


# **Appendix**

## **Critical Discourse Analysis**

### **EU and US Annotated Statements**



**Complementary Appendix to Master's Thesis**  
**“Geopolitical Role Construction through  
Language”**






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## EU Statements

## Key for EU Statements

	Definitions or presentation of situation
	Appeal to people
	Values, Principles, Rights
	Solutions or Strategies
	Key words
S	Subject
A.S.	Active Subject
No	Nominalization
N.S.	No subject or no person named carrying out action
P	Passive
A	Active
N	Neutral
C	Call for cooperation
V	Vague

## EU Council Statements

### 1. 18 July 2016. Council conclusions on Venezuela.

1. The EU and Venezuela have strong historic and cultural links and share the same fundamental values and democratic principles. Venezuela is also a country where more than 600 000 European citizens currently reside. Those ties and close relations with the Venezuelan people underline the interest of the European Union in the political, social and economic stability of Venezuela.

2. In this context the European Union fully supports the efforts by Former Presidents Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Mr. Leonel Fernández and Mr. Martín Torrijos to facilitate an urgent, constructive and effective dialogue between the government and the parliamentary majority in Venezuela. These efforts provide a crucial opportunity to create enabling conditions and a framework for peaceful and shared solutions to the country's multidimensional challenges. Therefore, the European Union urges all institutions and political players to engage in this process in full respect of the democratic and constitutional framework, rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of jailed opponents who cannot exercise their rights.

3. The European Union stands ready to support the efforts of dialogue in every way possible. In this context, the Council encourages the High Representative to maintain regular contacts with Mr. Rodríguez Zapatero and to support the work of the three former Presidents. The Council invites the High Representative, the EEAS and the Commission services to explore further ways for possible EU support to foster dialogue and overcome the economic and social challenges that the country is facing, including through assistance appropriate to most urgent needs.

4. The reconciliation in Venezuela is of the utmost importance both for the European Union and for countries in the region. The European Union believes that regional countries and organisations, as well as other main international partners, have a key role to play to encourage the government and the opposition to engage in a genuine dialogue and in addressing the pressing needs of the people of Venezuela.

## 2. May 15, 2017. Council Conclusions on Venezuela

1. The European Union recalls its Council Conclusions of 18 July 2016 fully supporting the efforts in Venezuela to facilitate an urgent, constructive and effective dialogue between the Government and the parliamentary majority, creating the conditions for peaceful solutions to the multidimensional challenges the country faces.
2. In the 10 months that have elapsed, mediation efforts have not yielded the desired results and the process is stagnant. Since then political polarisation has increased, the economic and social situation has further deteriorated and violence has escalated causing multiple deaths and injuries. All incidents of violence must be investigated.
3. Violence and the use of force will not resolve the crisis in the country. The fundamental rights of the Venezuelan people must be respected, including the right to peacefully demonstrate. It is crucial that all parties refrain from violent acts. In this light, the announcement to expand and further strengthen armed civilian groups is worrying as it can fuel further violence and does not contribute to a solution. The EU also recalls that the use of military courts to try civilians goes against international law.
4. The European Union expects all Venezuelan political actors and institutions to work in a constructive manner towards a solution to the crisis in the country, in full respect of the rule of law and human rights, the democratic institutions and the separation of powers, allowing the establishment of an electoral calendar so that the people of Venezuela can express their will in a democratic way. The release of jailed political opponents and the respect of the constitutional rights of all political actors to vote and to participate in elections are also crucial steps to building trust and helping the country to regain political stability.
5. The European Union strongly encourages the facilitation of external cooperation to address the most urgent needs of the population. The European Union is fully committed to helping Venezuela find peaceful and democratic solutions and is ready to use all its possible instruments to support regional and international efforts to that end.

6. Venezuela is a country with more than 600,000 European citizens adversely affected by the present situation and whose security and well-being is a matter of concern for the EU. In this respect, the EU reiterates its readiness to cooperate with the Venezuelan <sup>N</sup>authorities to ensure assistance, protection and security of all European citizens in Venezuela.

### 3. 26 July 2017. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Venezuela.

Declaration of the High Representative Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on the situation in Venezuela ahead of the election for the Constituent Assembly on 30 July 2017

The escalation of political tension and violence in Venezuela has already claimed too many lives and caused countless injuries in the almost daily demonstrations. It is high time to put an end to the violence. The numerous reports of human rights violations, excessive use of force, massive detentions and trials of civilians by military courts are of concern. The EU expects the Venezuelan authorities to respect the Constitution and the rule of law and to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to peaceful demonstration, are guaranteed.

Respect for the National Assembly as the legitimate legislative body and the independence of the Attorney General, who should be able to act in an unfettered way, without fear of intimidation or threat, are crucial to preserve the confidence of the citizens in the State and in the judicial system.

All public authorities and all political actors should live up to their responsibilities. The people of Venezuela are living in very difficult conditions, with severe shortages of food and medicines. Commonly agreed solutions are needed urgently to alleviate the plight of the people.

The convening of a Constituent Assembly is disputed within Venezuelan society and therefore risks further polarizing the country and heightening the risk of confrontation. As with the transfer of Leopoldo López from prison to house arrest, the Government should consider urgent confidence-building measures before July 30th, aimed at de-escalating tensions and fostering better conditions for the resumption of efforts towards a peaceful negotiated solution.

The EU calls upon the Government and the opposition to reopen channels of dialogue and restart serious political negotiations in the interest of the country as a whole.

In this context, the EU encourages and stands ready to support in every way possible the creation of a regional "group of friends", accepted by the government and the opposition, to help the endeavours of political actors in Venezuela to find a peaceful, democratic and inclusive solution to the crisis in the country. In doing so, it will not be possible to dispense with the four essential conditions for any successful understanding: respect for the separation of powers, release of jailed political opponents, external cooperation to address the most urgent needs of the population, a clear calendar for the elections which are constitutionally due, so that the Venezuelan people can express their will through free, direct and universal suffrage.

The EU reiterates its readiness to cooperate with the Venezuelan authorities to ensure assistance, protection and security of all European citizens in Venezuela.



#### 4. 13 November 2017. Venezuela: EU adopts conclusions and targeted sanctions

On 13 November, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted conclusions on Venezuela, and agreed on targeted sanctions in view of its concerns at the situation in the country.

"Council conclusions on Venezuela

1. The European Union (EU) recalls its Council conclusions of July 2016 and May 2017 and reaffirms that constructive dialogue and negotiation are the only sustainable way to address the current crisis and to respond to the pressing needs of the people of Venezuela. Therefore it stands ready to support a credible negotiation involving all relevant actors that can lead to shared solutions to the multiple challenges in the country. (S) (V)
2. Recently, the 15 October Gubernatorial elections took place amidst reported numerous irregularities and the results were not recognised by a large part of the opposition. The EU calls for full transparency on the results of these elections through a comprehensive and independent audit. In order to regain the people's trust in elections, it is important to ensure credible electoral processes and a more balanced composition of the National Electoral Council. The EU also expresses its concern about the lack of respect for the constitutionally established mechanisms in the appointment and functioning of the new Governors, including the disqualification of the Governor-elect of Zulia State. (A.S.)
3. These developments have accentuated the political polarisation in the country. The setting-up of an all-powerful Constituent Assembly further eroded the democratic and independent institutions. The EU reiterates that it cannot recognise the Constituent Assembly or its acts because of serious concerns about its legitimacy and representativeness. The EU recalls the importance of the respect for the prerogatives of the National Assembly and its Members and the independence of the judiciary. Reports, including by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms are an additional reason for alarm, as are the increasing (N.O.)

urgent needs of the population that are affecting their rights, such as the right to food and the right to health.

