



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

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**URGENT SOS TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA:
WHY HE MUST STOP DEPORTATIONS OF VENEZUELANS**

The undersigned, President of ORVEX, Organization of Venezuelans in Exile, hereby certify that this letter is being written on behalf of all **VENEZUELANS IN EXILE** who currently live in the U.S., so that The Honorable President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barack Obama, issues an executive order called “**DED**” – **DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE** that stops the deportation of all Venezuelans due to the danger of death they face if they are returned to Venezuela.

I am qualified to give this opinion given my position in ORVEX, and as a defender of human rights of Venezuelans, and for the record I maintain of cases of persecution, which include but are not limited to political persecution and persecution based upon membership in the Venezuelan press and media, which I daily monitor, study and register for which I personally dedicate my time of work in an extensively and detailed way, to watch this situation.

VENEZUELANS IN EXILE are those who are outside Venezuela, fleeing a system that undermines the democratic values, principles and guarantees, and that violates human rights. Some qualify for asylum, or withholding of removal, or withholding of removal based upon the Convention Against Torture (“CAT”), but others don’t, and the later are in danger of being deported anytime to Venezuela.

Next, I will present several reasons which explain why **VENEZUELANS IN EXILE** should not be deported to Venezuela:

THERE ARE FRIENDS OF VENEZUELA’S BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION IN THE U.S.

There are friends of Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution who monitor the activities of Venezuelans in exile here in the United States. In fact, Hugo Chavez publicly stated this on Venezuelan National TV (see minutes 08:12 – 08:31 of video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ityvPW-a08> uploaded by ORVEX in YouTube on April 23, 2008, - in which Chavez openly acknowledges his monitoring activities in the U.S. by stating: “... but we do have friends who inform us”).

The so-called “Friends of the Bolivarian Revolution” carry out their activities outside Venezuela with the help of Venezuelan diplomatic missions abroad, and they are disguised as “members of social movements”. These persons, combined with the members of the Venezuelan diplomatic missions, do inform the Venezuelan government as well as its illegal paramilitary groups about the activities carried out by Venezuelans in exile against Venezuela’s government and its revolution. An example that Venezuelan diplomatic personnel take advantage of their diplomatic immunity to carry out espionage activities was seen in the Consulate of Venezuela in Miami, which Consul Mrs. Livia Acosta was declared “persona non-grata” and expelled by the U.S Department of State at the beginning of January of 2012. After that, the president of Venezuela at that time, Hugo Chavez, ordered the closing of the consulate.

Another example of the actions of the so-called “Friends of the Bolivarian Revolution” has been observed because some Venezuelans in exile have already received death threats at the homes of their family members in Venezuela due to their opposition activities in the U.S. against the Venezuelan government and the Bolivarian Revolution.

Due to the reasons explained above, it is more likely than not that all **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** might have already been identified as enemies of the Bolivarian Revolution for being in exile.

On this regards, it is worth pointing out the following:

- That even though ORVEX – Organization of Venezuelans in Exile, created in Miami, Florida, on April 11, 2005, has always been a non-violent organization, it has already been catalogued by Venezuelan authorities and Government sponsored media as a “TERRORIST ORGANIZATION” since May of 2007, and also as an “ENEMY OF THE PEOPLES IN LATIN AMERICA” since October 2009, which is plotting to overthrow by force the Venezuelan government and to murder the Head of State, with the financial help of the U.S. Department of State and the CIA; very grave and serious charges, but completely baseless since all the actions in ORVEX are Non-Violent.
- That even though all **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** are not formally registered as a members of ORVEX, our organization does not have a public list of its more than 1200 members; therefore, for the Venezuelan regimen, it is more likely than not that all **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** are considered members of our organization.

Even though many **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** might have not been aware of the facts stated above, their physical and psychological integrity as well as their lives more likely than not are in real danger of death if they are returned to Venezuela just for the fact of being in exile.

PERCEPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA AND ITS PARAMILITARY GROUPS REGARDING VENEZUELAN IN EXILE WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR ASYLUM AND HAVE BEEN DENIED

It is more likely than not that for the Venezuelan government and its paramilitary groups, those Venezuelans who have lived in the U.S. and who are about to be removed to Venezuela, after their asylum claims have been denied, have been stealthily trained by the CIA and the U.S. Department of State to destabilize the government in Venezuela and to even murder the Head of State. This circumstance has been evident in the case of a Venezuelan in exile named ANDRES FELIPE CAMACHO-DUQUE who fled Venezuela for the U.S. in 2002, filed for asylum in 2004, and in September 2008 his case was denied by Honorable Immigration Judge Dan Lippman, in Orlando, Florida. ANDRES FELIPE CAMACHO-DUQUE appealed the decision before the BIA – Bureau of Immigration Appeals, and before ANDRES FELIPE CAMACHO-DUQUE knew that the BIA had denied his appeal, the pro-Chavez Internet Forum APORREA in Venezuela was already aware of it, in which pro-Chavez operative “CACIQUE12” stated in September 2009 the following:

*“...currently many saboteurs of the process are returning to the country. Some of them are returning because they cannot live in the empire or because they come to participate in activities of sabotage. Here in Carabobo, Andres Camacho Duque should return, who after working for our national government, the ambition of riches wrapped him. He did not understand that it is a duty to work as a volunteer for the revolution. He was disguised, because he was really an activist from Copei. **Since many years ago he left the country, and we manage information that he is coming back.** Persons like him represent a danger to the revolution, because besides him there are many more. He deceived us!!!! Many years ago we talked to him so he could support us and he shows he was a member of Copei. We must watch out for this people. Many have entered into the country. Soon the counter-revolutionary Andres Camacho should arrive. It is not just one person. He lived many years in the empire. He must come with precise instructions. Stealthily, the empire sends ‘pityanquis’ [Petit Yankees] with precise instructions. Let’s neutralize them!!!! Let’s avoid they take this revolution away from us!!!! This is his picture..... Remember.... There are many counter-revolutionaries that are currently returning to the country. What a coincidence... Just when a sabotage plan is underway!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”*

(See http://www.orvex.org/Documentos/Foro_Aporrea_Mensaje_CACIQUE12.pdf)

ANDRES CAMACHO traveled to Canada before being deported, and he requested refugee status in that country. Unfortunately, his refugee case was denied in Canada, and he was sent back to Venezuela. Currently, his whereabouts are unknown.

Even though many **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** might have not been aware of this perception, their physical and psychological integrity as well as her life more likely than not are in real danger of death if they are returned to Venezuela.

VENEZUELAN IN EXILE ARE CONSIDERED ENEMIES OF THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION

Venezuelans in exile are considered enemies of the Bolivarian Revolution. This can be seen by the death threats that ORVEX has received by different means, including emails.

One of such death threats was received via email by ORVEX on May 30, 2007, which can be extensive to all those Venezuelans who are in exile, and it states as follows:

“YOU ARE SURROUNDED... WE ARE ALSO IN THE U.S. ... YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE. WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU DO, WHERE YOUR CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL, WHERE YOUR WIVES GO TO THE BEAUTY SHOP. WE WILL REPEAT IT AGAIN, DO NOT DARE TO DO IT, DAMNED ONES, OR ELSE WE WILL APPLY THE SAME MEDICINE THAT PRACTICED YOUR FRIEND POSADA CARRILES TO INNOCENT PEOPLE. THAT BEAST, ANIMAL, DAMNED ONE. WE ARE PERSECUTING YOU ALL. NONE OF YOU WILL BE SAFE. SO, DON'T DARE TO BE VALIANT NOW, YOU WILL REGRET IT. WE KNOW EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING, ABSOLUTELY ALL. LOOK COWARDS, DON'T SAY YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, LITTLE ANYTHING. ALL OF YOU KNOW IT VERY WELL AND ALL OF YOU WILL DIE”.

(see http://www.orvex.org/Documentos/Traduccion_e_mail_30_may_2007.pdf and http://www.orvex.org/Documentos/e_mail_30_may_2007.pdf).

Attacks and threats by the Government of Venezuela against ORVEX have continued until the current date.

Even though many **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** might have not been aware of these facts, their physical and psychological integrity as well as her life more likely than not are in real danger of death if they are returned to Venezuela.

