

Dear United Nations:

Before I start writing my public letter I would like to let you all know that I see in the United Nations great value and one of the institutions of the world that can truly bring solace, hope and assurance to many nations in the world and their people. Thank you for what you all do. I surely hope to follow about many more honorable, unique and necessary actions around the world.

This public letter is about Venezuela.

Venezuela seems to be crossing a confusing messy situation. I will explain my views, also some problems that I see and then express about possible approaches for a peaceful solution.

### **1. Inflation / Economy**

Venezuela is one of the Latin American countries that shows a high coefficient of inflation. So high, its people do not know how to overcome it. This high inflation coefficient allied to heavy economic sanctions that have been imposed on it, for several years, have created a humanitarian crisis that troubles and worries us all. Other countries in Latin America, without sanctions, share a tremendous high inflation coefficient as well, we watch videos of people protesting every day, demanding changes and new approaches. It seems, therefore, that **the economy ideology is not the only factor that causes discontentment and frustration among people**. I won't discuss economic ideologies, as I am not an expert in the subject. In 2018, however, Argentina was said to have one of the highest inflation coefficients in the world, so high some people are losing hope. Instead of walling them off or blaming them, financial international help was aided to them. Which is noble. So, apparently **economy is not the factor driving international political interference in Venezuela**.

## 2. Democracy

At times, and from the outside, it seems Venezuela puts in check some of democracy's basic principles. Because of that, nations around the world question if it truly is a democracy. In a democracy, Human Rights are respected (these include freedom of speech and expression), regular and transparent elections are held, the ruler in power does not hold absolute power and political opposition is allowed and respected. Freedom of speech is perhaps the democracy principle that makes the international nations to question about how far democracy is respected. However, we also know **many other countries and nations around the world don't and there hasn't been an intention or campaign to decline their elections, nominate a new president for their citizens and create political instability that can lead to a civil war. So, we may be forced to conclude that democracy principles are perhaps not the real intention for this international interference neither.**

## 3. *Humanitarian Crisis*

A debile economy puts the lives of a nation's citizens in jeopardy. Leaders need to learn economy and how to make it work in their own countries. Humanitarian crisis are heartbreaking, and it is good that an altruistic feeling in people's hearts is awaken. United Nations have not included Venezuela in the top 10 Humanitarian Crisis 2018 List. **There are many nations under severe humanitarian crisis for decades, way worse than Venezuela, those UN has been helping for a long time, and there was no begging to help and send humanitarian help to those countries or nations either. So, we may have to conclude as well, that the Humanitarian crisis is not the fundamental reason for this international interference as well.**

#### **4. War Criminal for Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide Appointed to Take Care of Venezuela**

Dear UN, it is heartbreaking that the person who has been appointed to tackle the crisis in Venezuela is a man well known for ordering mass killings in Latin America, for allowing soldiers to rape 12 years old girls, for having sent guns and weapons in planes and trucks with banners reading "Humanitarian Help" to LATAM, for creating civil wars everywhere he lands at, for giving genocide like orders against native Americans, Latins and mixed-race Latins last century in Latin America. **This man has lied to Congress before, and is accused of Ethnic Cleansing, mass killings and genocides in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. I can't in my mind believe that Mr. Donald Trump has appointed this vile mean man to deal with Venezuela. Also, I do not understand how the EU supports this action.** This man claims to do everything in "*the name of democracy*" but his actions are far from democratic and are considered crimes against Humanity. He has authorized the killing of thousands of innocent Guatemalan children in a violent manner, described by witness as smashing children's heads against walls while forcing their parents to watch. It is said he wanted to emotionally destroy those people. Why? This is not what democracy stands for. These are severe violations of Human Rights. Venezuela is an ethnically mixed country and its beauty is in that. Please stop this man!

#### **5. EU request = New elections**

EU has requested the scheduling of new presidential elections so that Venezuelans could choose who they want to represent them. The European Union has asked to, few weeks ago, Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro to schedule new elections. Mr. Nicolas Maduro opposed at first, any international interference and we know that resistance has historical reasons. One would have to read about Colonialism and the atrocities colonial people, unfortunately, have subjected Native Americans to, to understand Mr. Nicolas Maduro apprehension about any help. Also, one would

have to read about the atrocities done in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador to understand such justified resistance. He doesn't want their culture to be lost, their cultural identity. It is one of the principles of diplomacy and Human Rights to not attempt against different cultures or try to override them. **However, last week, Mr. Nicolas Maduro has said he was opened to discuss with the opposition, Guaido, about the best way to solve this turmoil in Venezuela. He even said he would be up to discuss future elections with Mr. Guaido, Venezuela Assembly's Head man. Mr. Guaido ignored his requests for discussions and said he would do "whatever it takes" to ensure he is the president of Venezuela and that he supports a possible war.** I do believe this is somehow not that democratic and shows some arrogance on his side not only for Mr. Maduro, but to Venezuelans who support him. It is not true everybody roots for Guaido, as it is not true everybody roots for Maduro, but this is the very birth of a democracy. It seems to me that Mr Guaido doesn't seek for peace dialogue or agreements.