4. In this context, in addition to its political and diplomatic efforts in support of a peaceful negotiated way out of the political crisis, the Council has today decided by unanimity to adopt restrictive measures, underscoring its concerns with the situation in the country. These consist of an embargo on arms and on related material that might be used for internal repression, as well as a legal framework for a travel ban and assets freeze.
5. These measures will be used in a gradual and flexible manner and can be expanded, by targeting those involved in the non-respect of democratic principles or the rule of law and the violation of human rights.<sup>N.O.</sup> The measures can be reversed depending on the evolution of the situation in the country, in particular the holding of credible and meaningful negotiations, the respect for democratic institutions, the adoption of a full electoral calendar and the liberation of all political prisoners. These measures were designed not to harm the Venezuelan population whose plight the EU wishes to alleviate.
6. The primary responsibility for ending the crisis in Venezuela lies in the country. The EU calls upon the government to urgently restore democratic legitimacy, including through free and fair elections, and on the opposition to continue engaging in a united manner towards a negotiated solution to the current tensions, in the interest of the country. The EU reiterates its full support to regional and international efforts to find a lasting solution to the crisis." (c)

## 5. 22 May 2018. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the presidential and regional elections in Venezuela

On 20 May, elections took place in Venezuela with the highest abstention rate in a presidential election in the country over the last decades.

These elections could have been a crucial opportunity for all Venezuelan citizens to express, through a democratic, free and transparent process, their political will and thereby determine the future of the country.

However, presidential and regional polls went ahead without a national agreement on an electoral calendar and without complying with the minimum international standards for a credible process, not respecting political pluralism, democracy, transparency and rule of law. Major obstacles to the participation of opposition political parties and their leaders, an unbalanced composition of the National Electoral Council, biased electoral conditions, numerous reported irregularities during the Election Day, including vote buying, stood in the way of fair and equitable elections.

Therefore, as advanced in our statement of April 19th, the EU and its member states will consider the adoption of adequate measures.

It is more urgent than ever that the Venezuelan government takes concrete steps to fully respect the country's Constitution and create the conditions that will allow all relevant political and social actors to play an active part in addressing the considerable challenges with which their country is faced. We call on the Venezuelan government to release all political prisoners.

Venezuela urgently needs a political solution to end the current crisis and, first and foremost, to deliver on its people most pressing humanitarian needs. The EU reiterates the need to restore the democratic process, and the importance that the country works towards a political and truly negotiated solution.

## 6. 28 May 2018. Venezuela: Council adopts conclusions

On 28 May 2018, the Council adopted the following conclusions on **Venezuela**:

1. The EU recalls its previous statements on Venezuela, in particular the High Representative's declaration on behalf of the EU of 22 May.
2. The latest developments in Venezuela have pushed further away the possibility of a constitutional negotiated solution that ensures the respect of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.
3. In spite of the numerous calls by national political actors and the international community, including the European Union, for elections on the basis of an agreed electoral calendar and guarantees that can ensure inclusive and credible elections, early presidential elections together with regional elections were held on 20 May without an agreement on the date or on the conditions, and in circumstances which did not allow for the participation of all political parties in an equal manner.
4. The substantially reduced electoral calendar, bans and other major obstacles to the participation of opposition political parties and their leaders, as well as the non-respect of minimal democratic standards as indicated by numerous reported irregularities, notably the widespread abuse of state resources, voter coercion and unbalanced access to media, led to these elections being neither free nor fair.
5. Under these circumstances, the election and its outcome lacked any credibility as the electoral process did not ensure the necessary guarantees for inclusive and democratic elections. The absence of those guarantees also prevented the EU from planning any form of observation to monitor the electoral process according to internationally recognized standards. The EU thus reiterates the need for free and transparent elections respecting the Constitutional rules of Venezuela.

6. Against this background, the EU calls for the holding of fresh presidential elections in accordance with internationally recognised democratic standards and the Venezuelan constitutional order. In this context, the EU will act swiftly, according to established procedures, with the aim of imposing additional targeted and reversible restrictive measures, that do not harm the Venezuelan population, whose plight the EU wishes to alleviate.

7. The EU reiterates the need for the recognition and respect of the role and independence of all democratically elected institutions, notably the National Assembly, the release of all political prisoners, the upholding of rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. The EU wishes to remain engaged with all stakeholders in Venezuela and reiterates its friendship and support to its people. The EU is ready to help find a democratic way out of the current multidimensional <sup>A.S.</sup> crisis, through a meaningful and result-oriented negotiation conducted in good faith, that includes all relevant Venezuelan political actors. To that end, the EU will enhance its diplomatic outreach with all relevant national, regional and international <sup>N. N.S.</sup> actors, recognising especially efforts by Latin American and Caribbean partners that have offered their assistance and support to the process of overcoming the crisis in Venezuela.

9. The EU is deeply concerned about the pressing humanitarian needs of the population, including of many Europeans citizens residing in the country, which need to be addressed urgently. The worsening crisis is causing mass migration that creates challenges to host communities and to regional stability. The EU calls on the Venezuelan Government to take immediate action to alleviate the impact of the crisis.

10. The European Union will continue and step up its support to the population of Venezuela, also in neighbouring countries, supporting the socio-economic inclusion of Venezuelans and resilience of host communities.

## 7. 25 June 2018. Venezuela: EU adds 11 officials to sanctions list

On 25 June 2018, the Council decided to put 11 individuals holding official positions under restrictive measures. The persons listed are responsible for human rights violations and for undermining democracy and the rule of law <sup>N.S.</sup> in Venezuela. The measures include a travel ban and an asset freeze.

This decision is a direct follow-up to the Council conclusions adopted on 28 May 2018, which called for additional targeted and reversible restrictive measures that do not harm the Venezuelan population in response to the recent presidential elections held in Venezuela.

As indicated in the conclusions, the elections held in Venezuela on 20 May 2018 were neither free nor fair and their outcome lacked any credibility as the electoral process did not ensure the necessary guarantees for them to be inclusive and democratic. Against this background, the EU also called for the holding of fresh presidential elections in accordance with internationally recognised democratic standards and the Venezuelan constitutional order. On the same occasion, the EU also reiterated the need to respect all democratically elected institutions, notably the National Assembly, to release all political prisoners and to uphold democratic principles, rule of law and human rights. These remain essential points in light of which the EU will adapt its policy.

Today's decision **brings to 18 the total number of individuals under sanctions** in view of the situation in Venezuela. The Council listed for the first time 7 Venezuelan officials involved in the non-respect <sup>N.O.</sup> of democratic principles or the rule of law as well as in the violation of human rights on 22 January 2018. The restrictive measures aim to help foster democratic shared solutions that can bring political stability to the country and allow it to address the pressing needs of the population. <sup>N.S.</sup>

## 8. 25 October 2018. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the situation in Venezuela

EU Ministers discussed the deepening political, economic and social crisis in Venezuela on 15 October at the Foreign Affairs Council. The crisis has taken a devastating toll on the people of Venezuela and negatively impacted the stability of the wider region.

The EU recalls and reaffirms its position as set out in the Council Conclusions of May 2018 which called on the Venezuelan Government to take the necessary steps to reinstate democracy, the rule of law and human rights; to restore the full constitutional powers of the national assembly; release all political prisoners, and respect and promote fundamental freedoms. The holding of free, credible and transparent elections in full respect of the Constitution remains crucial.

