

HAMUN 44

SPECPOL

Topic B: Political Corruption and
Economic Crisis in Venezuela



Houston Area Model United Nations

Statement of Problem 2:

Nicholas Maduro rules a Venezuela in crisis. With hyperinflation reaching almost 1,000,00% and a refugee crisis emanating from the economic disaster within Venezuela, the nations of the world look with concern about how to best mitigate and contain the collapse of a formerly wealthy power in South America. An ever expanding refugee crisis where millions of Venezuelans have fled to Brazil and Colombia for economic opportunity is putting severe pressure on neighboring nations, and the need for a solution is ever more important.

The situation is untenable and demands a solution. For Hamun 45, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee must find a way to mitigate the crisis for the benefit of the continent without pushing Venezuela over the edge of economic and political collapse. Such a solution should be peaceful and non-violent, however dangerous situations may call for dangerous solutions...

History of the Problem:

The economic crisis in Venezuela arose between 2012 and 2013, and across the years it has shown that it is not only an economic but also an institutional, political and social crisis. The road to the crisis started during the presidency of Hugo Chavez, and continued with the now President Nicolas Maduro, who maintains the same policies of his predecessor. The crisis unfolded with the rising of different problems in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, such as the increase of unemployment, the financial crisis and the lack of essential food, hygiene and health products.

Shortages in Venezuela resulted from the economic mismanagement of the economy by the government. The UN and several other organizations have offered food aid to the country, but Venezuela refused, which exacerbated the migration crisis while murder rates in the country rose substantially. The hunger in Venezuela, the lack of credits in banks, political corruption, lack of local productivity and the high dependence in oil export prices are the factors that contributed to the aggravation of the situation. Meanwhile, the concentration of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human and political rights have let the government intimidate, persecute and criminally prosecute opposition members.

Even though international help has been offered, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has refused it since the government doesn't want the international community intervening in its managing of the country. Meanwhile, several American countries have signed the Lima Declaration, which declares that Venezuela is no longer a democracy and condemns the violations of human rights in the country.

The international community fears that the crisis will continue to get worse, living conditions will further fall, authoritarianism will deepen and the mass emigration will intensify. All of these problems affect both the internal security of Venezuela and also the surrounding Latin American region. Given that Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world, foreign powers are also closely following the situation. For the

benefit of Venezuela and the whole international community, a solution to this crisis should be reached before it continues to deepen.

Current Situation:

Currently, Venezuela is in complete chaos and crisis. Food shortages have become severe. Venezuelans have endured weeks, in some cases months, without essentials such as milk, eggs, flour, soap and toilet paper. When there is food on the shelves, prices are so high that few Venezuelans can afford the exorbitant prices. Many have taken to eating out of

the trash, while others hunt for penicillin and other remedies at pharmacies everywhere, often without success.

Public hospitals have fallen apart, causing people, including infants, to die because of the scarcity of basic medical care. Venezuela recently asked the United Nations for help to relieve serious shortages of medicines.

The country is spiraling further into a humanitarian disaster spurred by the government's economic policies, which have caused the currency, the bolivar, to plunge in value and prices to skyrocket. By 2017, the bolivar had lost 96% of its value. As of Tuesday, it took 84,000 bolivars to buy an American dollar. At the beginning of this month, a dollar was worth 41,000 bolivars. And at the start of this year, it only took 3,100 bolivars to buy a dollar, according to

Maduro's main actions recently have been attempting to postpone the next election. While the opposition party is growing, Maduro's support is dwindling. The elections have been set to April of 2018, but was originally planned for December 2016. Critics say these delays are due to the fact Maduro is worried about his reelection, as his approval ratings are at a low 23%.