



Plenary sitting

B9-0010/2019

15.7.2019

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela
(2019/2730(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela
(2019/2730(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela, in particular those of 8 February 2018 on the situation in Venezuela¹, of 3 May 2018 on the elections in Venezuela², of 5 July 2018 on the migration crisis and humanitarian situation in Venezuela and at its terrestrial borders with Colombia and Brazil³, of 25 October 2018 on the situation in Venezuela⁴, of 31 January 2019 on the situation in Venezuela⁵ and of 28 March 2019 on the emergency situation in Venezuela⁶,
 - having regard to the report on Venezuela by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights of 4 July 2019,
 - having regard to the declarations by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on Venezuela of 10 January 2019, 26 January 2019 and 24 February 2019, 28 March 2019, 30 April 2019 and 18 June 2019,
 - having regard to the Organisation of American States (OAS) Report on Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees of 8 March 2019,
 - having regard to the IV International Technical Meeting of the Quito Process, held in Buenos Aires on 4 and 5 July 2019,
 - having regard to the Lima Group Statement of 30 April 2019,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC),
 - having regard to the Venezuelan Constitution, in particular Article 233 thereof,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the presidential elections held on 20 May 2018 were conducted in a manner that did not comply with the minimum international standards for a credible process; whereas the EU, together with other regional organisations and democratic countries, recognised neither the elections nor the authorities put in place by this illegitimate process;

¹ OJ C 463, 21.12.2018, p. 61.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0199.

³ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0313.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0436.

⁵ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0061.

⁶ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0327.

- B. whereas on 10 January 2019, Nicolás Maduro illegitimately usurped presidential power before the Supreme Court of Justice, in breach of the constitutional order; whereas on 23 January 2019, the legitimately and democratically elected President of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó, was sworn in as the interim President of Venezuela, in accordance with Article 233 of the Venezuelan Constitution;
- C. whereas the situation of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Venezuela has been deteriorating severely since the election of Nicolás Maduro in 2013; whereas between 2018 and 2019, the political, economic, institutional, social and multidimensional humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has significantly worsened; whereas increased shortages of medicines and food, massive human rights violations, hyperinflation, political oppression, corruption and violence are endangering people's lives and forcing them to flee the country;
- D. whereas from 19 to 21 June 2019, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, visited the country; whereas she urged the de facto Government of Venezuela to take immediate, concrete measures to halt and remedy the grave violations of human rights documented in the country;
- E. whereas more than 7 million people in Venezuela are in need of humanitarian assistance; whereas the Maduro regime has made no serious attempt to address the alarming and widespread humanitarian crisis, thus neglecting the responsibility it has towards its own citizens to protect and provide for its people; whereas the regime has violated the right to food, including the State's obligation to ensure that the population is free from hunger; whereas according to the UN, 3.7 million Venezuelans are malnourished, in particular children and pregnant women;
- F. whereas the healthcare system in Venezuela is on the verge of collapse, with hospitals lacking staff, supplies, medicines and electricity, which resulted in at least 1 557 deaths between November 2018 and February 2019; whereas there are shortages of 60 to 100 % of essential drugs in four of Venezuela's major cities, including Caracas; whereas maternal mortality has increased and many women have had to leave the country to give birth; whereas previously eradicated diseases such as malaria, Chagas disease, dengue, zika, chikungunya and others have re-emerged and spread in Venezuela as a result of the dire state of the healthcare system; whereas these worsening epidemics could spread beyond Venezuela's borders and cause a public health emergency at regional level;
- G. whereas some 4 million people are now believed to have left the country in the last four years, amid severe shortages of food, medicines and basic services, worsening violence and crime, and repression on behalf of the regime; whereas this migration is putting particular pressure on neighbouring countries, but also increasingly on the European Union and European territories in the Caribbean; whereas the total number of Venezuelans forced to migrate will have surpassed 5 million by the end of 2019, making this the second biggest migrant and refugee crisis in the world;
- H. whereas 22 parliamentarians, including the President of the National Assembly, have been stripped of their parliamentary immunity; whereas 2 parliamentarians are in detention and 16 have either sought protection in embassies, left the country or gone into hiding;