Following recent developments, the EU repeats its calls on for the Government to respect the immunity of the members of the National Assembly and to uphold press freedom. The EU also calls for a thorough, independent and impartial investigation to clarify the circumstances of councillor Albán's tragic death. It is the duty of the State to ensure the safety and well-being of all people in its custody.

As regards the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the EU calls on the Venezuelan Government to constructively cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The EU remains convinced that there can only be a democratic political and peaceful solution to the current crisis and rejects any initiatives that could further threaten regional security. The EU therefore underlines its commitment to use all its policy instruments to contribute to achieving such a solution and to explore, in cooperation with other international and regional partners, ways to help create the conditions that could allow for a meaningful political process, aimed at finding a peaceful way out of the current crisis.

The EU reiterates its commitment to continue monitoring closely developments on the ground and stands ready to react to any further erosion of democratic institutions, the rule of law and human rights.

The EU and its Member States will step up their support to national, regional and multilateral efforts aimed at mitigating the effects of the migrant crisis, as well as addressing the most urgent needs of the population inside the country. Countries in the region and their citizens should be supported in this challenging situation. This regional crisis requires regional and global concerted responses. In this respect, the EU welcomes the appointment of Mr. Eduardo Stein as Joint Special Representative of UNHCR and IOM for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

The EU calls on the Venezuelan government to take concrete action to alleviate the impact of the crisis, including the facilitation of external cooperation to address the most urgent needs of the population.



## 9. 6 November 2018. Venezuela: EU renews sanctions for one year

In view of the continuing deterioration of the situation in Venezuela, the Council decided today to renew the targeted restrictive measures currently in place until **14 November 2019**.  
N.O.

The Council put in place targeted restrictive measures on Venezuela on 13 November 2017. These included an embargo on arms and on equipment for internal repression as well as a travel ban and an asset freeze on 18 individuals (7 since 22 January and 11 since 25 June 2018) holding official positions and responsible for human rights violations as well as for undermining democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela.  
N.S.  
P

These measures are intended to help encourage democratic shared solutions in order to bring political stability to the country and allow it to address the pressing needs of the population. These targeted measures are flexible and reversible and designed not to harm the Venezuelan population.

The EU has reiterated on numerous occasions its readiness to help find a democratic way out of the current multidimensional crisis through a meaningful and results-oriented negotiation, conducted in good faith, that includes all relevant Venezuelan political actors. EU foreign ministers discussed the situation in Venezuela and its impact in the region at their last meeting on 15 October and reaffirmed this position. Since the crisis can only be addressed through a political process, they agreed to explore the possibility of establishing a contact group which could, if conditions are met, help facilitate such a process.  
N. N.S.

10. 10 January 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the new mandate of President Maduro

As stated by the EU in the Council Conclusions of May 2018, the presidential elections of last May in Venezuela were neither free nor fair. Its outcome lacked any credibility as the electoral process did not ensure the necessary guarantees for inclusive and democratic elections.

The EU deeply regrets that its call for "fresh presidential elections in accordance with internationally recognised democratic standards and the Venezuelan constitutional order" was ignored and that President Maduro is today starting a new mandate on the basis of non-democratic elections.

This only pushes further away the possibility of a constitutional negotiated solution while the political, economic and social situation in the country keeps getting worse and the impact of the crisis in the stability of the region is increasing.

The EU urges President Maduro to recognise and respect the role and independence of the National Assembly, as a democratically elected institution, release all political prisoners, uphold the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and urgently address the pressing needs of the population.

The EU remains convinced that a peaceful political democratic solution is the only sustainable way out of the Venezuelan crisis and is engaging with international and regional partners regarding how we might help create the conditions required for a credible political process amongst relevant Venezuelan actors. In this respect, the EU reiterates its willingness to keep the channels of communication open.

The EU will continue monitoring closely developments on the ground and stands ready to react through appropriate measures to decisions and actions that further undermine the democratic institutions and principles, the rule of law and human rights.

The EU also reiterates its reinforced engagement in the context of the humanitarian situation and migrant crisis.

**11. 26 January 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the situation in Venezuela**

The massive, popular demonstrations which have taken place in Venezuela over the last days have been met with indiscriminate violence from the authorities, leading to the tragic death of numerous people and many more injured and arrested.

The European Union firmly condemns these actions and offers its deep condolences to the families of the deceased.

The EU reiterates that the presidential elections last May in Venezuela were neither free, fair, nor credible, lacking democratic legitimacy. The country urgently needs a government that truly represents the will of the Venezuelan people.

The EU reiterates its full support to the National Assembly, which is the democratic legitimate body of Venezuela, and whose powers need to be restored and respected, including the prerogatives and safety of its members. We reaffirm our deep belief that a peaceful and inclusive democratic solution is the only sustainable way out of the current political impasse and the severe social crisis it has provoked.

The EU strongly calls for the urgent holding of free, transparent and credible presidential elections in accordance with internationally democratic standards and the Venezuelan constitutional order. In the absence of an announcement on the organisation of fresh elections with the necessary guarantees over the next days, the EU will take further actions, including on the issue of recognition of the country's leadership in line with article 233 of the Venezuelan constitution.

The EU stands with the Venezuelan people in this critical hour, and will continue follow events closely, including at the next Foreign Ministers meeting next Thursday. The EU stands ready to act in support of an immediate and credible process of engagement, including through the immediate establishment of an International Contact Group. Contacts and coordination with regional and international partners are ongoing, and will be intensified in the coming hours.

**12. 24 February 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the latest events in Venezuela**

The worsening of the living conditions in Venezuela associated with the multidimensional crisis that hit the country is impacting an increasingly higher number of Venezuelans.

The refusal of the regime to recognise the humanitarian emergency, is leading to an escalation of tensions. There are worrying reports of unrest, acts of violence and a growing number of victims, in particular in the border areas and among the Pemon indigenous community.

We strongly call on law enforcement and security bodies to show restraint, avoid use of force and allow for the entry of aid. We repudiate the use of irregular armed groups to intimidate civilians and lawmakers who have mobilised to distribute assistance.

The European Union has already committed more than 60 million euros in 2018/19 in humanitarian and development aid, aimed at alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable. We recall our commitment to help those in need for as long as it takes, to scale up this assistance and to work on stronger and more inclusive coordination mechanisms under the leadership of the relevant UN agencies in full accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

The origins of the ongoing crisis in Venezuela are political and institutional, hence the solution can only be a political one. We reiterate our firm rejection and condemnation of violence and of any initiatives that can further destabilise the region.

The Venezuelan people have already suffered a lot. It is high time to let them decide their future. We strongly renew our call for the restoration of democracy through free, transparent and credible presidential elections. The EU, through the International Contact Group, stands ready to support this process.



**15. 4 April 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the decision to lift Juan Guaidó's parliamentary immunity in Venezuela**

The EU rejects the decision taken by the non-recognised National Constituent Assembly to lift Juan Guaidó's parliamentary immunity. This decision constitutes a serious violation of the Venezuelan Constitution, as well as of the rule of law and separation of powers, as the only body authorised to lift the immunity of members of the parliament is the National Assembly. These acts undermine a political way out of the crisis and only lead to further polarisation and escalation of tensions in the country.

The EU strongly calls for the full respect of the constitutionally mandated prerogatives and immunity of all members of the National Assembly, including of its President. Their civil rights, freedom and physical integrity must be respected at all times and they should be able to perform their duties free of any intimidation.

