

TIMELINE OF A FRAUDULENT ELECTION

The 2018 presidential election in Venezuela was marred by a series of tactics employed by the government which included barring opposition parties and leaders from participating in the election, as well as coercing and intimidating Venezuelans to vote for Maduro. Given the electoral conditions in the country, the election results were condemned by multilateral institutions such as the European Union (EU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Group of Seven (G-7), and the Lima Group, as well as more than fifty countries.

April 2017

The Supreme Court of Justice blocked the revalidation of the “Mesa de la Unidad Democrática” (MUD) to prevent it from participating in the elections.



January 2018

The Maduro regime imprisoned former Interior Minister and dissident chavista Miguel Rodríguez Torres, thereby blocking him from participating in the election.



February 2018

- The CNE changed the elections date to April 22.
- The CNE announced that the *Primero Justicia* (PJ) party would not be allowed to participate in the presidential elections.
- An opposition coalition from the MUD, that included parties such as *Acción Democrática* (AD), *Primero Justicia* and *Voluntad Popular* (VP), announced that they would not participate in the upcoming presidential elections due to concerns of possible fraud.



March 2018

The CNE changed the presidential election date and set a new date of May 20 to coincide with elections for the State Legislative Council and Municipal Councils.

April 2018

- CNE President Tibisay Lucena announced that any political party and individuals who promote abstention in the electoral process will be sanctioned.
- During a campaign rally in Carabobo state, Nicolás Maduro declared that all Venezuelans with the *Carnet de la Patria* must vote on May 20. Voting is supposed to be voluntary in Venezuela.

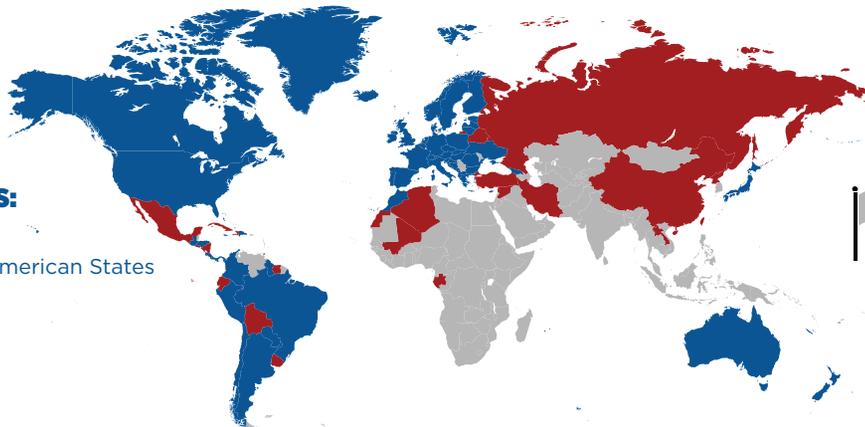
May 2018

Election Day
Maduro warned that if a “capitalist government” won, he would personally take up arms to defend the revolution, stating “I would take a rifle to start the armed revolution.”



COUNTRIES THAT CONDEMNED MADURO'S SWEARING

COUNTRIES THAT REFUSED TO CONDEMN MADURO'S SWEARING



MULTILATERALS:

- European Union
- Organization of American States
- Group of Seven
- Lima Group

COUNTRIES THAT REMAINED NEUTRAL

Maduro declared victory in the presidential election, with only 46 percent of Venezuelans participating in the election. In the 2006, 2012, and 2013 presidential elections, 79 percent of Venezuelans, on average, voted.

CNE member Luis Emilio Rondon refused to acknowledge the election results, alleging that minimal democratic conditions were not met.

The organization *Observación Ciudadana* denounced over 2,000 cases of coercion and intimidation by the government during the presidential campaign.

Observación Ciudadana detected and denounced government control stations or “puntos rojos” in 97 percent of the polling stations. The *Carnet de la Patria* was requested in 95 percent of the 4,020 observed polling stations.

ELECTORAL CONDITIONS
DIAGNOSIS: ILLEGITIMATE

The May 20 election was characterized as neither free nor fair by both the opposition and the international community. The government’s reluctance to comply with internationally-recognized standards and the Venezuelan Constitution further signals its illegitimacy, as displayed in the chart below.


**Internationally
Recognized
Standards**

Electoral Bodies	The Right to Elect and be Elected	Voter Registration	Balloting	Election Observers
Electoral Management Bodies should be established and operate in a manner that ensures the independent and impartial administration of elections	All eligible citizens are guaranteed the right to universal and equal suffrage as well as the right to contest elections without any discrimination.	Voter registers should be maintained in a manner that is transparent and accurate, protects the right of qualified citizens to register, and prevents the unlawful or fraudulent registration or removal of persons	Polling stations are accessible, that there is accurate recording of ballots and that the secrecy of the ballot is guaranteed	To ensure transparency and to increase credibility, the legal framework should provide that election observers can observe all stages of election processes


Venezuelan Law

The National Electoral Council (CNE) will be composed of five people not linked to organizations with political ends; three of them will be postulated by civil society, one by the Faculties of Legal and Political Sciences of national universities, and one or one by the Citizen Power	All citizens have the right to participate freely in public affairs, directly or through their elected representatives	Guarantee the timely and correct updating of the electoral registry, in a permanent and uninterrupted manner.	Electoral propaganda will not be allowed to: Be produced outside the period of the electoral campaign established by the National Electoral Council. No person may be compelled or coerced under any pretext in the exercise of their right to suffrage.	To accredit national or international observers in electoral processes, referendums and other popular consultations of a national nature, in accordance with the provisions of the law.
---	--	---	---	---


