I
60	want to give him a present. What's
61	something that really represents
62	the the strength and the faith uh and
63	the unity of the Venezuelan people
64	in in my campaign and the nor movement
65	during these years, everywhere I went,
66	people used to give me rosaries. The
67	last time I went to the streets with the
68	Minnesota people was on January 9. I was
69	in hiding and I went out to meet with
70	thousands of Renaissance and several
71	rosaries were given to me that day. That
72	single day after the rally, I was
73	detained by the regime, kidnapped by the
74	regime. Actually, they they grabbed me
75	so hard they broke my rib and and uh

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76	President Trump put a message on X uh
77	alerting the regime that they should not
78	harm me, that I should be released and
79	and I was and um since then I've been
80	very very grateful and I when I left
81	Venezuela I decided with the very few
82	things I took with me, I took the
83	rosaries I had received that day and I
84	brought them to the meeting with the
85	pope and I asked the pope to bless the
86	rosary. So I presented today the
87	president with a with a rosary that has
88	the colors of Venezuelan flag that was
89	given to me that day and blessed by
90	the pope
91	because he saved your life,
92	President Trump.
93	Yes. And the lives of many, many
94	Venezuelans as well with what he's
95	doing. In spite of the Nobel Prize
96	committee saying that you couldn't
97	transfer your Nobel Prize to anyone,
98	especially President Trump, you did
99	today. Why did you do that?
100	Because he deserves it. And um it was a

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101	very emotional moment. I decided to
102	present
103	uh the Nobel Peace Prize Medal on behalf
104	of the people of Venezuela. And and I
105	told uh President Trump
106	where I found also inspiration to do
107	that. And it happens that 200 years ago,
108	General Lafayette gave Simon Bolivar,
109	Venezuelan's liberator, a medal bearing
110	the face of George Washington. And it
111	was in tribute to Bolivar's fight for
112	freedom in the continent.
113	and and Simon Molivar kept that medal
114	with him until the rest of his days. So
115	200 years later in history the people of
116	Bolivar
117	as are presenting to the Washington's
118	hair in retribution in this case a medal
119	that's the Nobel Peace Prize medal for
120	what he's doing to liberate Venezuela
121	and for freedom in the Americas. After
122	Maduro was captured, the president had a
123	press conference and during that press
124	conference, he said,
125	"I think it would be very tough for her

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126	to be the leader. She doesn't have the
127	support within or the respect within the
128	country. She's a very nice woman, but
129	she doesn't have the respect."
130	Do you think that his opinion of you has
131	changed after this lunch that you had
132	with him today?
133	Yes, I think so.
134	Do you feel like you walked out of that
135	meeting with a friend in President
136	Trump?
137	Well, I hope that we will turn into
138	friends. I think um I hope I have a
139	chance to have uh other conversations
140	with him. But but I am very impressed
141	very impressed with this uh meeting as I
142	said was absolutely sincere on both uh
143	sides. I I I was surprised with the
144	degree of concern and information true
145	true concern he has for the Venezuelan
146	people and I know he truly cares about
147	lives and this is about saving lives
148	American lives Venezuelan lives and the
149	lives of all Indian Americans