

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement

Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

For Six Month Period Ending 4/30/2013

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No.
 Olivia Gombri 5957

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
 901 Dryden St.
 Silver Spring, MD 20901

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

- (1) Residence address(es) Yes No
- (2) Citizenship Yes No
- (3) Occupation Yes No

(b) If an organization:

- (1) Name Yes No
- (2) Ownership or control Yes No
- (3) Branch offices Yes No

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date of Termination
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8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)	Date Acquired
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9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes No

Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

All activities were of a political nature. They are described in response to item 12 of section III (see attachments)

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12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

see attached logs.

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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activity" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
11/1/12-4/30/13	Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	fee	\$35,500

\$35,500

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
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Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²
 Yes No

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?
 Yes No

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts Magazine or newspaper Motion picture films Letters or telegrams
 Advertising campaigns Press releases Pamphlets or other publications Lectures or speeches
 Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

- Email
 Website URL(s): www.venezuela-us.org
 Social media websites URL(s): www.twitter/vzlaembassyus, www.facebook.com/vzlaembassyus
 Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public officials Newspapers Libraries
 Legislators Editors Educational institutions
 Government agencies Civic groups or associations Nationality groups
 Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English Other (specify) spanish

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?
 Yes No

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)

May 24, 2013

/s/ Olivia Gombri

eSigned

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

FARA Reporting Log						
			<i>Olivia Goumbri Nov2012-April 2013</i>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Person Contacted</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contacted</u>	<u>Subject Discussed</u>	<u>Position Advocated</u>
13-Nov-12	list serve	general public		email	Venezuela on Human Rights Council	learn about it by reading article on it
26-Nov-12	Eben Weistman	professor	University of MA-Boston	email	Dec 16 elections in Venezuela	consider witnessing
26-Nov-12	Darren Kew	professor	University of MA-Boston	email	Dec 16 elections in Venezuela	consider witnessing
26-Nov-12	Sophia King	staffer	Office of Gregory Meeks	email	update on Venezuela	meet with embassy
4-Dec-12	Kimberly Mayfield	educator	Holy Names University	email/phone	education conference	consider holding conference in spring
5-Dec-12	Jesus Garcia	councilman	City of Chicago	email	Dec 16 elections in Venezuela	consider witnessing
6-Dec-12	Ellen Bernstein	former co-director	Pastors for Peace	email	event on ALBA	attend event
6-Dec-12	Sabrina Green	activist	Free Mumia Coalition	email	event on ALBA	attend event
6-Dec-12	Arturo Griffiths	organizer	DC Jobs with Justice	email	event on ALBA	attend event
6-Dec-12	John Trimble	professor	Howard university	email	event on ALBA	attend event
6-Dec-12	Quito Swan	professor	Howard university	email	event on ALBA	attend event
6-Dec-12	James Early	director	Smithsonian Cultural and Folklore Policy	email	event on ALBA	attend event
10-Dec-12	Nicole Middleton	assitant	Office of Danny Glover	email	letters of support	consider issuing a letter
10-Dec-13	Gustavo Torres	Executive Director	Casa de MD	email	service for health of President	attend
11-Dec-12	Vidal Rivas	reverend	St. Matthews Parish	email	service for health of President	speak at service
11-Dec-12	CD Witherspoon	reverend/ coordinator	SCLC Baltimore	email	service for health of President	speak at service
11-Dec-12	Graylan Halger	reverend	Plymouth United Congregational Church	phone	service for health of President	speak at service
11-Dec-12	list serve	general public		email	service for health of President	attend and pass invitation on to others
11-Dec-12	Teddy Miller	staffer	Office of Barbara Lee	email	service for health of President	attend
11-Dec-12	Sophia King	staffer	Office of Gregory Meeks	email	service for health of President	attend
11-Dec-12	Alem Teweldeberhan	staffer	Office of Sheila Jackson Lee	email	service for health of President	attend
11-Dec-12	Eric Williams	staffer	Office of Karen Bass	email	service for health of President	attend