#### **6. *Violent Death Squads Opposition Protests***

Mr Guaido has been linked to past opposition rallies in Venezuela where people have been burned alive because they looked "Chavistas". One of those people was a super-market worker called Orlando Figuera (Afro-Venezuelan) who was stabbed and then burned alive live on the streets. Ministers have said at the time they found the event to be gruesome and have been saying since then that Chavistas have been stalked, beaten up and killed by the opposition. Dear UN, it seems odd that international countries would support this man. **If Nicolas Maduro has been accused of arresting his opponents, which goes against the democracy, Mr Guaido encouraging or supporting the killing of people who look like Chavistas, is also going against democracy and Human Rights of freedom of Choice and Expression.**

## **7. Past Elections**

Both assembly elections and presidential elections have been organized using the same method, voting booths and procedure. It is scientifically odd to claim that, taking into consideration that method and booths were the same in both elections, only one is valid in the eyes of some international nations. Also, Venezuela has been credited in the well-known magazine Forbes, in the past, as having of the safest voting methods of the world. **It is not scientifically and technically clear why presidential elections should be denied and dismissed when assembly elections have gone under the same exact method and have used the same exact booths. To be fair, both would need to be considered valid or invalid, since the tools and methods used have been the same.** Nobody seems to have answers to the scientific questions. Yet, these subjects deal with millions of people (60% of people) who have voted for their official president Nicolas Maduro and who have voted for their Assembly representative Guaido as well. Mr. Guaido has never been a presidential candidate, and until this scandal broke, very few people have even heard of him before. He seems to enjoy being given on a silver plate the title of president of Venezuela, but this does not match any democracy principle. It is a little confusing what exactly the international standards of judgement of the elections that have taken place in Venezuela are. It seems that there are double standards at play.

## **8. Media and Fake News**

Media has been building among the public, a civil war urgency around the world, posting outdated pictures and news all the time manipulating a biased unrealistic impartial support to Mr. Guaido. Mr Guaido was elected to be the Assembly's president, he has not gone under any true presidential

electoral process. Self-proclamation is an authoritarian action that doesn't match democracy principles either. It seems to me Mr. Guaido acts this way because of some prestigious international support he has gathered. Even if he doesn't personally like Mr. Maduro he could, however, respect Maduros supporters who are Venezuelans as well.

**Media has posted past violent opposition rallies pictures as if they were Nicolas Maduro rallies. Media has posted a picture of Tienditas bridge (Venezuela - Colombia) with three trucks impeding passage saying Mr. Nicolas Maduro has blocked the arrival of international aid, when this bridge has never been opened and per one of Venezuelans ministers has only been paid for by Venezuela, resulting in its obstruction until Colombia pays its part in it.**

We know it is not true journalism. There are many videos circulating on twitter of people saying "yo no ha votado por Guaido, yo ha votado por Maduro." And these are ignored and hidden to share videos of opposition supporters. Also, Facebook has blocked a letter written by Cuba and posted on Facebook, in which Cuba expressed their support for Venezuela. I am unsure how social media platforms can censor information like this. This is censorship and as we all know censorship is against democracy as it is against freedom of expression which is a basic Human Right.

### ***9. Questionable Humanitarian Aid***

Around the world and those who are paying attention, already know that the Humanitarian Aid Mr. Guaido is forcing into Venezuela is making people question if it is truly Humanitarian Aid. **UN and Red Cross officials have alerted, warned and said quite a few times Humanitarian Aid should NOT serve as a cap for politics or weapons or anything rather than pure Humanitarian Aid.** It is said that these Humanitarian Aid trucks have been approaching Venezuela and they come from Colombia and Brasil. Sending any other items besides Humanitarian Aid using the cap of Humanitarian Aid is not that ethical. People will feel betrayed in their trust and some may violently react. Also, there is the

theory that Humanitarian Aid may be used as a way to smuggle arms and weapons to violent gangs and extremist people.

#### **10. The “very dangerous southern border”**

**Creating a civil war in Venezuela will destabilize America north to south. Venezuelans, if a civil war starts, will gain the international status of war refugees and many will run away for their lives. The so called “very dangerous southern border” in USA will then have thousands of Venezuelan people seeking for asylum in the USA as war refugees claiming “you said you would save us” and they will be right.** Creating a civil war in Venezuela will help no one, including USA itself. **War refugees are internationally protected, and they are right to seek asylum in other countries fleeing from war and hostile environments.** The “very dangerous southern border” problem will escalate instead of getting solved any time soon.