The EU will continue to monitor the situation and use all appropriate measures in reacting to current developments.

**16. 30 April 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the latest developments in Venezuela.**

The EU is closely following the latest events in Venezuela. We reiterate that there can only be a political, peaceful and democratic way out for the multiple crises the country is facing. The European Union rejects any form of violence and calls for utmost restraint to avoid the loss of lives and an escalation of tensions.

The European Union firmly stands with the Venezuelan people and its legitimate democratic aspirations. We will continue to spare no efforts to achieve a reinstatement of democracy and rule of law through free and fair elections, in accordance with the Venezuelan constitution.

**17. 18 June 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the situation in Venezuela**

The EU stresses its serious concern over the worsening political and humanitarian situation in Venezuela. The <sup>A.S.</sup> continued actions against members of the National Assembly, including arbitrary arrests and the lifting of their parliamentary immunity, are hampering the Constitutional work of the National Assembly. The dramatic <sup>N.S.</sup> humanitarian situation leading to a massive exodus of Venezuelans from their country also point to the <sup>N.S.</sup> urgency of a political way out of this crisis, through free and credible presidential elections.

The EU underlines the need for an increased coordination amongst all international actors in support of the current work towards a negotiated outcome leading to free and fair elections. For this reason, it is intensifying its outreach initiatives also through the International Contact Group and the recently appointed Special Advisor. The EU will continue to monitor the situation and stands ready to use all appropriate measures in reacting to developments on the ground.

In this context, the European Union reiterates its support to Norway's facilitated process involving the relevant Venezuelan political actors with a view to a political and democratic solution to the crisis. It calls on all Venezuelan stakeholders to engage in this process in good faith and to pave the way for its success through concrete confidence-building measures, such as the release of prisoners. The EU stands ready to support the implementation of the results of this process if so required by the parties, and to continue helping those in need in full accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

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## 18. 16 July 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on Venezuela

The political crisis and economic collapse in Venezuela continues to take a heavy toll in the population as illustrated by the 4 million people that have fled the country. The crisis also remains a major source of instability for the region. The recently published report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, confirms in a clear and detailed manner the extent and seriousness of the human rights violations, the erosion of the rule of law and the dismantlement of democratic institutions in the country. The tragic death of Captain Acosta Arévalo while in custody of the Venezuelan security forces is a stark example of such continued deterioration of the human rights situation.

The EU strongly supports the findings of the UN HCHR report and calls upon the regime for an immediate halt of the widespread human rights violations and to engage in full cooperation with the OHCHR and all UN Special Procedures to secure the implementation of the report's recommendations. The EU stands ready to assist the UN HCHR in her efforts to ensure that the fundamental rights of all Venezuelans are fully protected. In light of the grave situation as reported by the UN HCHR, the EU is ready to start work towards applying targeted measures for those members of the security forces involved in torture and other serious violations of human rights.

The EU reaffirms that the underlying multidimensional crisis requires an urgent political solution. This can only be achieved through a peaceful, democratic and Venezuelan-owned process leading to free and fair presidential elections. Therefore it welcomes and supports the resumption in Barbados of the talks facilitated by the Government of Norway, which should remain the main channel to overcome the crisis. It calls for genuine engagement and the necessary flexibility to urgently reach a result that enables transparent and internationally monitored elections, the reinstitutionalisation of the relevant public powers and that lays the basis for national reconciliation and economic recovery.

In case there are no concrete results from the ongoing negotiations, the EU will further expand its targeted measures. It also recalls that these measures can be reversed in case substantial



progress is made towards the restoration of democracy, rule of law and human rights in Venezuela.

The EU underlines the need for increased coordination amongst all international actors in support of the current work towards a negotiated outcome towards free and fair elections. In this regard, the EU will continue its efforts, including through the International Contact Group and its Special Adviser, to support such a peaceful electoral path as a way out of the Venezuelan crisis.

**19. 27 September 2019. Venezuela: EU adds 7 members of the security and intelligence forces to sanctions list**

The Council has added 7 members of the Venezuelan security and intelligence forces under restrictive measures. The measures include a travel ban and an asset freeze. The persons listed are involved in torture and other serious violations of human rights. Four of them are linked to the death of Captain Acosta Arévalo. <sup>N.S.</sup>  
(P) (P) N.O. (P)

Today's decision brings to 25 the total number of individuals under sanctions in view of the situation in Venezuela. It is a direct follow-up to the declaration issued by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on 16 July 2019 where the EU indicated that it was ready to start work towards applying targeted measures for those members of the security forces involved in torture and other serious violations of human rights.  
(P)

The declaration underlined that the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights confirmed in a clear and detailed manner the extent and seriousness of the human rights violations, the erosion of the rule of law and the dismantlement of democratic institutions in the country. Moreover, the declaration mentioned the tragic death of Captain Acosta Arévalo while in custody of the Venezuelan security forces as a stark example of the continued deterioration of the human rights situation..  
N.O. (P)

Restrictive measures by the EU on Venezuela were introduced in November 2017. They include an embargo on arms and on equipment for internal repression as well as a travel ban and an asset freeze on listed individuals. These restrictive measures are intended to foster a peaceful, political and democratic solution, through credible, transparent and internationally monitored presidential elections, leading to the restoration of democracy, rule of law and human rights in Venezuela. They are flexible and reversible and designed not to harm the Venezuelan population.

**20. 27 September 2019. Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on Venezuela**

The people of Venezuela continue to face a dramatic situation. The regional impact of the crisis is unprecedented, with severe risks for regional stability. On the political front, the dismantlement of institutional checks and balances has eroded democracy and the rule of law, while repression, including against members of the National Assembly, and serious human rights violations take place with impunity. This grave situation, as reported by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN HCHR), cannot be ignored.

In this context, and as stated in its Declaration of 16 July, the EU has decided to apply additional targeted measures against seven members of the security and intelligence forces involved in torture and other serious human rights violations. The EU reaffirms its backing for the UN HCHR in her efforts to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Venezuelans. In this respect it supports the steps taken towards ensuring a permanent presence of OHCHR in Venezuela and the free access of UN Special procedures to the country. The EU underlines the need to fully implement the totality of the recommendations from the UN HCHR report.

The EU expresses its concern at the temporary suspension of the Oslo facilitated talks and calls on the parties to return to an inclusive, credible and serious negotiation on the basis of the previously agreed agenda. The EU reiterates its willingness to contribute to promote the enabling conditions for such a process, through the International Contact Group, including by working with other relevant actors in the international community to provide a supporting framework.

A negotiated 'transition leading to transparent and internationally monitored presidential elections, the reinstitution of the public powers and a package of guarantees enabling political coexistence are essential elements to overcome the crisis.

The EU confirms its readiness to work on further targeted measures to foster such a negotiated transition. At the same time it recalls that its targeted restrictive measures do not affect the population and can be reversed in light of progress made towards the restoration of democracy, rule of law and human rights in Venezuela.

In the meantime, addressing the humanitarian and social emergency in Venezuela is urgent and long overdue. The EU considers vital the increase and acceleration of a coordinated assistance, both inside and outside the country. In this context, the EU will hold an International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Brussels end of October. This initiative will be co-hosted with UNHCR and IOM, in close articulation with the Quito process.



#### **21. 11 November 2019. Venezuela: Council renews sanctions until 14 November 2020**

In light of the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela with persistent actions undermining democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, the Council today extended the restrictive measures against Venezuela for one year, until 14 November 2020. The measures include an embargo on arms and on equipment for internal repression as well as a travel ban and an asset freeze on 25 listed individuals in official positions who are responsible for human rights violations and/or for undermining democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela.