11-Dec-12	Sarah Sloan	activist	ANSWER	phone/email	service for health of President	attend and spread word to others about event
12-Dec-12	Sarah Stephens	director	Center for Democracy in the Americas	email	service for health of President	attend
12-Dec-12	James Gomez	intl relations director	Rainbow Push Coalition	email	service for health of President	read letter
12-Dec-12	Luci Murphy	activist	United for peace and justice	email	service for health of President	attend and send invitation to others
18-Dec-12	list serve	general public		email	election results	learn about them and pass on to others
4-Jan-13	janelle Johnson	staffer	Office of Karen Bass	email	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
4-Jan-13	Sophia King	staffer	Office of Gregory Meeks	email	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
4-Jan-13	Jason Steinbaum	staffer	House of Representatives	email	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
4-Jan-13	George Sullivan	staffer	Office of Jose Serrano	email	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
4-Jan-13	Alem Tewoldeberhan	staffer	Office of Sheila Jackson Lee	in person	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
4-Jan-13	Teddy Miller	staffer	Office of Barbara Lee	email	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
4-Jan-13	Kenya handy	staffer	Office of Yvette Clarke	email	elections , Venezuela update	meett with Embassy
8-Jan-13	list serve	general public		email	swearing in of President	read article and share with others
15-Jan-13	Greg Wilpert	professor	CUNY	email	Left Forum	consider panel on Venezuela
16-Jan-13	Kitty Kelly Epstein	educator	former director of education for City of Oakland	email	conference on education	consider bringing Venezuelan professors to participate in conference
23-Jan-13	Noam Chomsky	professor	MIT	email	international conference	participate in conference
7-Feb-13	list serve	general public		email	Venezuela update	learn more and pass on to others
5-Feb-13	Dawn Gable	assistan director	Center for Democracy in the Americas	phone	upcoming events in Venezuela	meet to discuss participation
22-Feb-13	dan Hellinger	professor	Webster University	in person	LASA conference	organize reception with Venezuelan section
25-Feb-13	Jan Strout	activist	Women on Cuba	in person	upcoming conference on womean	consider bringing Venezuelan to participate
7-Mar-13	list serve	general public		email	events in honor of President	attend and pass on to others
8-Mar-13	Alem Tewoldeberhan	staffer	Office of Sheila Jackson Lee	email	update on Venezuela	meet with embassy
8-Mar-13	Teddy Miller	staffer	Office of Barbara Lee	email	update on Venezuela	meet with embassy

8-Mar-13	Kenya handy	staffer	Office of Yvette Clarke	email	update on Venezuela	meet with embassy
8-Mar-13	Sophia King	staffer	Office of Gregory Meeks	email	update on Venezuela	meet with embassy
8-Mar-13	Netfa Freeman	communications	Institute for Policy Studies	email	event in honor of President	consider assisting at event
8-Mar-13	Leslie salgado	cordinator	HOCOFOLA	email	event in honor of President	consider assisting at event
8-Mar-13	Graylan Halger	reverend	Plymouth United Congretional Church	email	event in honor of President	consider assisting at event
8-Mar-13	CD Witherspoon	Reverend	SCLC Baltimore	email	event in honor of President	consider assisting at event
8-Mar-13	Sharon Black	organizer	All Peoples Congress	email	event in honor of President	consider assisting at event
10-Mar-13	Hendrik Voss	organizer	SOA Watch	email	event in honor of President	speak at event
10-Mar-13	Nicole Middleton	assistant	Office of Danny Glover	email	event in honor of President	send letter to be read
10-Mar-13	Gail Walker	director	Pastros for Peace	phone	event in honor of President	speak at event
18-Mar-13	Susan Scott	lawyer	National Lawyers Guild	phone	elections	consider witnessing elections
19-Mar-13	list serve	general public		email	President Chavez tribute	read and pass on to others
20-Mar-13	Tom Hayden	founder	Peace and Justice Resource Center	email	President Chavez	consider writing about Venezuela
22-Mar-13	Antonio Gonzalez	president	Willie Velazquez	phone	President Chavez	consider writing something about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Sabrina Green	activist	Free Mumia Coalition	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Netfa Freeman	communications specialits	IPS	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Dawn Gable	Assistant Director	Center for Democracy in the Americas	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Paul Tennassee	professor	UDC	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Sarah Sloan	organizer	ANSWER	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Sharon Black	organizer	All Peoples Congress	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	CD Witherspoon	reverend	SCLC Baltimore	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
1-Apr-13	Arturo Griffiths	organizer	DC Jobs with Justice	email	update on Venezuela	come to discussion about Venezuela
2-Apr-13	Mavis Anderson	cordinator	Latin America Working Group	email	Venezuela elections	consider witnessing elections
5-Apr-13	Victor Landa	organizer	Ashanti Yoga	email	event with Venezuela's former VP	attend
5-Apr-13	Maurice Carney	organizer	Friends of the Congo	email	event with Venezuela's former VP	attend
5-Apr-13	Gustavo Torres	Executive Director	Casa de MD	email	event with Venezuela's former VP	attend

8-Apr-13	list serve	general public		email	event with Venezuela's former VP	attend
11-Apr-13	heather Hodges	student	Howard university	email	dance and cultural event	participate
11-Apr-13	Mesi Walton	professor	Howard university	email	dance and cultural event	participate
14-Apr-13	list serve	general public		email	update on elections	read information on elections
16-Apr-13	emira Woods	co-director	FPIF	email	elections	host event on elections
16-Apr-13	Netfa Freeman	communications	IPS	email	elections	host event on elections
19-Apr-13	list serve	general public		email	update on Venezuela	learn about election audit and pass on to others
20-Apr-13	Alex Main	associate	CEPR	phone	event on elections	participate in event
20-Apr-13	Dawn Gable	assistan director	DIA	email	event on elections	participate in event
20-Apr-13	James Gomez	intl relations director	Rainbow Push	email	event on elections	participate in event
23-Apr-13	Julia Buxton	professor	Bradford university	email	LASA conference	come to event
25-Apr-13	Kim Mayfield	professor	HNU	email	education conference	send invite letter to professors

From: Olivia Goubri <ogoubri@venezuela-us.org>
To: 'Olivia Goubri' <ogoubri@venezuela-us.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 8:13 AM
Subject: Venezuela Elected to United Nations Human Rights Council

Dear friends and colleagues,

I thought you would be interested to know that over the weekend Venezuela was elected to sit on the UN Human Rights Council. More information below.