ALLEGED DATABASE OF VENEZUELAN WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR ASYLUM, IN THE HANDS OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS PARAMILITARY GROUPS

On September 22, 2009 the Consul of Venezuela in Miami publicly stated that the Venezuelan Government had built a database with information regarding Venezuelans who have attained the protection of the political asylum in the U.S. This statement may reflect a dangerous breach in the Department of Homeland Security regarding the confidentiality of Venezuelan asylum applicants, including those who have their application for asylum pending or those who have been detained by Immigration and have openly expressed their fear of returning to Venezuela, which endangers the life of the person if repatriated as he or she might be subjected to retaliatory measures by Venezuelan authorities or non-state actors such as armed civilian groups which defend the so called "Bolivarian Revolution", that are known to persecute and murder opposition members in Venezuela. This breach also may endanger the lives of the family members of the person in Venezuela who expresses his or her fear of returning to Venezuela. To remedy this very delicate issue, ORVEX filed a report before the F.B.I. (Federal Bureau of Investigations) at the end of November of 2009 since U.S. Laws, International Human Rights Laws and the Human Rights of Venezuelans in exile are being violated by Venezuelan diplomats in the U.S., who shield themselves behind their diplomatic immunity to continue their persecution against the opponents of the Venezuelan regime even in U.S. soil (see http://www.orvex.org/Documentos/Denuncia_FBI_Consul_Venezuela.pdf and http://www.orvex.org/Documentos/Traduccion_Articulo_Consul_Denuncia_FBI.pdf).

Due to the fact that some **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** have already requested asylum in the United States, coupled with the public statement issued by the Consul of Venezuela in Miami in 2009, we fear that the personal information of these **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** is already in the hands of the Venezuelan regime.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN VENEZUELA ARE WORSENING

Human Rights conditions in Venezuela have been worsening for all persons who oppose the Government: Currently, non-sympathizers enjoy no real protection under the law and are under constant threat of being detained, interrogated, imprisoned or even murdered by the state security apparatus and by the illegally armed militia of the Government.

It is difficult to point out a specific date in which country conditions have changed. In spite of the death of Hugo Chavez on March 5, 2013, who ruled Venezuela since February 2, 1999, and of the proclamation of Nicolas Maduro as president of Venezuela on April 19th, 2013, the regime that rules the country has not changed. During the 15 years this regime has been in power, each year, each month, each day, each hour, each minute and each second, it is turning Venezuela into a totalitarian, militarist, pro-Castro-Stalinist, and Marxist-Socialist dictatorship, which is very contrary to the Judeo-Christian values of Venezuelans. Significant changes in country conditions can be broken in four stages:

1999 – 2004

Starting to change the country; specifically, its name, Constitution, institutions and objectives, and establishing how it will be done; many conflicts: 3 day removal from office; strikes; armed attacks against pacific demonstrations; rural expropriations; home for FARC, ELN and ETA.

2004 – 2010

Consolidation in power; perpetual reelection; persecution of TV, radio, press (most out of operation); persecution of students and political opposition; changes in education laws in order to indoctrinate children and youth to Marxist-socialist ideas; massive arms purchases from Russia; alliances for war against USA and Colombia; alliances with Iran, Syria, North Korea, Libya, Hamas and Hezbollah; alliance to avoid USA fight against drug trafficking; alliance to promote world-wide terrorism, targeting USA., Colombia and Israel; religious war and persecution against Israel and Jews; strong verbal attacks against the Catholic Church; use of the justice system to politically persecute opponents.

2010 – 2012

Manipulation of electoral circuits in order to obtain the majority of seats in the National Assembly; threat to not recognize electoral results in 2012 in case the opposition wins the presidential elections; passing of laws to legalize a Marxist-Socialist state, and an empowering law by which the National Assembly (Congress) of Venezuela gave Chavez imperial powers to rule the country by decree; support of Gaddafi's dictatorship in spite of the international community's condemnation; consolidation of control over the Armed Forces by creating, through decree 8096 of March 21, 2011, the militia, which is formed by civilians, without formal military training, members of the government's political party, the

PSUV, at the service of the Head of State, who are now given military uniforms, ranks to give orders to the professional military personnel, and permanent use of war weaponry, with the purpose of guaranteeing that the Bolivarian Revolution controls the government of Venezuela in a perpetual manner; transfer of control of personal information of Venezuelans to the Republic of Cuba for the issuance of Venezuelan National ID Cards and Passports; closing of the Consulate of Venezuela in Miami; threats to withdraw Venezuela from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS; reelection of Chavez for six more years despite of the existence of serious doubts about the integrity of the Venezuelan electoral system which were denounced by electoral experts but ignored by a sector of the opposition organized around MUD – Democratic Unity Coalition and by the majority of the independent media due to self-censorship.

