



ORGANIZATION OF VENEZUELAN IN EXILE
7950 NW 53rd St., Ste 337
Doral, Florida 33166
<http://www.orvex.org> // twitter: @orvex
Phones: (305) 718-8377, (305) 300-7592 and (786) 319-8815

Doral, August 18th, 2017

Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President:

Urgently, I turn to you on behalf of thousands of Venezuelans who are in the United States, fleeing from the serious political and humanitarian crisis caused by a communist regimen; many with pending or denied applications for asylum, and others with expired stays, with a lot of fear of returning to Venezuela, where death awaits them for being opponents and for having elected this great country.

ORVEX, Organization of Venezuelans in Exile, was founded in Miami, Florida, on April 11, 2005, to help the growing number of Venezuelans who are coming to the United States seeking the freedom and peace that is being denied to them in their country of origin.

In 2008 we asked the then President George W. Bush to issue an Executive Orden known as DED – Deferred Enforced Departure, to protect Venezuelans in the U.S., and he referred our request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), within the Department of Homeland Security, which clearly invited all Venezuelans to apply for asylum; however, this solution did not help because many of them were deported for having been in the U.S. for many years and for not having sufficient evidence to support their cases.

Afterwards, in April 2015, we asked former President Barack H. Obama to issue such DED since there is evidence that the *Chavista* regime believes that any

Venezuelan who has requested asylum or has fear of being deported, is suspected of having been stealthily trained by the CIA and the U.S. Department of State to overthrow the government and to murder the head of state. Obama answered our letter stating that *"this country's immigration system has been broken for a very long time, and too often it has an unfair and burdensome impact on the individuals it was meant to assist"*, and he did not provide such needed protection.

Asylum applications of Venezuelans in the U.S. has skyrocketed since 2016, with a number higher than that of the Chinese, even though China has 45 times more inhabitants than Venezuela. A DED for Venezuelans will greatly reduce the heavy burden imposed on Immigration and Homeland Security resources by the record number of Venezuelans applying for asylum; resources that are needed to secure our borders and vet refugees coming from other parts of the world.

On the other hand, we are attaching an important press release of ORVEX, issued on August 18, 2017, by which we affirm that the coalition TABLE OF DEMOCRATIC UNITY (MUD) does not represent the Venezuelan opposition.

Given the great danger of death faced by any Venezuelan who is deported, we kindly ask you to consider issuing an Executive Orden known as DED - Deferred Enforced Departure in favor of Venezuelans currently living in the US and who fear returning to a communist country which had already openly declared that its worst enemy is the United States of America.

We appeal to your good heart, and we pray that God continues to give you the needed wisdom to help the world live in peace and democracy, to relieve the existing humanitarian crisis of Venezuelans who are already in the U.S., and to make America Great Again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elio C. Aponte', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the typed name below.

Elio C. Aponte
President
Organization of Venezuelans in Exile

Attached:

- Copy of letter sent to us by ICE on November 25, 2008
- Copy of letter sent to us by Obama on July 14, 2015
- Press release of ORVEX, issued on August 18, 2017

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

NOV 25 2008

Mr. Elio C. Aponte
President
Organization of Venezuelans in Exile
26 SE 2nd Avenue
Third Floor, Suite 311
Miami, Florida 33131

Dear Mr. Aponte:

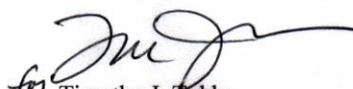
Thank you for your October 2, 2008, letter to President George W. Bush regarding Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Venezuelans currently present in the United States. Your letter was referred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), within the Department of Homeland Security, for response. As you are aware, a grant of DED protection to certain individuals of designated nationality is made by the President and the decision is issued as an Executive Order or a Presidential Memorandum.

The authority to grant DED has no statutory basis, rather it emanates from the President's constitutional power to conduct foreign relations. Deferred Enforced Departure is a temporary, discretionary, administrative stay of removal granted to aliens from designated countries, and as such, it does not confer any immigration status under the Immigration and Nationality Act or 8 C.F.R. § 208.14(c)(2) (applicant who is maintaining valid immigrant, nonimmigrant, Temporary Protected Status) or 8 C.F.R. § 208.14(c)(3) (valid parole).

