

Non official translation

March 24th, 2016

Mr. Secretary of State,

I would like to write to you, firstly, to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 2016, in response to the invitation on behalf of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Member States of the United Nations Security Council, to participate in the Open Debate titled "Respect for the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter as a fundamental element for the maintenance of international peace and security", held on February 15th, when we assumed the rotating presidency of that permanent organ of the Organization.

In this debate, we reaffirmed our highest aspiration that the principles of the United Nations Charter, bastions of rule of international law, are unique and universal realities among all States.

Unfortunately, beyond good intentions, historical evidence demonstrates the dangerous existence of open or surreptitious powers that, through military, financial, economic and psychological maneuvers, damage the identity and, even in a communicational sense, promote hatred and interfere with the governance chosen in democracy by people's mandate through the vote.

Today the world suffers the consequences of terrorist expressions and extreme violence, as well as forms of unconventional warfare that hinder the right of peoples to have a motherland, sovereignty, self-determination and peace.

Honourable
John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
United States of America
Washington, DC.-

The debate convened by Venezuela was aimed at promoting the postulates of international law and to prevent hate expressions, intolerance and violence that undermine the rule of international law.

We understand that the only way forward to rescue international peace and security is to avoid threats, interference in other people's affairs, territorial, economic or information obstruction and any form of intervention, which unfortunately have only served to generate the regrettable balance of millions of human expatriates attacked in their hopes, their dignity, and their right to peace and development.

May this opportunity serve to reiterate to you and your government, that if the sovereign equality of states, core principle contained in the Charter of the United Nations was respected by those who have historically used excessive force and threats, unilateral and extraterritorial coercive measures against innocent peoples and sovereign nations, the conflicts, violence and war would not have martyred countries as diverse as Vietnam, Cuba, Allende's Chile, and now Iraq, Libya and Syria, to mention a few examples in the painful recent history of mankind.

My motherland Venezuela is under this kind of aggression simply because we have decided to act on the broad framework of a Bolivarian participatory democracy and exercise the inalienable right to build our own political and social model based on inclusion, the fight against poverty, education and health for all and the broad civil and political rights enshrined in our Constitution, one of the most modern and progressive in the world.

The path outlined by the Bolivarian Constitution and the course of the political process that Venezuela has followed during this century is clearly reflected in the data on human development, despite the lurking by local extreme factors in conjunction with international centers of power, which do not tolerate the implementation by people's will of a truly democratic and peaceful model.

We have been victims of atrocious terrorist, psychological, media and economic attacks, including violent attacks against institutions of preschool education, road closures and port blocking. We have managed to maintain the peace of the nation and the civil and political rights of our citizens despite this situation.

Mr. Secretary, allow me to respectfully suggest you to address pressing issues in your own country, at least from the perspective of a critical study of the political system of the United States, conducted by professors Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page of Princeton and Northwestern University respectively, *Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens*, which demonstrate that large corporations lead public policies instead of the legitimate demands and needs of the people. In addition, the statement of former President Jimmy Carter, who adds himself to these critical voices by considering that an elite has hijacked democracy in the United States, is deeply disturbing.

Respectful as we are of domestic affairs of each nation, I will not go further on the institutional impunity that favors the killing of African Americans, Native Americans and Latinos, nor the well-known cartelization of media companies that have privatized freedom of expression, nor the supposed separation of public powers that can only be held in a correlation of forces of the only two parties in power, which prevent pluralism and the ideological political diversity.

In the name of respect demanded by President Nicolás Maduro and his government for our people, and because I firmly believe that any form of human relationship must be based on mutual respect and reciprocity, this time we reject the interventionist burden of your message, and also your obsessed tendency to assume that there is only one way of thinking, disregarding the processes of peoples, and contrary to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

The extension of the Executive Order signed by President Barack Hussein Obama, a few days after the date of such communication, violates the UN Charter and ignores the clamor by Venezuelan people and the Heads of State of Latin America and other regions of the world which have expressly demanded the repeal of such aberrant assertion of considering Venezuela a threat to the United States.

Unfortunately, your government does not accept forms of relations between nations that are not based on supremacy, something that our Liberator Simón Bolívar firmly rejected almost 200 years ago.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I respectfully encourage you, as equal colleagues that we are, to address our nation, which is the homeland of Simon Bolivar, in terms of respect without the historical arrogance that has characterized the usual exercise of power of your country and in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and international law, fundamental rules for relations among sovereign States.

Delcy Rodríguez Gómez
People's Power Minister for Foreign Affairs