Best, Olivia

Venezuela Elected to United Nations Human Rights Council

Published: 11/13/2012



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Venezuela was chosen to hold a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2013-2015 in an election on Monday in which the United Nations General Assembly chose 18 members of the body, including three from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Venezuela had presented its candidacy to the U.N. Human Rights Council three years ago, and with 154 votes, far beyond the 97 votes needed, it earned its first spot

in the organization. The outpouring of support recognized Venezuela's achievements on human rights.

The South American nation vowed during its candidacy to work hard to strengthen the Human Rights Council and its proceedings and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights for all peoples throughout the world.

Since 1999, when President Hugo Chávez first assumed elected office in Venezuela, his administration has sought to promote human rights for all citizens, and in this context has developed a new legal framework that has earned international recognition for its rights guarantees. Venezuela's constitution offers extensive human rights guarantees and fundamental freedoms in their broadest sense.

After Monday's election in the General Assembly, Venezuelan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Jorge Valero, said: "Venezuela is complying scrupulously with the fundamental contents of the international instruments that establish the basis of the exercise and enjoyment of human rights."

Ambassador Valero said that Venezuela is anxious to share its experiences in instituting integral social policies with the international community. He pointed out that Venezuela has already achieved several of the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations for 2015.

"Our country has achieved a reduction in poverty and inequality that goes beyond anything else seen in the American continents, and that has been demonstrated in studies by ECLAC [the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean] and UNDP [the UN Development Program]," Valero said.

In October of last year, Venezuela made its first presentation as part of the United Nations Periodic Human Rights Review, a mechanism that is a valuable tool for carrying out an impartial examination of the situation of human rights in countries around the world.

Valero thanked all those that supported Venezuela's candidacy, saying "Thanks to the dozens of countries that gave us a resounding victory that allows us to reiterate before the world that Venezuela is on said Council to help strengthen the quality of human rights in all the countries of the world."

He added that his country will never use human rights as an instrument with which to deny the sovereignty and self determination of nations.

Also elected to represent Latin America on the Human Rights Council were Argentina and Brazil. Elected to represent Africa were Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Ethiopia. For Asia and the Pacific: the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Japan, South Korea and Pakistan; for Eastern Europe: Estonia and Montenegro; for Western Europe and other states: the United States, Germany and Ireland.

The Human Rights Council, established in 2006 with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, is comprised of 47 U.N. Member States. It is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights around the world and addressing specific instances of human rights violations.

Press Office – Venezuelan Embassy to the U.S. / November 12, 2012

Olivia Burlingame Gombri
Social Outreach Adviser
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This material is distributed by Olivia Gombri, on behalf of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

On Thu, Dec 6, 2012 at 10:29 AM, Olivia Gombri <ogombri@venezuela-us.org> wrote:

Dear friends and colleagues,

I hope you will join us next Friday, Dec. 14th for a very important panel discussion on the rights and struggles of Afro-descendants and the Bolivarian Alliance of Our America (ALBA). We are very pleased to host this event with three distinguished panelists. See detailed information below. This event is being sponsored by the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Interests Section of Cuba.

Best, Olivia

Afrodescendants and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas

Friday December 14th, 2012
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Bolivarian Hall
2443 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

On the 8th anniversary of the founding of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA) on December 14, 2004, the Interests Section of Cuba and the embassies of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela invite you to a panel discussion featuring:

Francisco Campbell
Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua

Tomás Fernández Robaina
Professor at the University of Havana,
Researcher at the José Martí National Library

Jorge Guerrero
Consul General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in New Orleans

Olivia Burlingame Gombri

Social Outreach Adviser

Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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From: Olivia Goubri [<mailto:ogoubri@venezuela-us.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 11:26 AM

To: 'ogoubri@venezuela-us.org'

Subject: Invitation: Ecumenical service for the recovery of President Chavez Invitacion para servicio ecumenico de oración para Presidente CHAVEZ

Dear friends and colleagues,

I wanted to make sure you knew of this ecumenical service for the speedy recovery of President Chavez, being held by friends of Venezuela in the Washington DC area this Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7pm at St. Stephens Church on the corner of 16th St, and Newton St in Northwest DC. More details are below in the email the organizers just sent us along with the invitation which is attached for you in both English and Spanish.

If you are in the DC metro area I hope you will be able to attend this very important gathering for us. Please do let me know if you will make it.

