

**United Nations Security Council
Crisis in Venezuela**



JACKRABBIT MUN VIII

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HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello Delegates!

My name is Taylor, and I am thrilled to be your head chair for this committee! I am currently a junior and serve as one of the co-Presidents of Model UN. MUN has helped me learn more about our world and grow in confidence, but the part I cherish most about the program has been the friends and memories I've made over the past years– and I hope the same will be for you in this committee.

Aside from MUN, I am Co-President of our school's UNICEF club and Co-Editor-in-Chief of our school's newspaper! Outside of school, I love to travel (a few of my dream destinations are Peru, Iceland, and Morocco)! I also love journaling, reading, baking, listening to music, and trying new cafes with my friends.

The crisis in Venezuela was a topic I strongly advocated for being included at JackrabbitMUN VIII, so I am very excited to see how committee will unfold. Given the ongoing and extremely relevant situation, I look forward to hearing your unique perspectives and witnessing your collaboration!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I wish you all the best, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Taylor Chay

United Nations Security Council | Head Chair

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POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 17th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers can be submitted through a Google form:
 - <https://forms.gle/H3ruhahP2SQUEPs38>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
 - United States
 - First Last
 - School Name
 - UNSC
- Papers should be emailed as a PDF file if necessary
 - Paper content should also be copied and pasted into the body of the email so it can still be graded in the event of any technical difficulties
 - Please name the file and subject line of the email [Committee_Country]
 - Ex. **UNSC_United States**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background & UN Involvement
 - Position of your Character
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Not long ago, Venezuela was the richest country in Latin America, holding vast oil reserves and receiving praise for its robust democracy. Despite Venezuela's global



admiration, in 2013, when Nicolás Maduro was sworn in, allegations that Maduro had manipulated the election sparked Venezuelan citizens to protest. The protests resulted in two dozen killed and over 2,000 detained. Today, staggering levels of poverty, disease, and food insecurity

continue in Venezuela, alongside one of the largest displacement crises in the world, with 8 million Venezuelans fleeing due to these conditions.

Furthermore, tensions with the United States have constantly been present, with Donald Trump and Maduro being particularly at odds. During President Trump's first term in 2019, his administration declared Maduro and his government to be illegitimate. In January of 2026, the Trump administration launched Operation Absolute Resolve, resulting in the capture of Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. While the U.S. asserts that this is a campaign against illegal drugs, Trump has expressed his desire for the United States to "run" Venezuela. Currently, Vice President Delcy Rodríguez has been serving as the acting president of Venezuela. With uncertain times dividing both Americans and Venezuelans, a question arises: how far should foreign governments intervene in other nations? Delegates on this committee will collaborate to address this issue and discuss a lasting solution to Venezuela's humanitarian crisis.



COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

Established in 1945, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, with each of its 15 members having one vote. Ten members are elected annually by the General Assembly serving two-year terms, while five members known as the P5 (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) serve permanent positions with veto power. For resolutions to pass, the P5 must vote in favor or abstain, along with 60 percent of total members voting in favor.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with the Council's decisions, giving the Council much greater authority in addressing global threats than other UN bodies. The Security Council calls upon parties to a discussion to settle threats by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment. However, in some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions, deploying peacekeepers, and authorizing military force when deemed necessary. Although these decisions require a majority vote, members must consider the P5 with veto power, who often have stark ideological differences that can hinder developing a successful resolution.

Please note that this is a **dual-delegation** committee. That means that two delegates from the same school will be working together as one delegation representing a particular nation. Please also note that **Venezuela will be a member of this committee, but will not be able to vote on resolutions.**



BACKGROUND

HISTORY

Venezuela's long experience of exploitation has left the nation in a vicious cycle of oil dependence and political instability. Located on the northern coast of South America, Venezuela was first colonized by the Spanish. Its land was used for



agriculture, and its indigenous population was forced into labor. Following independence from Spain, foreign domination resurfaced as Venezuela's oil was discovered. International oil companies such as Chevron and Shell flooded the nation, and by 1928, Venezuela was the largest oil exporter in the world. When Venezuela began shifting to democratic rule, the government enacted the 1943 Hydrocarbons Law, forcing foreign oil companies to share half

of their oil profits with the state. While the rest of the world was struggling to recover from World War II, Venezuela had the fourth-richest GDP per capita in 1950, making it the wealthiest nation in South America. Venezuela further reaped the benefits from oil, as in 1973, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) enacted an embargo against the United States and several other countries. This caused the price of oil to quadruple, and the Venezuelan currency peaked against the United States dollar.