2012 – 2014

Chavez appoints Nicolas Maduro as his successor in case he could no longer rule; the Supreme Court of Justice issued a controversial sentence which provides continuity of the government even though Chavez could not be sworn in as President on January 10, 2013 because he was supposedly sick in La Havana, Cuba, which for many it shows that the Castro brothers and the G2 Cuban intelligence are behind the decisions of Venezuela, and that they control its resources, Armed Forces, and National Powers; Nicolas Maduro won the presidential elections on April 14, 2013 even though his contender, Henrique Capriles-Radonski, did not acknowledge the results, claiming there were great irregularities; Venezuela formally withdraws from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Venezuelan students and members of the civil society start continuous protests around the country to demand a change in government and the expelling of members of the Cuban government who are meddling in the internal affairs of Venezuela, in which more than thirty persons have been executed and dozens of human rights violations have been committed by State security forces and pro-government paramilitary groups called “COLECTIVOS” while, at the same time, Maduro’s regime has censored media, controlled social networks and expelled the international news networks NTN24.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Venezuela is not a safe place for all **VENEZUELAN IN EXILE** and for those who oppose the Venezuelan regime and its revolution. The pro-government violent paramilitary groups that persecute and murder opponents are nowadays more sophisticated and lethal, and they carry out their evil activities with freedom and impunity throughout Venezuela. Since the year 1999, there have been more than 200,000 murders in Venezuela, and the percentage of political executions carried out by those violent paramilitary groups is unknown.

It is important to point out that the current pro-government violent paramilitary groups that persecute and murder opponents in Venezuela are sometimes identified by their victims as “BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES”, or “TERROR CIRCLES”, even though they have ceased to exist as paramilitary groups, since they have been substituted by other groups.

Among the pro-government violent paramilitary groups that persecute and murder opponents in Venezuela, we have the following:

1. The FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA FRONT, created by Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro in Havana, Cuba, in June of 2003, and which objective is to support the

creation of a Marxist-socialist state in Venezuela, to defend the revolution and to export it to other countries in the hemisphere. Since this group is directly funded by the Venezuelan government, its violent actions are disguised as being carried out by “common criminals” so they are not accountable.

2. The COLLECTIVES, which, even though they are created independently from the government and are financed through hire killing, robbery, “EXPRESS KIDNAPPING”, and drug trafficking, they carry out their activities with freedom and impunity throughout Venezuela because they are protected by the Venezuelan government since they defend the revolution. As an estimate, there are more than 500 COLLECTIVES throughout Venezuela, the more notorious of which are “THE LITTLE STONE COLLECTIVE” (“COLECTIVO LA PIEDRITA” in Spanish), “ALEXIS VIVE” and the MRT - TUPAMARO REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (“MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO TUPAMARO” in Spanish).
3. The DEATH SQUADS, which are formed by “Bolivarian” military and police personnel dressed in civilian clothes which carry out their activities along with common criminals and that are controlled from pro-Chavez Mayor’s Offices and Governor’s Offices.

This situation along with that described in our report “EVOLUTION OF PRO-CHAVEZ ARMED CIVILIAN GROUPS IN VENEZUELA” presents such reality, which is an additional circumstance that increases the danger of death faced by all **VENEZUELANS IN EXILE** if they are removed to Venezuela.

(See http://orvex.org.p11.hostingprod.com//Documentos/Evolution_Dec2010.pdf).

Given the above considerations, I kindly and urgently request that the lives of all **VENEZUELANS IN EXILE** be protected by means of an executive order called “**DED**” – **DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE**, since more likely than not, they might be arbitrarily detained, interrogated, imprisoned, tortured, and even executed by either the Venezuelan government, their officers and authorities, or by pro-government armed civilian groups which claim to defend the so called “Bolivarian Revolution”, if they are sent back to Venezuela.

This opinion is being issued on behalf of all **VENEZUELANS IN EXILE** in the city of Miami, State of Florida, on April 7, 2014.

Sincerely,



Elio C. Aponte
President
Organization of Venezuelans in Exile - ORVEX