**Venezuela has rejected an ultimatum from the UK and other European countries to call fresh elections within eight days.**

Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza insisted that Nicolas Maduro remained the legitimate president despite pressure from the West.

"Nobody is going to give us deadlines or tell us if there are elections or not," Mr Arreaza told a special session of the United Nations Security Council.

"Europe, putting yourself at the tail of the United States? Not even the United States, but of the Donald Trump government?" he said.

"From where do you get the power to issue deadlines or ultimatums to a sovereign people? From where do you come up with such interventionist and, I would even say, childish action?"