



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

5.3.2015

B8-0238/2015

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 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela
(2015/2582(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Mark Demesmaeker, Andrew Lewer, Ashley Fox,
Beatrix von Storch, Branislav Škripek, Roberts Zīle**
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela
(2015/2582(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Venezuela, including that of 18 December 2014 on the persecution of the democratic opposition in Venezuela¹,
 - having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
 - having regard to the opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of 26 August 2014,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Venezuela is a party,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the arrest on 19 February 2015 of the mayor of Caracas, Antonio Ledezma, whose powers had been much reduced by the government, on arbitrary charges of conspiring to overthrow the government, marks a clear escalation in the regime's campaign of repression in the run-up to legislative elections due in the second semester of 2015;
- B. whereas, according to the head of the Venezuelan Mayors' Association, Carlos Ocariz, 33 of the 78 opposition mayors elected since December 2012 face legal proceedings;
- C. whereas the reported mistreatment of Leopoldo López and other imprisoned opposition leaders and students who participated in last year's protests is unacceptable;
- D. whereas on 8 October 2014 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention described the detention of Leopoldo López as illegal, arbitrary and politically motivated, and called for the release of López and all those who remain arbitrarily detained; whereas on 20 October 2014 the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, urged the government of Venezuela to ensure that all trials conform to the international standards relating to due process;
- E. whereas on 24 February 2015 Kluivert Roa, a teenager, was brutally shot dead by the police while participating in a student protest against the ruinous policies of a corrupt government that have led to shortages of food and medical supplies, soaring inflation, and record levels of crime and insecurity;

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2014)0106.

- F. whereas even ordinary citizens known to oppose the regime are barred from public-sector jobs or government benefits;
1. Condemns the continuing violence and intimidation used by government forces against opposition politicians and student leaders who are persecuted and imprisoned, and calls for their immediate release;
 2. Condemns the shooting of Kluivert Roa of San Cristóbal and expresses its condolences to his family and the families of the other 6 student victims;
 3. Stresses the importance of democracy and the separation of powers in ensuring political rights and the full respect of the principle of the presumption of innocence and due legal process, and regrets the fact that the executive in Venezuela commands, steers and has absolute control over the powers of the state;
 4. Calls on the Venezuelan authorities to immediately disarm and dissolve the uncontrolled armed pro-government associations and groups and to terminate their impunity;
 5. Urges the Venezuelan authorities to engage in peaceful dialogue with Venezuelan society on the most serious problems facing the country, to uphold basic human rights, to lift the restrictive environment for the media and to allow the forthcoming elections to take place in a fair and transparent manner;
 6. Encourages the regional partners of Venezuela, such as UNASUR and the Organisation of American States, to facilitate talks;
 7. Recalls its demand for an ad hoc European Parliament delegation to be sent to assess the situation in Venezuela and hold a dialogue with all the sectors involved in the conflict, as soon as possible;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Government and National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States.