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Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro goes after telenovelas for violence

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By [Jessica Chasmar](#) - The Washington Times

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Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro has urged the country's cable television stations to stop glamorizing guns and gangs in telenovelas.

"We are going to build a culture of peace," he said last week, summoning representatives of local channels to the Miraflores presidential palace on Monday, Reuters reported.

"They transmit negative values of death, drugs, arms, violence and treachery and everything bad that a human can be," he said in the Reuters report.

The move comes after gunmen shot dead former Miss Venezuela Monica Spear and her ex-husband in front of their young daughter on Jan. 6.

Voters routinely cite violent crime as their main concern for the country. Despite numerous campaigns to improve security, the number of homicides has risen by 105 percent since Mr. Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez won power 15 years ago, Reuters reported.