However, due to not diversifying its exports, the nation regressed as rapidly as it had risen. Oil revenues became the main source to maintain social order, resulting in



the government neglecting other industries, including agriculture, infrastructure, and light manufacturing. The Venezuelan economy had exhilarating growth for some time, but Venezuelans were angered by the government's excessive spending of oil, which drove inequality. Despite the government's attempts to enact various economic correctives, policies failed to achieve lasting results, and Venezuelans started to lose confidence in the state and politicians. Venezuelans' distrust heightened when oil prices plummeted in the 1980s, and rates of poverty, inflation, and unemployment soared.

But hope was gained again when the unsuccessful military coup leader, Hugo Chávez, emerged from prison. As a renowned populist figure with promises to overhaul the old political system, eradicate poverty, and eliminate corruption, Chávez won the 1998 presidential election with 56 percent of the vote.

Although Chávez presented himself as a charismatic “man of the people,” his presidency left citizens puzzled. Within the first year of Chávez taking office, a new constitution was written, increasing the presidential term. In addition, the democratically elected constituent assembly was replaced by Chávez's own allies, with only 6 members of the 131 not being from his party.

While Chávez's actions signalled Venezuela's transition to a left-wing dictatorship, he gained public support through implementing strong social programs. He introduced Plan Bolívar 2000, an antipoverty program that developed roads,



distributed food, built houses, and provided mass vaccinations for over 2 million Venezuelans.

Yet, Chávez's presidency was marked by polarization. Lower-income Venezuelans were satisfied as they received new resources and services, but others were upset with the state's authoritarian control.

In 2002, Chávez fired almost half of the employees from the state-owned company *Petróleos de Venezuela* (PDVSA) who had struck, yet again replacing them with his own allies. Some of the fired employees were also added to a blacklist, which meant the loss of nearly all employment opportunities in the country.

Strikes and protests continued that year; meanwhile, a brief military coup took place. Though roughly half of Venezuela's oil exports went to the United States, the relationship between Venezuela and the United States remained strained. Chávez's close ties with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and his vocal anti-American rhetoric made tensions escalate. Chávez accused the United States of supporting the coup in 2002, and in 2006, at his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Chávez called President George W. Bush the "devil."

The instability of the oil industry after strikes and protests took place devastated the economy. In search for a solution, Venezuela forced foreign companies to cede at least a 60 percent stake in heavy crude oil projects in 2007. As a result, many companies withdrew from Venezuela. Most notably, the American companies ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips, which also sued Venezuela.



With oil reserves dwindling and government debt more than double, Chávez faced his first electoral defeat in 2007. Two years later, Venezuela held a controversial referendum on abolishing term limits, which passed by a 54 percent vote and allowed



Chávez to run for president again. In 2013, Chávez died at 58 after a prolonged battle with cancer. Vice President Nicolás Maduro was shortly elected as president by a narrow margin, winning by 50.8 percent, compared to his opposition, Henrique Capriles' 49

percent. Capriles and his supporters contested the results, leading to violent protests.

Along with an upsurge in chaos, Maduro inherited a system with weak foundations that was not prepared for the oil price crash or the growing national crises to come.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

After 2013, when President Maduro was elected, Venezuela fell into severe economic and political instability as political polarization, decreasing oil production, and inflation afflicted Venezuela. Maduro consolidated political power, leading economic decisions to be made without independent oversight. Because of this, corruption and mismanagement grew as oil revenue was stolen and diverted to funding security forces, rather than being used for the infrastructure of education that could have benefited Venezuelan citizens.