Deferred Enforced Departure for some nationals of designated countries constitutes an extraordinary remedy granted under the most extenuating of circumstances. We will keep your request under advisement. However, please be assured that other avenues of protection or relief from removal are available on an individual basis such as asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture. Individual requests for such relief or protection are given full and careful consideration on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you again for your letter. If you wish further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,


for Timothy J. Tubbs
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 2015

Mr. Elio C. Aponte
Miami, Florida

Dear Elio:

Thank you for writing. The United States is a nation of immigrants who strive to achieve the American dream. However, this country's immigration system has been broken for a very long time, and too often it has an unfair and burdensome impact on the individuals it was meant to assist. Letters like yours underscore the hardships created by this system, and they show we must do more to fix it.

People shouldn't have to worry about spending years stuck in line or separated from loved ones, and law-abiding families shouldn't have to live in constant fear of being torn apart. America didn't raise the Statue of Liberty with her back to the world—we did it with her light shining as a beacon to the world, because we were strangers once, too.

No matter who we were or where we came from—whether we fled famine, war, or persecution; whether we had the right documents or particular skills; whether we were wealthy or poor—we shared the hope that America would be the place where we could finally build a better life for ourselves, our children, and future generations. Everyone deserves that opportunity, and I want you to know I am going to keep fighting for people like you.

To learn more about the steps I am taking to help bring relief to those suffering from the consequences of a broken immigration system, visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/Immigration-Action. To contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or get information about a current USCIS case, visit www.USCIS.gov or call 1-800-375-5283. For problems with a USCIS application or petition, you can also contact the USCIS Ombudsman at www.DHS.gov/Case-Assistance. For information on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, visit www.ICE.gov or call 1-888-351-4024. For help with visa processing, eligibility, waivers, and other inquiries, visit www.USVisas.State.gov.

Military families can call 1-877-247-4645 for help with immigration-related questions. Information on jobs, child care, health benefits, housing assistance, and other public resources available to those in need can be found at 1-800-FED-INFO or www.USA.gov.

Sincerely,





**ORGANIZATION OF VENEZUELANOS IN EXILE
("ORGANIZACION DE VENEZOLANOS EN EL EXILIO")**

7950 NW 53rd St, Ste 337, Miami, Florida 33166
PH: (305) 718-8377 / CEL.: (786) 319-8815, (305) 300-7592
websites: www.orvex.org / www.ruedalo.org - e-mail: orvex_usa@yahoo.com

**PRESS RELEASE
THE COALITION TABLE OF DEMOCRATIC UNITY (MUD)
DOES NOT REPRESENT THE TRUE
VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION**

The Organization of Venezuelans in Exile, always aware of the well-being of Venezuelans inside and outside the country, hereby announces that the coalition known as TABLE OF DEMOCRATIC UNITY (MUD) does not represent the true Venezuelan opposition for many reasons, including:

1. For being an organization infiltrated from its beginnings by supposed ex *Chavistas*, between whom we can mention:
 - a. Ismael Garcia, head of the paramilitary groups in Caracas, which are financed, protected and led by the regime, known as Bolivarian Circles at the time of the massive public protest of April 11, 2002, and who in turn is responsible for the arbitrary detentions, condemnation and unjust imprisonment of the metropolitan police officers who fulfilled their duty on that fateful day.
 - b. Henry Falcon, member of the constituent national assembly in 1999 for the party "MVR - MOVEMENT FIFTH REPUBLICA", the old party of Hugo Chávez, and governor of the State of Lara in 2008 by the current government party, the PSUV - UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA.
2. Because its members belong to the SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL and most defend the so-called "LEGACY OF CHAVEZ".
3. For accepting Cuban meddling in Venezuela's internal affairs, since it is Cuba that controls the Venezuelan government and other institutions such as the Armed Forces, civil and commercial registries, and the system of identification and issuance of passports, to name a few, by means of proxies of the PSUV - UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA.