- I. whereas nearly 7 000 people have been killed during security operations in Venezuela in the past year and a half; whereas according to the findings of the report issued by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on 4 July 2019, the authorities are using FAES (the Special Actions Force of the Bolivarian National Police) and other security forces as part of their policy of instilling fear in the population and to maintain social control; whereas the families of those killed during the protests continue to be prevented from exercising their rights to truth, justice and reparation;
- J. whereas torture is used as a systemic tool by the regime to intimidate and punish protestors, thus creating a climate of terror; whereas the UNHRC report found that security and intelligence services, in particular the SEBIN (the Bolivarian Intelligence Service) and the DGCIM (the Directorate-General of Military Counterintelligence), have routinely resorted to such practices; whereas political prisoners in Venezuela, in particular those held by the DGCIM, are being subjected to torture at this very moment, and currently find themselves incommunicado, with no way of contacting their lawyers and family members, who fear for their lives and physical integrity;
- K. whereas on 29 June 2019, Rafael Acosta Arévalo, a naval captain who was arrested and tortured over an alleged assassination plot against Nicolás Maduro, died in custody; whereas a leaked post-mortem report suggests that he had been beaten and electrocuted; whereas Captain Acosta's body was buried by government officials without his family's consent;
- L. whereas on 2 July 2019, Rufo Chacón, a 16-year-old Venezuelan boy, lost his eyesight after being shot in the face by the de facto government's officers at a protest over the lack of petrol;
- M. whereas at the United Nations World Summit held in September 2005, all Member States officially accepted the responsibility of each State to protect its population from crimes against humanity; whereas the Member States also agreed that when a State does not fulfil this responsibility, the international community has a duty to help protect the population threatened by these crimes;
1. Reiterates its full support for the legitimate interim President, Juan Guaidó, in accordance with Article 233 of the Venezuelan Constitution; reiterates its full support for the National Assembly, which is currently the only legitimately elected democratic body of Venezuela and whose powers need to be restored and respected, including the prerogatives and safety of its members; calls on all EU Member States to recognise Juan Guaidó as the legitimate interim President of Venezuela;
 2. Reiterates its deep concerns at the severe political, economic and humanitarian crises, which are profoundly endangering the lives of Venezuelans and whose effects are also spilling over into the region;
 3. Strongly condemns the fierce repression and violence against civilians and the democratic opposition by law enforcement and security bodies, which have resulted in arbitrary detentions, injuries and deaths; expresses its solidarity with the people of Venezuela and extends its sincere condolences to the families and friends of those affected;

4. Highlights the direct responsibility of Nicolás Maduro, as well as the armed and intelligence forces in the service of his illegitimate regime, for the indiscriminate use of violence to repress the democratic and peaceful opposition to the regime; condemns the use, under any circumstances, of arbitrary detentions, torture and extrajudicial killings, which are banned under international conventions, including those to which Venezuela is a signatory;
5. Condemns the violations of the right to food and the right to medical care; urgently calls for the availability and accessibility of food, medicines and healthcare services to be guaranteed, while paying special attention to maternal and child services; calls on the Maduro regime to immediately open up a humanitarian channel to allow aid into the country;
6. Stresses the need to stop, publicly condemn, punish and prevent all acts of persecution and selective repression for political reasons; calls on the authorities to guarantee the safety and rights of all those in custody in Venezuela, and to release all arbitrarily detained persons;
7. Is alarmed by the worsening migratory crisis across the entire region; asks the Commission to continue cooperating with the neighbouring countries that have received these Venezuelan migrants, not only by providing humanitarian assistance but also by providing more resources through its development policy;
8. Points out that the ongoing dialogue must be based on the roadmap adopted in the National Assembly of Venezuela; insists that the main purpose of the dialogue must be a peaceful transition to democracy through the creation of conditions leading to free, transparent and credible presidential elections based on a fixed calendar, fair conditions for all actors, transparency, and the presence of credible international observers;
9. Reminds those exercising power in Venezuela of their responsibility to protect the Venezuelan population from, among other things, human rights abuses and crimes against humanity; further reminds the international community, and in particular the EU and its Member States, of the principle of ‘responsibility to protect’ the Venezuelan population against crimes against humanity committed by the State; recalls that this is a collective commitment agreed by the UN member states to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe with greater consequences; calls on the international community to evaluate all diplomatic, humanitarian and peaceful options, in a coordinated manner and within the framework of the UN, in order to uphold the principle of ‘responsibility to protect’;
10. Calls on the Council to impose additional sanctions targeting illegitimate state authorities’ foreign assets and those individuals responsible for human rights violations and repression, and to extend these sanctions to include the family members of the latter; believes that the EU authorities must restrict the movements of these individuals, as well as those of their closest relatives, and freeze their assets and visas; requests that the Council urgently explore further economic actions, including the imposition of sanctions on the state-owned oil company *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA)*;
11. Recalls its full support for the investigations of the International Criminal Court (ICC) into the extensive crimes and acts of repression perpetrated by the Venezuelan regime, some of which constitute crimes against humanity; urges the EU and its Member States

to join the initiative of several ICC State Parties to investigate the crimes against humanity committed by the de facto Maduro government in order to hold those responsible to account;

12. Supports the initiative to establish a Commission of Inquiry with the UNHRC for the determination of individual responsibilities in the systematic violations of human rights in Venezuela; further supports the call by the UNHRC to establish an impartial and independent national mechanism, with the support of the international community, to investigate extrajudicial executions carried out during security operations, so as to ensure that those responsible are held accountable, and that the families of the victims are provided with redress and afforded protection against intimidation and reprisals;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the legitimate interim President of the Republic and National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the governments and parliaments of the Lima Group countries, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States.