In addition to problems with corruption in oil production, the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is tied to drug trafficking. This illegal trade practice has made



Venezuela perceived by the international community as a major transit hub for cocaine. The rise of drug trafficking in Venezuela can be traced back before Maduro's presidency, when Chávez cut ties with the United States' Drug Enforcement Administration. After doing so, United States authorities alleged that senior officials of Venezuela are involved in the Cartel of the Suns (Cartel de los Soles), which traffics



drugs internationally. Networks like Cartel of the Suns have prevented the Venezuelan government from providing essential resources, such as food and healthcare, to civilians by redirecting power towards criminal enrichment.

Criminal groups (such as the Train of Aragua or Tren de Aragua) have also forced families in Venezuela to flee, which has led to mass displacement. In particular, 8 million Venezuelans have fled, enduring traumatic journeys as injuries are caused from days to weeks of traveling long distances on foot, as many cannot afford transportation. On the route to a safer life, Venezuelans often sleep outside as shelters along the way are rare, and many are in need of treatment for illnesses or simply emotional support.

CURRENT SITUATION

In January 2026, the United States executed Operation Absolute Revolve, with the military launching strikes in Venezuelan territory and abducting Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, along with his wife, Cilia Flores. The Trump administration alleged the invasion and attacks were due to illegal fentanyl smuggling facilitated by Maduro, as well as claiming Venezuela “stole” U.S. oil. On January 5th, 2026, Maduro

pleaded not guilty to the narcoterrorism-related charges in the Manhattan Federal Court. The U.S is currently enforcing a military blockade in Venezuela, with threats of further attacks.

In Maduro's absence, the former vice president Delcy Rodríguez has become the acting president. Mixed reactions have been expressed, as many Venezuelans have shared their feelings of relief at the end of authoritarian rule, but some hold skepticism of the United States' intentions and question if the new government will be truly democratic. Venezuelan protesters have called for Maduro's release. Yet, some protestors have privately told news agencies that they were government employees pressured to attend, highlighting Venezuelans' lingering fear of speaking freely.

As of March 2026, Venezuela and the United States have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations, with the Trump administration working with Rodriguez instead of Maduro. The Trump administration has encouraged Venezuela to make drastic changes, one of them being to open its oil sector to foreign companies. The new Venezuelan government has also released thousands of political prisoners under an amnesty law, but many are still behind bars.



Although diplomatic relations between Venezuela and the United States have seemed to improve, the situation remains fragile. Delegates must collaborate to create a resolution that takes into account the parties involved and the long-term stability of Venezuela.

UN INVOLVEMENT OR OTHER

SECURITY COUNCIL'S ACTIONS

On January 5th of 2026, after news broke out that the United States had launched a military strike in Venezuela and took Maduro into custody to be charged with numerous crimes, such as narco-terrorism conspiracy and cocaine importation conspiracy, Venezuela's government formally requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. Venezuela's UN Ambassador Samuel Moncada wrote to the Council: "This is a colonial war aimed at destroying our republican form of government." At the meeting, several members of the Council, namely Russia and China, criticized the United States' actions. They argued that the U.S. had carried out unilateral military operations, that is, entering the territory of a foreign country without permission of the Council, a violation of the UN Charter.

Despite many condemning the U.S., formal actions from the Council have been limited. The Council has struggled to agree on resolutions that decide on the validity of the U.S. operation, largely because the U.S. is one of the permanent members of the Council. Venezuela's diplomats have encouraged the Council to call for Maduro's return, but no resolution has been passed either in favor or against the United States.

UN AID

Likewise, the Security Council has done little to address Venezuela's humanitarian crisis. While the Council has been rather muted, other UN bodies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have continuously aided Venezuela. The OCHCR has monitored and reported details of human rights violations



in Venezuela to educate the public, and UNICEF has provided food and healthcare for over a million Venezuelans. By operating feeding programs for children and women, supporting local clinics with medicine, equipment, and staff training, UNICEF has played a critical role in protecting the vulnerable people of Venezuela. As of 2026, UNICEF has devoted 136.6 million U.S. dollars aimed at assisting 2.3 million Venezuelans.