These measures are intended to help encourage democratic shared solutions in order to bring political stability to the country and allow it to address the pressing needs of the population. The targeted measures are flexible and reversible and designed not to harm the Venezuelan population.

## US Statements

## Key for US Statements

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-----	Appeal to people
	Values, Principles, Rights
	Solutions or Strategies
————— —————	Key words
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A.S.	Active Subject
No	Nominalization
N.S.	No subject or no person named carrying out action
P	Passive
Po	Possessive
A	Active
N	Naming the subject, person
FN	Failure to name a subject or person
C	Call for cooperation
R/RC	Regional plea/Regional cooperation
V	Vague
I	Ideology reference

1. 17 February, 2016. Venezuela: Inclusion of All Parties a Key to Solving Challenges.  
Mark C. Toner. Deputy Department Spokesperson.

The United States remains concerned about actions taken by the Venezuelan administration to silence its opponents, which have led to a climate of intimidation and repression.

Dozens of leaders from Venezuelan society have <sup>(P)</sup> been imprisoned for their political beliefs. These include: Leopoldo Lopez, who will complete his second year in detention tomorrow; Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, who was arrested almost one year ago and remains <sup>(P)</sup> silenced and on house arrest; former Mayor Daniel Ceballos; and numerous students. In the meantime, those who commit crimes <sup>(P)</sup> against members of the opposition often appear to act with impunity. The most recent example occurred February 14, when criminals <sup>(P)</sup> broke into the home of El Hatillo Mayor David Smolansky and covered the walls with hate slogans based on his religion. <sup>FN</sup>

We continue to call for respect for the will of the people, the rule of law, the separation of powers within the government, and the democratic process. We are deeply concerned by decisions of the <sup>(P)</sup> Venezuelan Supreme Court limiting the authority of the recently elected National Assembly, which have undermined Venezuelan democracy.

We join other countries in the region and around the world <sup>(C)</sup> in their calls for dialogue among all branches of government, in order to address the social and economic challenges facing the Venezuelan people. The solution to these challenges will require the inclusion of all <sup>(V)</sup> interested parties. Rather than suppressing peaceful democratic dissent <sup>(V)</sup> in order to silence opposing views, <sup>(C)</sup> now is the time for leaders to listen to diverse Venezuelan voices and work together to find solutions. <sup>FN</sup>

<sup>(C)</sup>

2. September 22, 2016. Announcement of Venezuelan Recall Referendum Timeline. Press Statement. John Kirby. Assistant Secretary and Department Spokesperson, Bureau of Public Affairs

The United States <sup>(S)</sup> is troubled by yesterday's <sup>(P)</sup> announcement by the Venezuelan National Electoral Council that its recall referendum process might not be completed until 2017. <sup>(V)</sup> This decision, continuing media restrictions and other actions to weaken the authority of the National Assembly, <sup>(N)</sup> deprive Venezuelan citizens the opportunity to shape the course of their country. <sup>(R)</sup>

The National Electoral Council's <sup>(P)</sup> unexplained delays in announcing the dates for the next phase of the process, <sup>(N)</sup> its decisions to establish a very limited number of polling stations for the October 26-28 signature collection, to distribute those polling stations in a partisan manner, and to impose an irregular state-by-state requirement for those signatures are all part of a <sup>(I)</sup> package of actions that reinforce <sup>(S)</sup> our concerns about the impartiality of the process.

We call on the Venezuelan executive branch to engage in a serious dialogue with both the <sup>(N)</sup> opposition and Venezuelans from across the political spectrum. Now is the time to listen to all Venezuelan voices and work together to find solutions. <sup>(E)</sup> <sup>(U)</sup>



3. July 30, 2017. Defending Democracy in Venezuela. Press Statement. Heather Nauert, Department Spokesperson.

The United States <sup>(S)</sup>condemns the elections imposed on July 30 for the <sup>(N)</sup>National Constituent Assembly, which is designed to replace the legitimately elected National Assembly and undermine the Venezuelan people's right to self-determination.

The United States <sup>(S)</sup>stands by the people of Venezuela, and their <sup>(P.O.)</sup>constitutional representatives, in their <sup>(P.O.)</sup>quest to restore their country to a full and prosperous democracy. We will continue to take strong and swift actions against the architects of <sup>(P.O.)</sup>authoritarianism in Venezuela, including those who <sup>(I)</sup>participate in the National Constituent Assembly as a result of today's <sup>(N)</sup>flawed election.

On July 16, millions of Venezuelans <sup>(A)</sup>overwhelmingly expressed – in a loud and clear voice – <sup>(P.O.)</sup>their rejection of a National Constituent Assembly designed to weaken democracy in Venezuela. Nearly 234 years to the day after the birth of Simon Bolivar, who fought for the freedom of the people of Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro has cast aside the voices and aspirations of the Venezuelan people. <sup>(N)</sup>

Appeal #  
Emancipation

We express our condolences to all Venezuelans who have lost loved ones. We condemn the use of violence by the Maduro regime against citizens exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. <sup>(A)</sup>

<sup>(C)</sup> We encourage governments in the <sup>(R)</sup>hemisphere and around the world to take strong action to hold accountable those who undermine democracy, deny human rights, bear responsibility for violence and repression, or engage in corrupt practices. <sup>(A)</sup>

4. October 19, 2017. Venezuela: Illegitimate Parallel Institutions. Press Statement, Heather Nauert, Department Spokesperson.

The United States condemns the Venezuelan government's latest anti-democratic action: requiring newly elected governors to submit to the illegitimate Constituent Assembly to be sworn into office. The use of this illegitimate, parallel institution to take over the country's constitutional authorities is alarming. This maneuver, on the heels of the October 15, fraudulent elections, is another example of the Maduro regime's authoritarianism and disregard for the will of the Venezuelan people. We support a complete election audit by credible, internationally recognized entities, and the establishment of an independent National Electoral Council.

5. November 7, 2017. Anti-Democratic Actions by Maduro Regime in Venezuela. Heather Nauert, Department Spokesperson.

The United States condemns the Maduro regime's increasing disrespect for democracy and fundamental human rights in Venezuela. By attempting to strip the democratically elected National Assembly's Vice President and opposition leader Freddy Guevara of his parliamentary immunity and barring him from leaving the country, the regime is pursuing yet another extreme measure to close the democratic space in Venezuela, criminalize dissent and control information.

Governance in Venezuela must be determined by the Venezuelan people, who have a right to engage freely and peacefully in political discourse. We stand with the people of Venezuela and the international community in urging the regime to respect the rights and choices of the Venezuelan people. We call for immediate steps to provide humanitarian support to the Venezuelan people, restore democratic norms, cease unconstitutional arrests, and to free all political prisoners.

6. May 21, 2018. An Unfair, Unfree Vote in Venezuela. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

The United States <sup>(S)</sup> condemns the fraudulent election that took place in Venezuela on May 20. This so-called "election" is an attack on constitutional order and an affront to Venezuela's tradition of democracy. Until the Maduro regime restores a democratic path in Venezuela through free, fair, and transparent elections, the government faces isolation from the international community.