**Illegitimate:
The Venezuela Case**

More than 2/3 of National Electoral Council (CNE) members are politically linked with the government.	The majority of opposition political parties /candidates were not allowed to participate	No updated electoral registry. The electoral registration process opened for less than three weeks but never communicated widely	<i>Puntos rojos</i> (red points— or, pro-government control points) and electoral propaganda outside the polling stations. The beneficiaries of social missions and public servants coerced to cast ballots	Limited presence of “international observers” from friendly governments and non-governmental entities. However, Maduro did not permit the participation of many internationally-recognized election observers.
---	--	--	---	--

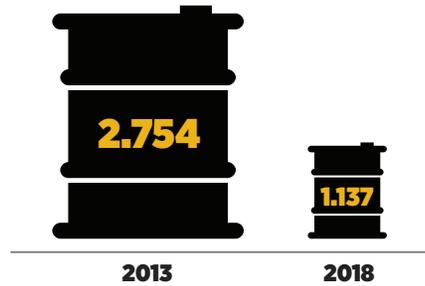
MADURO'S FIRST TERM BY THE NUMBERS

Maduro's first term (2013-2018) has led Venezuela to sink into a deep economic, political, and social crisis. The country currently suffers from declining oil productivity—its most important source of revenue, severe hyperinflation, rising number of political prisoners, a deepening humanitarian crisis which has already led to an exodus of more than 3 million Venezuelans, and deteriorating living conditions.

Maduro's track record and most notable failures during the past 6 years:

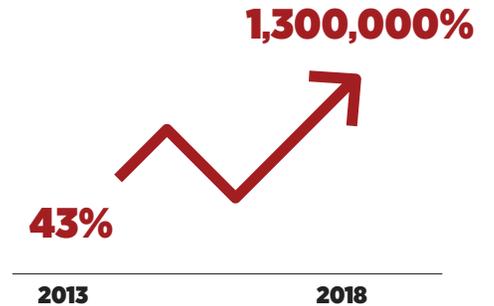
Oil Production

million barrels per day (bpd) of oil



SOURCE: OPEC

Inflation Rate



SOURCE: IMF

Minimum Wage

USD \$105.18



2013

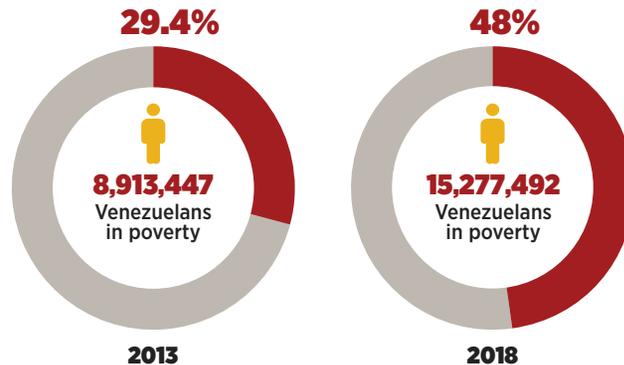
USD \$2.3



2018

SOURCE: CENDAS, DOLARTODAY, VENEALOGIA 2013, 2018

Poverty Index



SOURCE: WORLD BANK, ENCOVI

Emigration

786,916 Venezuelans had left the country

3,000,000+ Venezuelans had left the country



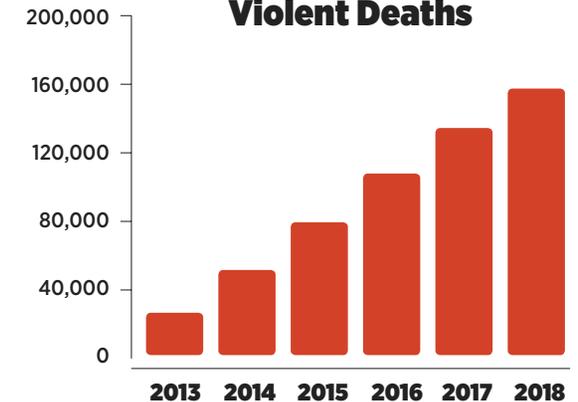
2013



2018

SOURCE: UNHCR, NOV 2018

Violent Deaths



SOURCE: OVV

State-Sponsored Violence



8,292

Extrajudicial killings documented since 2015



12,000

Arbitrary arrests



More than 1,300

Political prisoners

SOURCE: OAS

2019: A Need for Increased Pressure to Return to Democracy

With conditions set to worsen further, this year calls for new steps to restore democracy in Venezuela and for a coordinated international pressure campaign on Venezuela by countries in the Western Hemisphere, Europe and beyond.

The International Community: Design and Implement a New Call to Action

Further Legitimize the Venezuelan National Assembly



The international community should recognize the democratically-elected National Assembly as the only legitimate national body in Venezuela

Coordinate and amplify sanctions



Impose further and coordinated targeted sanctions on government, military officials, and other perpetrators of crimes (crimes against humanity, corruption schemes, drug trafficking, human trafficking, undermining democratic institutions)



Generate sanctions that target cryptocurrency transactions by the regime, which serve to foster corruption and pay off those in power (financial sources, sources that provide software, parties involved in digital currency transactions)



The Venezuelan National Assembly: Renewed Momentum

The National Assembly should be empowered to build momentum for a democratic transition by:

- a. Appointing a National Assembly delegate to lead official diplomatic outreach.
- b. Securing opportunities for its members to participate in international forums in representation of Venezuela.
- c. Calling for the opening of a humanitarian channel and establish a dialogue with international organizations to coordinate its implementation.
- d. Deepening engagement with and calling for additional assistance from the international community, including the US, Lima Group, and EU, to request additional assistance to help build conditions for a democratic transition.
- e. Creating mechanisms to incentivize government and military officials to help restore democracy.

This list should serve as a starting point for future actions by the international community.