BLOC POSITIONS

AFRICAN BLOC

Due to historical conflicts with international law, such as Belgian control of the Democratic Republic of Congo, many African states are generally sensitive to foreign intervention. African countries such as Algeria, Sierra Leone, and Mozambique have all taken part in the emergency meeting held by the UNSC held in January 2026, which was called for after the capture of Maduro. The nations supported carrying out operations inside a foreign country without international approval, which undermines global stability, and encouraged that the crisis in Venezuela should be handled with diplomacy rather than immediate military action. Additionally, they encouraged resolving the conflict through diplomacy that aligns with the UN's agreements and organizations like the UN Charter. No African nation has officially supported the US's military action, though some African countries, including Ghana and Nigeria, have stayed neutral without explicitly condemning the US's military operation.

ASIAN PACIFIC BLOC

Governments in the Asia Pacific region have responded cautiously to the crisis in Venezuela. The countries of Bahrain, India, and Pakistan have called for diplomatic dialogue prioritizing peace, while China has called for more bold actions. Bahrain has affirmed its support for Venezuela in particular, while India and Pakistan have not condemned the United States' actions directly. On the other hand, as Venezuela's largest oil buyer, China has voiced strong disapproval of the United States' actions and called for the United States to immediately release Maduro. While the Chinese government has responded angrily to the United States, the capture of Maduro has



raised questions about whether China could intervene in Taiwan, a sovereign nation. Regarding the humanitarian crisis, China and India have been the most active in providing Venezuela with aid. In 2019, China helped Venezuela win a seat in the Human Rights Council, which allowed Venezuela to share its nation's stance and elevate diplomatic relations. Furthermore, China has provided 62 billion U.S. dollars worth of aid to Venezuela, which is 53 percent of all money China has lent to Latin America. India's aid tends to focus more on providing supplies, as in 2025, India sent 2.7 tonnes of vaccines to Venezuela.

EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC

The Eastern European Bloc has taken vastly different stances and approaches to the current situation. Russia has been a long supporter of Maduro, providing military and financial aid. Notably, in January 2026, Russian-made missiles failed during the United States operation in Venezuela. Similar to China, the capture of Maduro has led to speculation about whether Russia could intensify its involvement in Ukraine. In contrast to Russia's position, Latvia has more closely aligned with the Western bloc, claiming that Venezuelans' rights were not respected by Maduro's presidency. In a speech during the UN Security Council's emergency meeting on Venezuela, Latvia described Maduro's presidency as rooted in "mass repression, corruption, organized crime, including drugs and trafficking."

WESTERN BLOC

After the United States' operation in Venezuela, many Western European nations have come forth to support the United States' actions and have welcomed the end of Maduro's presidency. Historically, the United States has intervened in Latin



America and the Caribbean before, as observed in instances such as Guatemala in 1954 against democratically elected president Jacobo Árbenz, Nicaragua in the 1980s Contra War, and Panama in 1989 during Operation Just Cause. Justifying their interventions to be in favor of greater political stability, nations of this bloc have generally supported a transition in Venezuela's government, yet remain concerned about the legality and methods of force used in operations.

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BLOC

Leaders of Latin American countries have had varying, deeply divided opinions on the military action taken by the United States against Venezuela. Regions such as Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba, and Nicaragua—and Venezuela itself—have emphasized their support for national sovereignty and opposition to foreign military intervention. These countries have advocated that the crisis be resolved without international interference and total regime change. Contrary to these beliefs, countries such as Argentina, Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, and Ecuador have voiced that the Venezuelan government has become authoritarian, therefore requiring international sanctions to restore democracy. States such as Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and other Caribbean states believe in a peaceful transition to national stability, through UN mediation and by preserving the country through humanitarian assistance.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Does your nation consider the United States' intervention or the humanitarian crisis more urgent?
2. How should the United States' intervention be addressed?
3. How should the humanitarian needs of Venezuelan civilians be addressed?
4. How much should the Security Council intervene in Venezuela?
5. How has Venezuela's crisis impacted neighboring regions?
6. What actions has your nation taken to address this crisis?
7. How does your country's historical experience with foreign intervention influence its approach to this crisis?
8. How can your resolution reduce the likelihood of a veto while still having effective action?

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