Venezuela sanctions now hitting ships


Vice President Mike Pence said the U.S. will sanction dozens of ships tied to Venezuela’s state-owned oil and gas company, as the White House ramps up financial pressure on President Nicolas Maduro. It is also sanctioning a pair of companies that transport Venezuelan crude oil to Cuba.

“Venezuela’s oil belongs to the Venezuelan people,” Mr. Pence said Friday at Rice University. The sanctions will be levied against 34 vessels that operate under Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. — a “vital source” of the Maduro regime’s wealth, Mr. Pence said.

Previously, the U.S. has imposed sanctions on 150 government officials loyal to Mr. Maduro, plus state-owned banks and gold mines.

The U.S. and more than 50 nations have recognized National Assembly leader Juan Guaido as the rightful leader of Venezuela, though efforts to oust Mr. Maduro are in a holding pattern.