

## THE SERVICE TO THE TRUTH. A CALL FOR REFLECTION

Those of us who subscribe to this document, in a previous one, have pointed out that "Venezuela witnesses the tragic end of its history as a nation of liberties and republic, an example that has been of well-being in democracy before the region and the world" during the 20th century. Our State "is today a farce, incapable of the unitary exercise of its sovereign powers ", today replaced by despotic foreign and criminal forces.

One of the most disgusting characteristics in all tyranny and criminal activity itself, especially if it has the management of public affairs and its activities is the cult of secrecy and opacity. It is the negation of democracy.

The Armed Forces itself, fractured and tied to the dictates of actors - Cubans, Iranians, narco-terrorists - who enrich themselves by looting the Venezuelan heritage and stealing necessary substances like medicines from Venezuelans, mostly the poor and the ones in need, has not been able to react by breaking the chains of corruption that have gripped Venezuela. It has chosen to tarnish its historical military decorum and has participated in acts of repression and torture suffered by political prisoners, including their own comrades-in-arms. It has lost its institutional values and foundations.

It has allowed Venezuela's territorial sovereignty over the Essequibo to be part of the criminal liquidation of the nation's assets and has even joined the electoral hoax that the regime of the narco-tyrant Nicolás Maduro intends to install in order to distract people that suffer and are now victims of a serious pandemic. As if this was not enough, its protocolled High Command, represented by the defense minister, Vladimir Padrino, has announced to the country and the world that no one will take away the power they hold, not even through democratic elections.

In this order, we are obliged to make an equal and severe attention call to the interim collegiate government, so that it respects and zealously abides by the demands of transparency, unavoidable in democratic actors who are obliged to publicly render account of their activities, in particular, those who direct and make up the Government Center, of whose procedures no one informs.

It is understood that in the fight against the narco-dictatorship that keeps Venezuela in isolation, aided by foreign forces and transnational groups linked to terrorism, drug trafficking and money laundering as a result of corruption, the strategies to confront and dismantle it demand from prudent and oblivious actors the practice of partisan or personal utilitarianism. But public and political activity is not a private or personal matter of those who assume it believing themselves to be predestined or necessary and less to those who administer it as a profit that chance has dispensed.

The very Venezuelan culture of questioning or rejecting any critical opinion directed against those who exercise destinies within the State or in the parties, arguing for what affects the common interest or unity, is unacceptable and disrespectful towards citizens. It obeys, as always, the manipulation of those who know they are exposed and committed to acts outside of probity or the public interest that they must protect.

So, the call for attention that we make, before Venezuelans, has a specific destination and it is not only for the regime of absolute evil that has usurped power in Venezuela under foreign instructions and from criminal and terrorist groups. It is also an alert directed to the members of the current National Assembly, who by constitutional mandate exercise the interim democratic government with an important international recognition. Many of its relevant actions have broken public confidence and it is urgent to rescue it.

**Why do we affirm this?**

Because the actions of Cúcuta of February 23, 2019, the crazy call for a military uprising from the eastern highway in Caracas, of April 30, 2019, remain unclear, among others; the actions that led to the operation Gideon, at the end kidnapped by the regime; certificates of good conduct issued by the Assembly's Comptroller Commission, which without resources or expertise, are awarded to international criminals such as Alex Saab ; the appointments in CITGO and Monomers, based on partisan fees; the operation of the 2020 Bonds; the bill for the recovery of assets of illicit origin and destination, marked by discretion and opacity.

The 16J Parliamentary Fraction deserves our recognition. Under risks and threats of all kinds, has been fighting for the accountability of the Government, whose silence still continues

In the recent past, they never reported the criteria for choosing their representatives and negotiating with drug trafficking in Santo Domingo and then in Oslo and Barbados. What instructions were they given? What has been the nature and scope of such conversations and their approach to the regime, especially on the electoral issue? Venezuelans know less about how a partisan parliamentary government operates, without constitutional tradition, with its main authority isolated in an embassy and under the position of Head of the Central Government, a figure that does not exist in Venezuela.

One again we express towards the international community that we cannot do this alone. And that Venezuelans need to ward off opacity practices and lies made by public and political actors, as well as reestablishing institutions that ensure our return to democracy as a condition for the free exercise of popular sovereignty.

For us, the signatories, our solidarity is with the rescue of freedom, always serving the truth. Thus we declare, today July seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) 2020.

**María Corina Machado**  
Coordinator of Vente Venezuela.

**Antonio Ledezma**  
Metropolitan Mayor of Caracas and founder of Alianza Bravo Pueblo.

**Diego Arria**  
Former governor of Caracas, former ambassador, and former president of the UN Security Council.

**Humberto Calderón Berti**  
Former president of OPEC, former foreign minister of the Republic, former president of PDVSA, and former minister of energy and mines

Carlos Ortega  
**President of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela**

Enrique Aristeguieta Gramcko  
**Member of the 1958 Venezuelan Patriotic Board, former deputy, former ambassador, former minister in charge of internal relations, and president of the Great National Alliance (GANNA)**