Best, Olivia Goubri

On behalf of progressive community, religious, solidarity and peace organizations of the greater Washington DC region

We have the honor of inviting you to an



*Ecumenical Service for
the Speedy Recovery
of President Hugo
Chávez Frías*

Thursday, December 13th, 2012, at 7:00pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*1525 Newton Street, NW Washington, DC 20010
(corner of 16th Street and Newton)*

*Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Cartagena Manifesto
and the World Day of Solidarity with the Bolivarian
Revolution and President Hugo Chávez*

Olivia Burlingame Gombri
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From: Sonia Umanzor [<mailto:sumanzor@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 11:16 AM
To: Olivia Burlingame Gombri
Subject: Invitación para servicio ecumenico de oración para Presidente CHAVEZ

Estimados amigos y Amigas:

Por favor acompañenos a este servicio ecumenico de oración para pedir por la pronta recuperación del Presidente CHAVEZ, amigo, hermano, compañero, comandante.

Los pueblos de AMERICA te aman y te necesitan.

Favor enviar a sus contactos.

Abrazos.

Sonia

On behalf of progressive community, religious, solidarity and peace organizations
of the greater Washington DC region

We have the honor of inviting you to an

Ecumenical Service for the Speedy

Recovery
of President Hugo Chávez Frías

Thursday, December 13th, 2012, at 7:00pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1525 Newton Street, NW Washington, DC 20010

(corner of 16th Street and Newton)

Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Cartagena Manifesto and the World Day of Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution and President Hugo Chávez.

En nombre de la comunidad progresista, organizaciones religiosas, de solidaridad y paz del área de Washington, DC

Tienen el honor de invitarle(s) a la

**Servicio Ecuménico por la Pronta
recuperación del presidente Hugo Chávez**

Jueves, 13 de diciembre de 2012, 7:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1525 Newton Street, NW Washington, DC 20010

(esquina de la 16th Street y Newton Street)

En conmemoración del Bicentenario del Manifiesto de Cartagena y de la Jornada Mundial de Solidaridad con la Revolución Bolivariana y el comandante Chávez

Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 11:59 AM

To: 'Olivia Goumbri'

Subject: Venezuela's regional elections results, community groups with president a speedy recovery

Dear friends and colleagues,

I thought you would be interested in the results of the regional elections that just took place this past Sunday in Venezuela. The party of President Hugo Chavez won 20 out of 23 governorships.

Please see detailed information on the elections here: <http://venezuela-us.org/live/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/12-17-2012-FS-Regional-Elections-2012.pdf>

I also wanted to let you know that hundreds came together in Washington DC last week to participate in a moving ecumenical service for the speedy recovery of President Hugo Chavez.

You can read a recap here and below: <http://venezuela-us.org/2012/12/14/washington-groups-wish-president-chavez-a-quick-recovery/>

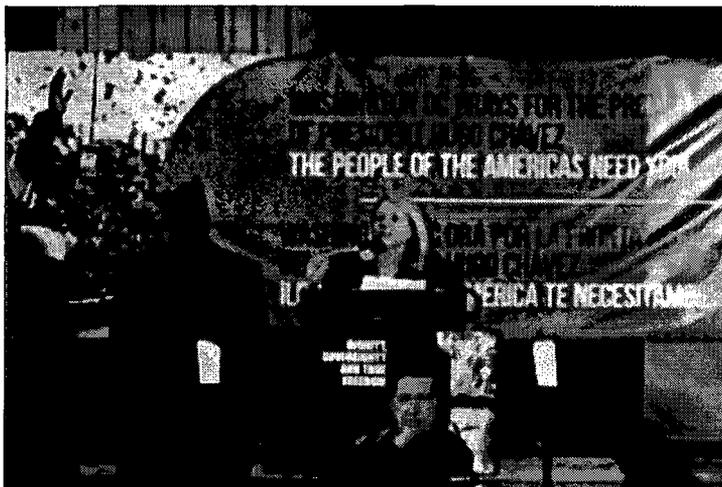
or in Spanish watch the news segment about the service here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbbfTYOyytg&list=UUFSp73q-NOBRQ_V0PpzN12A&index=1

Best, Olivia

Washington Groups Wish President Chávez a Quick Recovery

Published: 12/14/2012



movement.

More than 150 community members and representatives of religious, peace and social justice groups gathered Thursday night at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, for an Ecumenical service to pray for the speedy recovery of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. Members of the crowd, which also included diplomats from Cuba, Nicaragua, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bolivia, and Venezuela shared messages of solidarity with the Venezuelan leader and his people and highlighted the global significance of their Bolivarian

Leading the service was Father Vidal Rivas of *St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Hyattsville, Maryland*. He was joined at the altar by Reverend C. D. Witherspoon, the president of the Baltimore Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an African-American civil rights organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King in 1957.

Ambassador Roy Chaderton, Venezuela's representative to the Organization of American States, spoke about the many positive changes that have occurred in the years since President Chávez was first elected, including the creation of social programs to guarantee universal access to healthcare, education, housing, nutrition, and other essential goods.

"Today we have democracy with social justice in Venezuela... The Bolivarian Revolution has changed the face of Venezuela. Today we are a proud, tolerant and sovereign people that have recovered our dignity," Chaderton said.