#### **11. Sovereign Nation**

What people are attempting to do in Venezuela, through a coup d'etat is internationally illegal. Venezuela is an independent and sovereign nation. In the world today, we all are inter-dependent of each others, it is true, but nations still hold the power of decision about their own political lives. International help, international relationships are something worth having. Good trade deals descend from good international relationships, also people move around. Students want to travel abroad for a semester or two, there's so many good things that come out of friendship between different cultures and peoples. Professionals want to attend to international conferences, art expositions and so on... However, forceable interference in another nation's political, social and economical life is not what friendship and trade deals stand for. Agreements cannot be forced. For two different sides to fully agree with each other, both sides need to do it in their Human Right of free will. There is a tendency by some wealthy countries to look at countries with less good

economy and at times try to help them by force. I do see that the intention is perhaps good, however the method is not. Different nations are home to different people with different ways of doing things, different cultures, and diplomatic ties will forever be cherished much more by both sides than forced intervention. One of the diplomacy principles I have studied about says that in diplomacy people should never try to override other cultures. It is very hurtful to do so. A culture is something very close to people's hearts, something they identify with and they don't want to give up upon. It would be far better to start negotiations and long-lasting friendship between people from different countries rather than force any of them to give up on their cultural values and culture and become like someone else. Venezuela is an independent nation. But it is a nation led by communicative people. Communication is perhaps the best way to solve this crisis, instead of arguing or beating heads against each others, so to speak.

#### ***12. Mexico, Bolivia, Uruguay, CARACOM and Pope***

**Mexico, Bolivia, Uruguay and Caracom have shown interest in mediating negotiations in Venezuela in search and maintenance for peace. These are brotherly countries to Venezuela whose request would create last longing solutions to Venezuelans both for proximity in culture and cultural values, and the Latin American ones in language as well. Mr. Guaido rejected such request. Also, the pope has shown interest in mediating dialogue between Maduro and opposition (Mr. Guaido), in the search for a peaceful and bloodless solution, which Mr. Guaido has rejected as well. It seems Mr. Guaido rejects anything that values dialogue over war in favor to keep a position in Venezuela's political life that has been offered to him by international nations.**

#### ***13. Alternatives***

**I think there are many alternatives to war. A war in Latin America destabilizes everybody, not only all countries in LATAM, but also life in USA, EU, Asia and around the world. The costs are too high**

**in terms of economy and humanity. Provoking a civil war is bad for all, there's no positive sides to it.** I truly believe interference in the political life of a sovereign nation is somewhat disrespectful to that nation's citizens as well as to the rest of the world. To respect Venezuelan people, their will should prevail. For this to be accomplished and for peace to be maintained I do believe there's several different actions international community could take:

- *Informing about democracy*
- *Informing about Human Rights*
- *Encouraging a debate and / or dialogue between both leaders*
- *Encouraging that both leaders negotiate and reach agreements*
- *Ensuring that whatever the agreements are, international relationships with other nations that have been supporting Venezuela are not broken, but maintained if that's the willingness of both representatives*
- *Ensuring that there is no military intervention*
- *Ensuring that Humanitarian Aid is in fact humanitarian and not a façade to send armament and weapons to rebels or gangs*
- *If both leaders agree in scheduling elections, ensure these are approved internationally so that Venezuela doesn't have to go under an episode like this again in the future.*
- *Encourage brotherly nations to support Venezuela on the path to peace and prosperity*

#### **14. The future of Venezuela**

**I think the real solution for Venezuelan's economy is in utilizing their natural resources and what they have of unique and good, better. Creating employment for millions of Venezuelans, investing in quality tourism with reliable marketing, for example, investing in education, and in commerce**

**of art, music, fashion, investing in its own culture and people.** I truly believe that some people in Venezuela who have acted wrong in the past, learn from their mistakes just like any of us do too. Perhaps explaining where democracy may have been compromised is halfway to make it fully work again. Violence creates more violence. And then, History hurts. There are many History pains in the world, creating racism and racial discrimination because of how some people's ancestors have been treated in the past. It is not by creating new Historical hurts and pains that Humanity will evolve to the next level of evolution, but by avoiding creating new ones or awaken past ones.

**15. Thank you for reading**

Dear UN, I truly feel a civil war is the least thing LATAM needs. I know USA is a country fulfilled with great and bright people and they know there are better, more positive ways to solve this impasse. I trust in USA in its good sense. I know there's many Venezuelans descendants in USA and they are suffering with all that's happening too. Venezuela is not a colony of Spain or any other country. It is an independent sovereign country in the world and should be respected as such. **I hope for peace and agreements, for a brighter future and for solutions that can and will benefit everybody in the world, instead of a war that would break many hearts, destroy many lives and throw the whole world into chaotic times that no one has been striving for. We are all connected, what happens to one, direct or indirectly affects all. Thank you for reading, if you would like me to express more ideas and possible solutions about this subject please let me know, I will be happy to do it!**

Best regards,

Vanessa