



DECLARATION ON FOREIGN MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN VENEZUELA AND HUMANITARIAN AID

The undersigned former Heads of State and Government, within the framework of the Democratic Initiative of Spain and the Americas (IDEA), call for democratic governments of the world and the international public to engage in careful and urgent consideration of the dangerous developments in Venezuela that endanger Venezuelans' rights to democracy, basic freedoms and social justice.

WHEREAS:

1. The massacre of indigenous Pemón people in Santa Elena de Uairén, as a result of the action of the de facto ruler in Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros, who has systematically denied the existence of a humanitarian crisis, and used paramilitary groups and extermination squads to frustrate the delivery of international humanitarian aid at the country's borders with Brazil and Colombia.
2. IDEA, since its first declaration in Panama, on April 9, 2015, has denounced the dangers of the impoverishment of the Venezuelan people, who find themselves today without water and electricity. IDEA has tried, in good faith, to propose measures to prevent this disaster on time; however, they were not taken into account.
3. Juan Guaidó, legitimately in charge of the Presidency of the Republic as President of the National Assembly, in the exercise of his constitutional responsibilities, has also insisted that the urgent and primary need is the entry of humanitarian aid, to mitigate the effects of the material and physical devastation suffered by all Venezuelans and pushing them abroad. The de facto regime has only allowed the assistance sent from the People's Republic of China.
4. In addition to the well-known presence of 220,000 Cubans who exercise control over the military apparatus and the de facto government - "Fidel's children" according to the Granma newspaper – a Russian military mission has arrived in Venezuela. Per the authorities in Moscow, the Russian military will remain there "for as long as necessary." In violation of international declarations and treaties signed by Venezuela, the de facto regime allowed TU-160 nuclear bombers known as White Swan to land in Venezuela.
5. Russians and Chinese – the de facto regime's largest arms suppliers - like Cubans, exercise control over oil and mining activities in southern Venezuela, receiving most of the profits from these operations and using them as collateral for Venezuela's debts to those foreign countries. There is also evidence that these foreign countries control security and order in wide territories of Venezuela, with the permissiveness of the de facto regime, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and parastatal criminal groups.

THEREFORE:

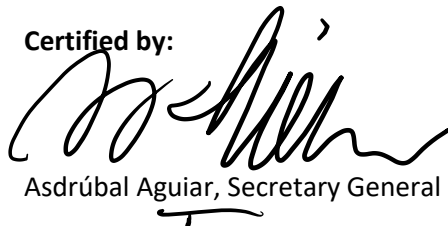
1. We affirm that international humanitarian aid must be based on respect for human dignity and on the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality, and be free from all manipulation by the de facto powers, including criminals, who dominate Venezuela.
2. We warn that the accelerated transfer of economic and territorial sovereignty by the de facto regime of Nicolás Maduro Moros to foreigners jeopardizes the future of Venezuelans and their welfare. This transfer of sovereignty has been made without the approval of the Venezuelan people, as represented in the National Assembly, and thus must be rejected by democratic governments. The looting of any nation is contrary to the purposes of the United Nations, which is bound to cooperate in "the solution of international problems of an economic, social and health nature, and other related problems."
3. We conclude, in any event, that foreign governments and international organizations can only be successful in promoting the transition to democracy – as proposed by the Venezuelan National Assembly with free and democratic elections – by ceasing any foreign intervention that does not conform with international public order.

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