James Gomez, the director of international affairs for the Rainbow Push Public Policy Institute, read a letter from the civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson to President Chávez in which he expressed: "I have always known you as a fighter and I'm sure you will conquer this disease and come out healthier, stronger, and thus continue to lead your beloved Venezuela as a leader in our hemisphere and around the globe."

Cuban Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas offered his own heartfelt words, highlighting the love that the Cuban people have for the Venezuelan leader. He read aloud a poem dedicated to Chávez that was recently written by a famous Cuban poet.

Others who offered messages of solidarity with President Chávez after his surgery on Monday included Sharon Black of the Baltimore All People's Congress and Heather Benno of the ANSWER Coalition and the local chapter of El Salvador's Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation (FMLN).

A local community member, Luci Murphy, led the crowd in singing "We Shall Overcome" as they waved Venezuelan flags. Afterward, a group of musicians performed songs by the beloved Venezuelan folk singer Alí Primera entitled "No basta rezar" ("It's not enough to pray") and "Techos de carton" ("Houses made of cardboard").

Although it was an emotional night, the feeling of optimism among the crowd was palpable, and many shouted "Viva Chávez!" and "Viva Venezuela!" as the proceedings concluded.

The event was organized as part of the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of Simón Bolívar's Cartagena Manifesto and the World Day of Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution and President Chávez.

Press – Venezuelan Embassy to the U.S. / December 14, 2012

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From: Olivia Gombri [mailto:ogombri@venezuela-us.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 12:52 PM
To: 'ogombri@venezuela-us.org'
Subject: Venezuelan Lawyer: Chávez's Swearing in Should Not Cause Controversy

Dear friends and colleagues,

Considering the controversy and media disinformation campaign against Venezuela regarding the swearing in ceremony of President Chávez scheduled for Thursday, January 10, I thought you might be interested in recent statements made by Venezuela's top constitutional lawyer Herman Escarrá, a well-known opposition leader and constitutional expert in Venezuela.

Escarrá is very clear when he stresses that the legitimacy of Hugo Chávez as president is unquestionable, regardless of whether he is present or not at the swearing in ceremony on Thursday. He also makes clear that the people's will –which was ratified by a majority in recent elections- cannot be superseded by unfounded claims from opposition leaders to the contrary. See Escarrá's full TeleSUR interview (Spanish) in a link below and highlights of the interview in the accompanying article in english.

Best, Olivia

Venezuelan Lawyer: Chávez's Swearing in Should Not Cause Controversy

VIDEO:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4n0J_AizDw&feature=player_embedded

Published: 01/07/2013

The Venezuelan constitutional lawyer Hermán Escarrá said in an interview Sunday that President Hugo Chávez is the legitimate president of the republic, even if his swearing in cannot be held as scheduled on January 10.

“It would be truly grave if there were calls for a recall referendum by some sectors against the popular will expressed to ratify President Chávez [in the October 7 election]. He is a reelected president that has all the legitimacy,” Escarrá told Telesur.

He said that the constitution establishes that in instances when the swearing in ceremony cannot be held at the National Assembly on January 10, the president is allowed to be sworn in for a new period of government before the country's Supreme Tribunal of Justice (TSJ).

"When intervening events occur, that is to say, unforeseen events, then the president must be sworn in at the TSJ. It is an incident that can be resolved in accordance with the second part of article 231 of the constitution, which should not be generating multiple and contradicting interpretations because it is a text that is entirely clear. Nor should it generate controversy," he said.

Escarrá was emphatic in stating that Venezuela remains in a state of stability and normalcy and that its institutions and the rule of law are firmly in place.

"I am absolutely certain that in the coming days there will be a pronouncement from the highest court of the republic," he indicated, suggesting that the Supreme Tribunal would weigh in on the issue.

He recalled that the process of drafting the 1999 constitution was a highly democratic process that allowed for broad citizen participation in the development of the new national charter.

Below is the interview in Spanish:

AVN/ Press- Venezuelan Embassy to the U.S./ January 7, 2013

<http://venezuela-us.org/2013/01/07/venezuelan-lawyer-chavezs-swearing-in-should-not-cause-controversy/>

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From: Olivia Goubri [mailto:ogoubri@venezuela-us.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 4:10 PM
To: 'ogoubri@venezuela-us.org'
Subject: Recent Developements in Venezuela: Venezuela Dispatches Issue 11

Dear friends and colleagues,

I thought you would be interested in recent news on Venezuela, including the 8th annual Citgo-Venezuela heating oil program in the US, Venezuela's inequality index (the lowest in Latin America), the National Lawyers Guild report on the presidential elections in Venezuela and much more.

Best, Olivia



**Embassy of the Bolivarian
Republic of Venezuela**

Washington, DC • U.S.A.

**Ministry of People's Power
for Foreign Affairs**

Venezuela Dispatches: Issue 11

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Omar Vizquel to Take the Field Again, as a Coach

Eighth Annual Citgo-Venezuela Heating Oil Program Launched

Program Has Helped More Than 1.7 Million People

On January 31st, at the Night of Peace Family Shelter in Baltimore, CITGO Petroleum Corporation President and CEO Alejandro Granado and Citizens Energy Corporation Chairman Joseph P. Kennedy II launched the eighth annual CITGO-Venezuela Heating Oil Program with the first heating oil delivery of this winter's initiative.