Sunday's process was choreographed by a regime too unpopular and afraid of its own people to risk free elections and open competition. It stacked the Venezuelan courts and National Electoral Council with biased members aligned with the regime. It silenced dissenting voices. It banned major opposition parties and leaders from participating. As of May 14, more than 338 political prisoners remained jailed, more than in all other countries in the hemisphere combined. The regime stifled the free press. State sources dominated media coverage, unfairly favoring the incumbent. Most contemptible of all, the regime selectively parceled out food to manipulate the votes of hungry Venezuelans.

The Maduro regime fails to defend the Venezuelan people's right to democracy as reflected in the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The United States stands with democratic nations in support of the Venezuelan people and will take swift economic and diplomatic actions to support the restoration of their democracy.

P.O.

6. Venezuela is a country with more than 600,000 European citizens adversely affected by the present situation and whose security and well-being is a matter of concern for the EU. In this respect, the EU reiterates its readiness to cooperate with the Venezuelan <sup>N</sup>authorities to ensure assistance, protection and security of all European citizens in Venezuela.

**7. June 26, 2018. United States Assisting Venezuelans in Need. Media Note/Office of the Spokesperson.**

Vice President Mike Pence announced today in Brazil nearly \$10 million in additional humanitarian U.S. assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country due to the man-made crisis there. This funding for the Venezuelan people includes a contribution to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s regional response to the Venezuela crisis, support for the UN World Food Program's emergency response efforts for Venezuelans who have recently arrived in Ecuador, and other humanitarian aid to Venezuelans and host communities in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and other countries throughout the region. U.S. assistance will help provide displaced Venezuelans with emergency food assistance safe drinking water, hygiene supplies, shelter, protection from violence and exploitation, and work and education opportunities, in coordination with other humanitarian organizations and government partners. This additional \$10 million brings total U.S. humanitarian assistance to the Venezuela crisis since the beginning of fiscal year 2017 to nearly \$31 million. Complementing this assistance is \$18.5 million in bilateral funding to support displaced Venezuelans in Colombia who have fled the crisis in their country. The United States is coordinating with the Government of Colombia to respond rapidly to the needs of Venezuelans, Colombians, and others who have fled Venezuela. The United States remains concerned about the struggle Venezuelan citizens face every day to meet their families' basic needs, and urges increased support for the well-being of the Venezuelan people and the restoration of their democracy. Further, the United States calls on the Maduro regime to immediately allow international aid, including food and medicine, to reach Venezuela at a sufficient scale to meet growing humanitarian needs. The United States greatly appreciates the generosity and compassion of countries throughout the hemisphere who are hosting hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans fleeing the crisis in their country. The United States commends the humanitarian contributions made by all donors and encourages additional contributions to meet growing humanitarian needs.

## 8. August 17, 2018. Maduro Regime Crackdown Following August 4 Incident

The United States<sup>A.S.</sup> condemns the political violence that occurred on August 4, and urges the Maduro regime<sup>N</sup> to respect the (rule of law), exercise restraint, and safeguard the presumption of innocence for all accused.

The Venezuelan government's response to this incident has been to arbitrarily<sup>A.</sup> detain some individuals and a failure to follow (due process). In addition, there have been violations of parliamentary immunity, which is protected by Venezuela's Constitution. The United States<sup>A.S.</sup> condemns the alleged use of torture to elicit confessions.

We join the international community<sup>A.S.</sup> in calling for an independent expert commission to investigate the August 4 incident. We urge the Maduro regime<sup>N</sup> to respect the (human rights) of all persons detained in Venezuela and reiterate our call for the immediate release of all those who are arbitrarily detained, including political prisoners.

The Government of Venezuela is responsible for the widespread instability and suffering in Venezuela. The Maduro regime<sup>N</sup> has systematically stripped millions of Venezuelans of their basic rights as citizens, and limited their access to food, medical care, and basic security. We encourage the Maduro regime<sup>N</sup> to accept international assistance and pursue policies that alleviate the humanitarian crisis and restore democratic freedoms.

The United States<sup>A</sup> stands with the Venezuelan people in their dream of living free in a prosperous and democratic country.

9. September 25, 2018. The United States Imposes Sanctions on Venezuelan Individuals and Entities. Media Note/Office of the Spokesperson.

Today, the United States imposed sanctions on four current or former officials of the Government of Venezuela: First Lady and Former Attorney General Cilia Adela Flores de Maduro, Executive Vice President Delcy Eloina Rodriguez Gomez, Minister of Communication and Information Jorge Jesus Rodriguez Gomez, and Minister of Defense Vladimir Padrino Lopez.

In addition, the United States has designated additional individuals and entities that are part of a network supporting Rafael Alfredo Sarria Diaz, a key front person for sanctioned Venezuelan President of the illegitimate Constituent Assembly, Diosdado Cabello Rondon. The United States designated both Sarria Diaz and Cabello on May 18. The individuals sanctioned today that form part of the network associated with Rafael Alfredo Sarria Diaz are: Jose Omar Paredes and Edgar Alberto Sarria Diaz. The entities sanctioned for being owned or controlled by, or have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of Sarria Diaz are:

Quiana Trading Limited and AVERUCA, C.A. In addition, the United States has sanctioned Panazate SL for being owned or controlled by, or have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, Edgar Alberto Sarria Diaz.

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of these individuals and entities that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported to Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all dealings by U.S. persons or within (or transiting) the United States that involve any property or interests in property of designated persons.

U.S. sanctions need not be permanent; they are intended to change behavior. The United States would consider lifting sanctions for persons sanctioned under E.O. 13692 that take concrete and meaningful actions to restore democratic order, refuse to take part in human rights abuses and speak out against abuses committed by the government, and combat corruption in Venezuela.

Today's action shows that the United States will continue to take concrete and forceful action against those who are involved in the destruction of democracy in Venezuela as well as those who are enriching themselves at the expense of the Venezuelan people. The United States will continue to use the full weight of American economic and diplomatic power to help create the conditions for the restoration of democracy for the Venezuelan people.

**10. December 28, 2018. Secretary Pompeo Travels to Brazil and Colombia to Strengthen Prosperity, Security, and Democracy. FACT SHEET, Robert J. PALLADINO, DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON**

**DEFENDING AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY**

Brazil's latest free and fair election demonstrates the stability and integrity of the country's democratic institutions.

As the two largest democracies in the hemisphere, our partnership is based on shared values and commitments to democracy and the rule of law, public security, education, and human rights.

The United States will work with Brazil to support the peoples of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua who are struggling to live in freedom against repressive regimes. We welcome President-elect Bolsonaro's commitment to stand up to tyrants.

In Colombia, the Secretary will meet with President Ivan Duque, commend Colombia for assisting Venezuelans fleeing the Maduro regime, and thank President Duque for his commitment to increasing pressure on Caracas to restore democracy in Venezuela.

**ADVANCING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY**

We seek to deepen our cooperation with Brazil and Colombia against transnational crime, including counter-narcotics, terrorism, and threats to international peace and security, like North Korea.

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## 11. January 10, 2019. Actions Against Venezuela's Corrupt Regime

The United States condemns Maduro's illegitimate usurpation of power today following the unfree and unfair elections he imposed on the Venezuelan people on May 20, 2018. The United States remains steadfast in its support of the Venezuelan people and will continue to use the full weight of U.S. economic and diplomatic power to press for the restoration of Venezuelan democracy.

Today, we reiterate our support for Venezuela's National Assembly, the only legitimate branch of government duly elected by the Venezuelan people. It is time for Venezuela to begin a transitional process that can restore the constitutional democratic order by holding free and fair elections that respect the will of the Venezuelan people.

