September 29, 2020

Her Excellency

Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

His Excellency

Mr. Charles Michel

President of the European Council

And Foreign Ministers of the countries of the European Union,

Respectfully, we have allowed ourselves to denounce the inconsistencies and devastating consequences – for both the Venezuelan nation and the stability of the Latin American region – caused by the political initiatives promoted by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, in conjunction with the government of the Kingdom of Spain.

For years, Spain was a legitimate and respected spokesperson for the interests of Latin America before the European community. Unfortunately, this condition has radically shifted to now becoming the spokesperson of forces that hinder the rescue efforts of achieving freedom in Venezuela. The current government of Spain is no longer the independent spokesperson that the European Union needs for taking into account the Venezuelan tragedy.

Mr. Borrell decided to send a clandestine mission to Venezuela. This step was taken by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, after meeting with the President of the Government of Spain, this being a Spanish and not a European mission. Such mission intends to request "minimum conditions" to endorse illegitimate parliamentary elections in Venezuela with the observation of the European Union.

For Mr. Borrell, the thousands of murders, tortures, aggravated violations of human rights,

recently known through the report made by the Independent International Mission to determine the situation in Venezuela, would all be resolved if a six-month extension of an electoral farce is achieved. All of this would constitute a shameful settlement.

The High Representative, also acting as a representative of the Spanish government, attempts to undermine the international consensus of the need to establish a transitional Venezuelan government to re-institutionalize the country, manage the humanitarian crisis, and then be able to call for truly free and sovereign presidential elections.

This commitment has been expressed in statements and announcements through various regional organizations and groups of nations dedicated to solving this grueling regional crisis, which include the OAS, the Lima Group, the International Contact Group, the government of the United States and the European Union itself; yet now, inexplicably retracts itself due to the unacceptable maneuver of the High Representative.

From his position, Mr. Borrell intends to impose on Venezuelans his peculiar concept of a "democratic way”, portrayed through an aberrant approach of obtaining “minimum conditions” for parliamentary elections that, according to him, should be held regardless of the conditions of a country that has been devastated, invaded, without national sovereignty, without rule of law, whose territory has been taken over by guerrillas and other criminal de facto groups.

It is unacceptable to beg for "minimum conditions" from a proven criminal regime, whose leaders are singled out internationally for crimes against humanity and for being part of a structured transnational criminal organization. We have no doubt that the EU would never consider accepting in their own electoral processes, standards based on “minimum conditions” similar to those pointed out by the High Commissioner, when the "minimal" condition are full freedom and democracy.

This concept of "minimum conditions" would in itself represent further violation of human rights to Venezuelan citizens, in this case, promoted by nothing more and nothing less than the community of nations that have historically stood by the world’s leadership in the fight for the respect of human rights. To include political prisoners in the negotiation of “minimum conditions” for unacceptable elections, would only serve to deepen the regime's control over the country, constitutes incitement and encouragement to crime, because it provides results and profits in its practice of taking and releasing hostages to use as bargaining chips. Such procedure is what Human Rights activists have called the "revolving door."

While concerns increase within the European Council about the tensions with Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean, it is notorious that Mr. Borrell's ill-advised strategy in Venezuela is produced by expressed abetment from the Turkish government, serving as a biased additional mediator, for being one of the international actors involved in the continued looting of the Venezuelan nation and in the transnational criminal scheme headed by the Venezuelan regime.

The proposed route by the High Representative and by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, facilitated through the Government of Turkey, intentionally ignores and bypasses three fundamental premises of the Venezuelan tragedy, that are above any possibility of negotiation or support of any type of conditions for elections with the criminal regime in power:

1. The massive, systematic and continuous violation of human rights in Venezuela and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the criminal regime.
2. The absence of national sovereignty in Venezuela and the prolonged occupation by forces and foreign agents, in particular by the Cuban contingent, Iranian agents, and their terrorist supportive groups, FARC, ELN and Hezbollah.
3. The transnational criminal nature of the regime, with the unprecedented convergence of drug trafficking with financial mafias laundering the hundreds of billions of dollars looted from the Venezuelan nation: white-collar mobsters, many of whom operate publicly and with impunity within the territory and the Spanish financial and real estate system.

If the European Union has doubts about these three points, instead of setting up an observation mission for unconstitutional elections in a devastated territory, with an exhausted and a brutalized population, it should form a fact-checking commission to report and inform to the European Council and the governments of the Union on the status of these three dramatic aspects.

Are the ministers of the European Council aware of the immense fortunes resulting from a colossal looting of the Venezuelan Nation that are hiding in Spain in white collar crime networks? Do foreign ministers know of how the Spanish authorities allowed the escape of the narco-criminal and former head of intelligence of the Venezuelan tyranny, General Hugo Carvajal, internationally indicted as drug trafficker, and of whom it is unknown if he is still hiding in Spain? Do the ministers remember the actions of the High Commissioner to minimize the violations of Spain from the EU sanctions on officials of the criminal regime?

Now that there is legal acknowledgment of that which Venezuelans have known and suffered for far too many years, this being that the leaders of the prevailing Chavista regime are criminals against humanity, it is evident and obvious that the only acceptable negotiation in the Venezuelan crisis is the one that includes terms for the withdrawal of the regime. This objective can be achieved only and exclusively through great national and international pressure, including pressure from the European Union that should stand out from the positions and interests of the current Spanish Government, whose members have been and are today, ideological allies of the criminal regime.

The actions of the High Commissioner regarding Venezuela in association with the Government of Spain set a pattern that should call the attention of all European democrats. Shared actions with a series of operations carried out by former Spanish President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero and his Group from Puebla, as well as by the current Spanish government, headed by the President Pedro Sánchez and Vice President Pablo Iglesias, the latter denounced in Spanish courts for being financed by the Chavista criminal regime. If Mr. Borrell would act on the bases and responsibility of his position, and not as an ally of the Spanish government, he should support the recommendations of the UN Mission to accelerate the action of the International Criminal Court and join the OAS in taking the necessary measures to oust the criminal regime and expel the foreign agents who subjugate the Venezuelan nation.

Venezuelans and Latin Americans, millions of whom are also European citizens, trust to

receive the understanding and support of leaders across Europe who believe in democratic values, freedom and respect for human rights.

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