The program, which began as a single donation in 2005 in response to the high prices of heating oil resulting from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, has grown well beyond its original scope. Today, it has become a humanitarian symbol of unity between the people of Venezuela and those in need in the United States. This year, this life-changing gift has a heightened sentiment as it comes at a time when Venezuelans and many in the world pray for the health and prompt recuperation of President Hugo Chávez, who has supported this initiative since its creation eight years ago.

"The CITGO-Venezuela Heating Oil Program has been one of the most important energy assistance efforts in the United States. This year, as families across the Eastern Seaboard struggle to recover from the losses caused by Hurricane Sandy, this donation becomes even more significant," said Granado. "This energy assistance program is an integral example of the humanitarian principles endorsed by the CITGO ultimate shareholder, Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA), the national oil company of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

Over the years, the program has helped more than 1.7 million people stay warm during the coldest months of winter by donating more than 200 million gallons of heating oil worth more than \$400 million. It is estimated that this year the program will help more than 100,000 families in 25 states plus the

District of Columbia, including members of more than 240 Native American communities and more than 200 homeless shelters.

"CITGO invests relatively more than any other major oil company in social responsibility projects. As a matter of fact, our percent of revenue spent in social programs has been five times more than those of other much larger, vertically-integrated competing global brands. It is a core principle of our business to use the strength of our resources to help people in need," Granado said.

Since the program's creation, CITGO has partnered with Citizens Energy Corporation, a non-profit organization created in 1979 by former U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II. Citizens Energy Corporation, which has used successful ventures in the energy and health care industries to finance charitable programs in the U.S. and abroad, has provided energy assistance to families in need for more than 30 years.

"We are so grateful for this generous donation from the people of Venezuela and CITGO Petroleum Corporation. After eight years and more than 200 million gallons of heating oil distributed within the U.S., the burden of another difficult winter threatens the livelihood and safety of senior citizens and low-income families," Kennedy said. "It is critical that we continue to support American families through this program. Thanks to this partnership, we will help more than 400,000 people stay warm and safe this winter."

Kennedy emphasized the commitment CITGO has made to American communities. He said that he has approached major U.S. oil companies and oil-producing nations to ask them to assist the poor in bearing the burden of rising energy costs. "They all said no," he said, "except for CITGO, President Chávez and the people of Venezuela."

Congressman Elijah Cummings (MD), who also spoke during the event, reiterated the importance of helping those in need. "I commend CITGO and Citizens Energy Corporation for launching the Heating Oil Program this year. This program is literally life-saving for so many whose resources are already stretched thin in tough economic times. I stand with the many Baltimore and Washington recipients who thank both CITGO and Citizens for their commitment to helping our communities," he said.

Echoing those sentiments, Claudia Salerno Caldera, Venezuela's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for North America, addressed the plight of poor people and why humanitarian assistance is so vital. "The vision of social responsibility in the energy policy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has allowed us to assure that our profits benefit the neediest people in our

country. Just as the government of President Hugo Chávez has made significant efforts in the fight against poverty and in the promotion of social justice in Venezuela, this program demonstrates that our commitment to the poor transcends all boundaries, ideological and geographical," Salerno said.

Families struggling to pay for home heating oil can call Citizens Energy Corporation at 1-877-JOE-4-OIL (1-877-563-4645), to see if they are eligible for heating oil assistance. Once approved, the household will receive an authorization letter with details for arranging a one-time delivery of 100 free gallons of oil.

For more information about the program, [click here](#).

[Ir arriba](#)

Venezuela Has the Lowest Inequality in Latin America

The president of Venezuela's National Institute of Statistics (INE), Elías Eljuri, said on January 29, that poverty reduction programs in Venezuela have helped the country achieve the most equitable distribution of wealth Latin America.



In an interview on Unión Radio, Eljuri emphasized the current government's commitment to fighting hunger, poverty, and inequality.

"Venezuela has an inequality rate of 0.39, when almost all of the rest of the countries are above 0.45; Brazil and Colombia are at 0.56, Chile is at 0.52, that means there are countries even with the same rate of extreme poverty as Venezuela, but where inequality is much larger," he said, citing the Gini coefficient which measures inequality on a scale from 0 to 1.

Eljuri indicated that lowered poverty is a product of government policies in recent years that have increased the level of social investment.

"More than \$500 billion has gone to the social sector," he said.

That social investment, he noted, was sustained even as Venezuela's Gross Domestic Product growth rate fell in 2009 and 2010 to 3.5% and 1.2% respectively.

The social sector includes education, and schools have been improved dramatically.

"Before there were 350,000 children that received free meals in schools and now there are 4.1 million children receiving two meals and a snack each day. They're also distributing "Canaimita" laptop computers to continue a program in public elementary schools that is offering important training to our young people and allowing them to work at a different level," he said.

In the second half of 2012, extreme poverty fell to just 6.5% of all households, and for 2013-2019, the goal is to reduce that rate to 3-4%.