To advance this goal, the United States has taken aggressive action against the Maduro regime and its enablers. Most recently, on January 8, the United States imposed sanctions on seven individuals and 23 entities involved in a corruption scheme to exploit Venezuela's currency exchange practices. By rigging the system in their favor, these individuals and entities stole more than \$2.4 billion as the Venezuelan people starved. We applaud the initiative by the new National Assembly leadership to work with the international community to recover these and other stolen funds and to use them to relieve the suffering of Venezuela's people. The United States will continue to play an active role towards this end.

We also have implemented and will continue to impose visa revocations and other restrictions for current and former Venezuelan government officials and their family members believed to be responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses, acts of public corruption, and the undermining of democratic governance. We will not allow them to act without consequence or enjoy their ill-gotten gains in the United States – and urge other countries to act likewise.

It is time for Venezuelan leaders to make a choice. We urge those who support this regime, from every day employees getting by on food subsidies to the Venezuelan security forces sworn to support the constitution, to stop enabling repression and corruption and to work with the National Assembly and its duly elected leader, Juan Guaido, in accordance with your constitution on a peaceful return to democracy. The Venezuelan people and the international community will remember and judge your actions. Now is the time to convince the Maduro dictatorship that the moment has arrived for democracy to return to Venezuela.

12. January 23, 2019. Recognition of Juan Guaido as Venezuela's Interim President.

Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

(S) The United States recognizes Juan Guaido as the new interim President of Venezuela, and strongly supports his courageous decision to assume that role pursuant to Article 233 of Venezuela's constitution and supported by the National Assembly, in restoring democracy to Venezuela. As President Trump said, "The people of Venezuela have courageously spoken out against Maduro and his regime and demanded freedom and the rule of law."

(I) The Venezuelan people have suffered long enough under Nicolas Maduro's disastrous dictatorship. We call on Maduro to step aside in favor of a legitimate leader reflecting the will of the Venezuelan people. The United States supports President Guaido as he establishes a transitional government, and leads Venezuela, as the country prepares for free and fair elections. We urge all Venezuelans to support peacefully this democratic process, as granted in the 1999 Constitution.

(S) (A) We will work closely with the legitimately elected National Assembly to facilitate the transition of Venezuela back to democracy and the rule of law, consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The United States also stands ready to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela as conditions allow.

R.C. The Venezuelan people are clamoring for a free and democratic Venezuela. As we have said before, the United States, with the international community, including the Organization of American States, the Lima Group, and the European Union, support the Venezuelan people as they seek to restore their democracy. We repeat our call to the Venezuelan military and security forces to support democracy and protect all Venezuelan citizens.

The new Venezuelan government carries the flame of democracy on behalf of Venezuela. (S) The United States pledges our continued support to President Guaido, the National Assembly, and the Venezuelan people.

13. January 28, 2019. Sanctions Against PDVSA and Venezuela Oil Sector. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

Today, the United States has taken necessary actions to prevent the illegitimate former Maduro regime from further plundering Venezuela's assets and natural resources.

The United States has determined that persons operating in Venezuela's oil sector may now be subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13850 signed by President Trump on November 1, 2018. Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) has been designated for operating within this sector.

Maduro and his cronies have used state-owned PDVSA to control, manipulate, and steal from the Venezuelan people for too long, destroying it in the process.

Today's action will prevent Maduro and other corrupt actors from further enriching themselves at the expense of the long-suffering Venezuelan people. It will also preserve the core pillar of Venezuela's national assets for the people and a democratically elected government.

These new sanctions do not target the innocent people of Venezuela and will not prohibit humanitarian assistance including the provision of medicine and medical devices, which are desperately needed after years of economic destruction under Maduro's rule. The Department of the Treasury is issuing a series of general licenses to support U.S. companies, interests, and allies.

The United States will continue to take concrete and forceful action against those who oppose the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela, and serve their own interests rather than those of the Venezuelan people.

The United States stands with interim President Juan Guaido, the democratically elected National Assembly, and the people of Venezuela as they peacefully restore constitutional order to their country.

P.O.

14. February 4, 2019. Recognition of Juan Guaido as Venezuela's Interim President by Several European Countries. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

S.  
We welcome the decision today by Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom to recognize Juan Guaido as the Interim President of Venezuela. We are also heartened by the European Parliament's January 31 resolution recognizing Juan Guaido as Interim President. They join the United States and more than 23 other countries in recognizing Juan Guaido as Interim President, in accordance with Venezuela's constitution.

We encourage all countries, including other EU member states, to support the Venezuelan people by recognizing Interim President Guaido and supporting the National Assembly's efforts to return constitutional democracy to Venezuela. We repeat our call to the Venezuelan military and security forces to support their country's constitution and protect all Venezuelan citizens, including Interim President Guaido and his family, as well as U.S. and other foreign citizens in Venezuela.

15. March 4, 2019. Interim President Juan Guaidó's Return to Venezuela. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

S.  
The United States applauds the people of Venezuela for their actions to create a peaceful democratic transition, and congratulates Interim President Juan Guaidó on his successful diplomatic efforts in the region and safe return to Venezuela. N.

S.  
The United States and freedom-loving nations around the world stand with Interim President Guaidó, the National Assembly, and all democratic forces as they work to establish free and fair elections that will return democracy to Venezuela. N. N. V. C. A.

S. We also welcome news of Venezuelan military and security service personnel doing the right thing and recognizing Interim President Juan Guaidó. A.

The international community must unite and push for the end of Maduro's brutal regime and the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela. C. A. N. A.

16. March 26, 2019. United States Condemns Attacks on Interim President Guaidó and National Assembly Members. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

S.  
The United States condemns the attacks on Interim President Juan Guaidó's caravan and the harassment of National Assembly deputies and members of the media. We are monitoring reports of these and other acts of intimidation by Nicolas Maduro's lawless, armed gangs, known as colectivos. N. F.N. F.N. S.

It is the responsibility of the security forces to protect the democratically elected National Assembly. The security forces should be the guardians of peace and civility and quickly end the violence and intimidation of these irregular armed groups, which threaten the security and sovereignty of the people of Venezuela. These acts of intimidation will not succeed in delaying the inevitable—the peaceful restoration of democracy, stability, and prosperity to the people of Venezuela.

17. May 10, 2019. The United States Sanctions Venezuela's Defense and Security Sector. Media Note/Office of the Spokesperson,

Today, the United States took action against the former Maduro regime for increasing its intimidation of those supporting democracy in Venezuela, including members of the democratically elected National Assembly. Pursuant to E.O. 13850, the United States determined persons operating in the defense and security sector of the Venezuelan economy may be subject to sanctions.

In addition, we have designated two companies, Monsoon Navigation Corporation and Serenity Maritime Limited, that operate in the oil sector. We have also identified two vessels that transported oil from Venezuela to Cuba as blocked property.

The Venezuelan people continue to suffer at the hands of this despotic regime, aided in no small part by Cuba and Russia. Cuban forces provide intelligence and physical security to help oppress the Venezuelan people. Russian military personnel and companies operate in the defense and security sector. The Maduro regime's latest cowardly gambit – the arbitrary detention of National Assembly First Vice President Edgar Zambrano – is illegal and inexcusable.

We call on all actors within the defense and security sector to protect and defend the rights of all Venezuelans.

Today's determination allows the United States to take action against the malign actors that are impeding the will of the courageous Venezuelan people, who demand democracy. The United States continues to stand with them, their interim President Juan Guaido, and the National Assembly, as they work to peacefully restore constitutional order and prosperity to their country.