4. For being unaware of the existence of political prisoners who are not related to MUD, many of whom have been subjected to torture and cruel and inhuman treatment by the Venezuelan oppressor regime, including soldiers who have been tortured and disappeared, such as General Angel Omar Vivas Perdomo for opposing the Cuban motto "FATHERLAND, SOCIALISM OR DEATH" in the Armed Forces, or civilians such as Mrs. Lisbeth Anez (MAMA LIS), who has been detained since May 11, 2017 and remains incarcerated, subjected to Military justice, for bringing food to detained students; as well as hundreds of Venezuelan students and young people who have come out to protest in the streets, including minors, some of them even murdered, and whose relatives do not enjoy the privileges of family members of the political prisoners of MUD, who can go out and enter Venezuela with ease and can carry out political proselytizing activities in favor of MUD without problems.
5. By requesting the US State Department, in May 2014, not to impose sanctions on Chavez officials violating human rights, which fortunately did not prosper.
6. Because its representatives in the NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF VENEZUELA have not asserted the illegitimacy of Nicolas Maduro as president of Venezuela because it has two nationalities (COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN), since it has been proven that his mother is Colombian and that, under Colombian law, every child of a Colombian automatically has that nationality; and because according to the Venezuelan constitution, the person who has dual nationality cannot opt to the position of president of the republic.
7. For ignoring that in Venezuela there has been a continued electoral fraud since the recall referendum of August 15, 2004, whose results have always been favorable not only to the Venezuelan regime, but to those who control it, the Cuban regime.
8. For calling up for the exercise of articles 333 and 350 of the Venezuelan Constitution via the plebiscite of July 16, 2017, by which it promised to not recognize the regimen, to restructure the TSJ – SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE and the CNE – NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL, and to prevent the NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY to be established; however, it mocked the will manifested by more than 7.5 Million of Venezuelans since it recognized the decision of the illegal and unconstitutional NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY of moving forward the regional elections and by signing up candidates for the same, undermining with that the disapproving the international community has given to said NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY and the statements

made by several countries of the free world that there is a dictatorship in Venezuela.

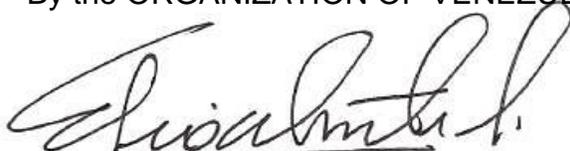
9. Because with its propaganda and its actions, it has managed that the regime maintains a disguise of democracy before the world. As another proof of that, on August 16, 2017 dictator Nicolas Maduro publicly thanked the leaders of MUD; specifically Henry Ramos Allup of the AD – DEMOCRATIC ACTION party, Henrique Capriles Radonski of the PJ – FIRST JUSTICE party, Manuel Rosales of the UNT – A NEW TIME party, and Leopoldo Lopez of the VP – POPULAR WILL party, for believing in both, Tibisay Lucena, president of the CNE, and in the Venezuelan electoral system, since such parties signed up candidates to Governor in the 23 states of Venezuela for the regional elections moved forward by the illegal and unconstitutional NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

Due to the above, we ask the national and international community, when dealing with issues related to the opposition to the Venezuelan regime, to take into account that the coalition known as TABLE OF DEMOCRATIC UNITY (MUD) does not represent the real interests of the Venezuela opposition because the same IS COMPLAISANT WITH THE REGIME OF VENEZUELA, and we inform that there is indeed a real opposition which has nothing to do with MUD, whose members outside of Venezuela can be identified by name and surname, but whose members inside the country cannot do it freely without experiencing harms, mistreatments, threats, arbitrary detentions and incarcerations, and even death by the regime and/or its illegal paramilitary groups currently known as COLECTIVOS, including Colombian guerrillas, members of the drug-terrorist FARC, as well as agents from Cuba, Russia, China and Iran who are friends to the ideology and interests of the so-called "SOCIALISM OF THE XXI CENTURY", including members of extremist Islamic terrorist groups such as HAMAS and HEZBOLLAH.

Likewise, due to the above, we support and thank those military actions which, from inside or outside Venezuela, could be carried out to overthrow the dictatorship and to establish a free, republican and democratic system of government.

Press release issued in Miami, Florida, on Friday, August 18, 2017.

By the ORGANIZATION OF VENEZUELANS IN EXILE, ORVEX,



Elio C. Aponte
President