Regarding structural poverty, which is calculated based on five sets of unsatisfied basic needs regarding housing, education, and services, Eljuri said that the rate has fallen from 11.36% in 2001 to 6.97% in 2011.

One government program that is helping reduce poverty is the Great Housing Mission, which provided homes to 200,080 needy families throughout Venezuela in 2012 alone. Another 300,000 homes are projected to be built and given out in 2013.

Ir arriba

In a Report, National Lawyers Guild Finds Venezuela Elections Transparent

The National Lawyers Guild, an association of legal professionals in the United States, released a report on January 24 regarding its observations during the presidential election in Venezuela last



October 7, which it says were transparent.

The introduction points out that voter turnout exceeded 80.9 percent and states that: "Our delegation had the opportunity to witness the elections firsthand, and was able to confirm the legitimacy and transparency of the democratic process which led to President Chávez's reelection."

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG), which has 120 chapters nationwide, sent eight senior members to Venezuela for the election including the president of the organization, Azadeh Shahshahani, former president David Gesspass, and Natasha Bannan, Co-Chair of the International Committee.

The delegates were part of a group of 240 electoral accompaniers from around the world that witnessed the electoral process. They were invited and hosted by the National Electoral Council (CNE), the independent branch of government that oversees all aspects of elections in Venezuela.

The report states that "All international delegates were free to move about, observe and ask questions. Following the elections, we were asked to prepare reports for the CNE based on our observations. We were specifically invited to include recommendations for improving the electoral process."

According to the observations of the report, "The NLG delegation concluded, as did all the other delegations that submitted reports, that the voting process... was fair, transparent, accessible, participatory, fully auditable, and accountable to all Venezuelan citizens."

It continues: "Despite occasional technical problems and long lines in some locations, we were uniformly impressed by the efficiency and accessibility of the voting process through which Venezuelans were able to express their electoral choices. We noted that Venezuelans - both supporters and opponents of the Chávez government - showed pride in the way their elections were conducted. We were particularly impressed with the high level of voter registration and participation."

The NLG expresses particular satisfaction with the following five elements: the professionalism of poll workers, the availability and efficiency of polling places, the participation of political party witnesses, the accuracy of the electronic voting system, and the success of vote auditing by citizens.

The conclusions of the report state that the process was "unquestionably democratic," and point to the wide margin of victory for President Chávez and the speed with which his opponent, Henrique Capriles, conceded defeat.

Despite minor problems like long lines at polls, the NLG finds that "none of these issues had any impact on the legitimacy of the results, due to thorough and careful preparation, massive participation, and compliance with legal requirements and regulations."

[Click here](#) to view the report.

[Ir arriba](#)

Latin America-EU Summit Produces 30 Agreements

At the closing session of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union Summit in January, the president of the Council of Europe, Herman Van Rompuy, highlighted the region's importance to European interests.



Representatives of about 60 nations in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean met in Chile's capital city of Santiago, where they signed over 30 different agreements.

The agreements have to do with the commitment to multilateralism, legal guarantees for economic activity, and the rejection of trade protectionism.

Present at the meeting were German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Argentine President Cristina Fernández, and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. Venezuela was represented by Vice President Nicolás Maduro, who expressed a commitment to achieving "economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development."

For the first time, Latin American and Caribbean countries came together to address their European counterparts with a single voice, and together they expressed preoccupation over the global economic crisis "because the recovery continues to be very slow."

Van Rompuy of the Council of Europe said that "relations of integration within the Alliance of the Pacific are going to reinforce the position of this

group regionally and internationally, which makes them even more attractive actors for European countries.”

CELAC was formally established in December of 2011 in Caracas, Venezuela. At this most recent summit, Cuba assumed the presidency of the group.

Ir arriba

Jewish Leaders Express Hope for Speedy Recovery by President Chávez

Representatives of important Jewish groups in the hemisphere expressed well wishes for President Hugo Chávez during a meeting in Caracas on January 23 with top officials of the Venezuelan government.



Communications Minister Ernesto Villegas spoke in a press conference after a meeting of the council of ministers at Forte Tiuna in the Venezuelan capital city of Caracas, and was accompanied by Rabbi Isaac Cohen, who said a prayer for President Chávez’s health and called for him to return soon to resume his labor as head of state.

He mentioned the latest information about President Chávez’s health from Science and Technology Minister Jorge Arreaza, who said that the leader is “in a process of full recovery.”

Villegas said that the Latin American Jewish Council was meeting in Caracas this week, and conveyed its wishes for a speedy recovery by Chávez to Vice President Nicolás Maduro.

“I’m very pleased with this meeting,” he said. “The Bolivarian government reiterated its respect for the Jewish community and all religions that are present in our country and in the world. We have also reiterated our government’s commitment to peace and contributing to resolving conflicts in

the world and overcoming a long situation of warfare that has sadly caused much bloodshed in the Middle East.”

The meeting included the Venezuelan Jewish Congress and leaders of important groups in the hemisphere such as Ronald S. Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Jack Terpins, the President of the Latin American Jewish Congress in Brazil.