**18. June 28, 2019. The United States Sanctions Nicolas Maduro Guerra. MEDIA NOTE  
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON.**

Today, the United States imposed sanctions against Nicolas Maduro's son, Nicolas Ernesto Maduro Guerra (Maduro Guerra), for his role as an official in the illegitimate Maduro regime pursuant to E.O. 13692.

Maduro Guerra is a member of the illegitimate National Constituent Assembly, a body established by his father to undermine the democratically-elected National Assembly and entrench a brutal regime. In 2014, Maduro Guerra was also appointed by his father to head the Corps of Inspectors of the Presidency.

This action demonstrates that the United States will continue to hold officials of the illegitimate Maduro regime accountable for their oppression of the Venezuelan people, theft of Venezuela's resources, and the disastrous policies that have created unbearable living conditions throughout the country. While Nicolas Maduro, his family and associates continue to enjoy lives of luxury, the Venezuelan people suffer and millions have been forced to flee their homes.

U.S. sanctions need not be permanent. They are intended to bring about a positive change of behavior.

The United States urges all nations to step up economic and diplomatic pressure on Maduro and his corrupt associates. We continue to stand with the people of Venezuela, interim President Juan Guaido, and the National Assembly as they continue their struggle for freedom and prosperity.

19. July 5, 2019. UN Human Rights Report Documents Maduro Regime's Human Rights Abuses. PRESS STATEMENT MORGAN ORTAGUS, DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

The United States remains deeply concerned by the gross human rights abuses and violations detailed in the UN Human Rights report. This report on Venezuela illustrates the depth of the despair and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. It confirms that Nicolás Maduro and his thugs are committing gross violations of the human rights of the Venezuelan people and depriving them of their basic rights and freedoms through systemic repression, torture, and intimidation.

One of the most unsettling statistics is that the former Maduro regime's Special Action Forces killed at least 5,287 people in 2018 and, at minimum, another 1,569 by mid-May, 2019.

This report follows the alleged torture and killing of Capitán de Corbeta Rafael Acosta Arévalo, a Venezuelan Naval Officer, who died while in the custody of Maduro's thugs and their Cuban minders. We renew our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

No dictatorship lasts forever. Venezuela will soon be free, and those responsible for abuses and violations of human rights in Venezuela will be held accountable. The international community should condemn the illegitimate Maduro regime and stand together to fight against its willful disregard for human rights and impunity.

We appeal to the countries that have not yet formally recognized Interim President Guaidó to do so as soon as possible, and withdraw any lingering support for the former Maduro regime's de facto hold on power.



20. August 6, 2019. The United States Imposes Maximum Pressure on Former Maduro Regime. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

On August 5, the President of the United States signed an Executive Order blocking all property and interests in property of the Government of Venezuela that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within possession or control of any United States person. This Executive Order is designed to directly target the former Maduro regime and those who support it, while exempting transactions related to humanitarian activity, including the provision of articles such as food, clothing, and medicine intended to be used to relieve human suffering. OFAC has concurrently issued a general license authorizing transactions with Interim President Juan Guaido, the National Assembly, and individuals appointed or designated by Guaido.

While this is not an embargo, this significant action is in response to the continuing usurpation of power by Maduro and persons affiliated with him from the legitimate interim government of Interim President Guaido, as well as human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention of Venezuelan citizens, interference with freedom of expression, including for members of the media, and ongoing attempts to undermine Interim President Guaido and the democratically elected National Assembly's exercise of legitimate authority in Venezuela.

Maduro's repression of Venezuelans, in combination with the corruption and mismanagement by his illegitimate government, has dramatically negatively impacted the quality of life for average citizens who lack access to food, water, medicine and electricity, causing one of the worst man-made humanitarian disasters in the modern world.

Together, with our democratic partners in the region and around the world, the United States stands with Interim President Guaido, the democratically elected National Assembly, and the people of Venezuela as they seek to restore constitutional order and democracy to their country.

P.O.

21. September 24, 2019. United States Takes Action Against Entities and Vessels Operating in Venezuela's Oil Sector. PRESS STATEMENT MORGAN ORTAGUS, DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON.

On September 24, <sup>(S)</sup> the United States designated four companies that operate in Venezuela's oil sector as sanctioned, and identified as blocked property <sup>(F.N)</sup> four vessels associated with this activity.

This action further <sup>(A)</sup> targets Venezuela's oil sector and the mechanisms used to transport oil to Nicolás Maduro's Cuban benefactors, who continue to prop up the former regime. These sanctions are a follow-on to the designations and identifications announced on April 5 and 12 that targeted entities and vessels known to be involved in the transportation of crude oil from Venezuela to Cuba.

With this action, the sanctioned entities <sup>(A)</sup> will be denied access to the U.S. financial system. In addition, a freeze will be placed on these entities' U.S. assets. <sup>(S)</sup>

The United States <sup>(S)</sup> will continue to work with our <sup>(A)</sup> democratic partners in the region and around the world to support Interim President Guaidó, the democratically elected National Assembly, and the people of Venezuela as they seek to restore constitutional order and democracy to their country. <sup>(C)</sup> <sup>(I)</sup> <sup>(RC)</sup> <sup>(N)</sup> <sup>(A)</sup>

22. November 5, 2019. The United States Takes Action Against Former Maduro Regime Officials and Strengthens International Efforts. Press Statement. Mike Pompeo Secretary of State.

On November 5, <sup>(S)</sup> the United States identified five members of the former Maduro regime and took action against them under the authority of Executive Order (E.O.) 13884. These individuals include members of the Venezuelan military, Bolivarian National Guard, intelligence service, and the illegitimate Constituent National Assembly and are associated with corruption, human rights abuses, acts of intimidation, and violence.

While Maduro and his associates continue to enrich themselves, the Venezuelan people suffer brutality, violence, and oppression at the hands of the intelligence, security, and armed forces. Today's action demonstrates the United States' continuing commitment to maintain maximum pressure on the former Maduro regime to help ensure a democratic transition in Venezuela.

With our democratic partners in the region and around the world, the United States will continue to support interim President Guaido, the National Assembly, and the people of Venezuela.

23. December 9, 2019. The United States Takes Action Against Maduro-Aligned Individuals. Media Note/Office of the Spokesperson.

On December 9, 2019, the United States sanctioned two officials aligned with the former Maduro regime pursuant to Executive Order 13692, as amended, which authorizes the designation of any person determined to be a current or former official of the Government of Venezuela. Gustavo Adolfo Vizcaino Gil and Juan Carlos Dugarte Padron used their position as Director General of the Government of Venezuela's Administrative Service of Identification, Migration, and Immigration (SAIME) to corruptly enrich themselves at the expense of Venezuelans seeking passport services. Dugarte was Director General from April 2016 until June 2018, when Vizcaino replaced him.

During Vizcaino's tenure, SAIME charged exorbitant fees from passport applicants, from which he personally profited. Some passports were sold to non-Venezuelan citizens and other applicants never received passports, even after illicitly being charged thousands of dollars. Dugarte also received kickbacks and was publicly implicated in corrupt dealings for the sale of passports.

It is unconscionable that Venezuelans may be unable to obtain a passport or have to pay excessive fees due to corruption, as they continue to flee the devastating conditions in Venezuela that Maduro and his corrupt associates have created. This is yet another cause of the misery that millions of Venezuelans now suffer.

With our democratic partners in the region and around the world, the United States will continue to support the people of Venezuela, interim President Guaido, and the National Assembly.