According to the news agency Prensa Judía, Terpins said that the meeting with Vice President Maduro was a chance “to offer thanks for the Venezuelan government’s adherence to its agreements and the words of President Chávez, who has said that no revolutionary can be anti-Semitic. The Jewish community in Venezuela is very calm.”

Ir arriba

New England Conservatory Offers Venezuelan-Inspired Music Fellowship Program

The New England Conservatory in Boston is accepting applications for its 2013 “Sistema Fellows Program,” a program for professional musicians and music teachers that includes a month-long residency in Venezuela.



The Sistema Fellows Program, now in its third year, gives ten participants a chance to become immersed in the principles and techniques of the revolutionary Venezuelan youth music program known as “El Sistema.”

El Sistema was founded in 1975 by a visionary music teacher named José Antonio Abreu, who has succeeded in creating a national network of youth orchestras and choirs. By now, it has reached hundreds of thousands of low-income children throughout Venezuela, providing them with music education and a strong sense of social justice and community involvement.

This model has inspired many similar programs in around the world, and there are offshoots in U.S. cities such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta, Miami, New Orleans, Detroit, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

According to [its website](#), the Sistema Fellows Program is "a professional training program designed for ten postgraduate musicians and music educators who are passionate about creating careers for themselves that connect music, youth, and social change. Past participants in the Program have gone on to guide the development of numerous El Sistema-inspired programs across the United States and beyond."

The picture above shows 2012 Sistema Fellow Aisha Bowden, a graduate of Howard University who taught music in Washington, DC, public schools for nine years before completing the program. She is now a choir director with the El-Sistema-inspired Atlanta Music Project.

The deadline to apply for the 2013-2014 Sistema Fellows Program is February 8, 2013.

To learn more about El Sistema, see below a video of a TED Talk by founder José Antonio Abreu.

[Ir arriba](#)

Venezuela's Internet Use Up, Cell Phone Use Over 100%

Venezuela's telecommunications sector finished 2012 with positive numbers, according to data for the fourth quarter of the year just released by the National Telecommunications Commission (Conatel).

Conatel announced that in the fourth quarter of the year, investments were up 54% compared to in 2011, while its profits were up 22.4%.



A 12% rise in subscribers to Conatel's internet services indicates greater access to web among Venezuelans. The fourth quarter of 2012 saw 3.67 million new clients.

There are an estimated 12.55 million internet users in Venezuela, up 6.2% in the last year, a share which now represents 42% of the national population.

In terms of broadband, subscribers to this service grew 13.5% in the last quarter of the year, and 41% of those subscribers chose wireless. Meanwhile, "dial up" internet services fell by 5.7%.

Phone Services

Last year saw 315,000 new subscribers to local phone services in Venezuela, which were up 4.3% in 2012. An estimated 93% of households nationwide have a home phone.

Venezuelans spent a total of 3.76 billion minutes on the phone and sent 59 million text messages in 2012.

The penetration of cell phone service is over 100% nationwide – meaning that there are more phones than people – and active subscribers to wireless plans grew 6% last year. There are 30.5 million cell phone users in Venezuela, and 93% use prepaid services.

Television

Subscription television service in Venezuela was up 21.4% last year, reaching a total of 3.39 million clients. Some 280,000 new customers were added in the fourth quarter of 2012. Based on these figures, about 47% of all households in Venezuela now have paid television services. New, cheaper TV plans have been introduced in recent years as new service providers have entered the market.

[Ir arriba](#)

Greivis Vasquez Still a Star among Local NBA Fans

New Orleans Hornets co-captain Greivis Vasquez may have been born in Venezuela, but he is also something of a hometown hero in Maryland, where he attended college.



An article on February 5th in the Baltimore Sun reflects the keen attention that has paid to this player in local media, reviewing his progress from college ball powerhouse to NBA Player of the Week, a distinction he earned last December 24th.

The *Sun* reports: "Just as he did at [the University of] Maryland, when he doubled his scoring average between his freshman year and senior year, Vasquez has gone from being a sporadically used rookie in Memphis to a starter and team captain in New Orleans."

The article points out that Vasquez, a point guard, is only the third Venezuelan ever to play in the NBA. Before him, Carl Herrera spent eight years in the 1990s with the Houston Rockets and the San Antonio Spurs, while Oscar Torres had just one season with the Rockets (2001-02).

Vasquez is now in his third season in the NBA, and he doesn't seem to be going anywhere soon.

He is currently averaging 13.9 points and 9.4 assists per game, and he is third in the league in the latter category. He has been a starting player in all 46 games this season, and spends an average of 34.4 minutes on the court, more than any other Hornet.

His style may have changed slightly with the years, but his energy remains high, the *Sun* reports: "[he] doesn't shimmy his shoulders wildly after hitting 3-point shots as he did at [the University of Maryland's] Comcast Center. But the passion Vasquez developed growing up in Venezuela is still very much apparent to his teammates."

Hornets center Robin Lopez told the *Sun*: "He's always competitive, no matter if it's a shoot-around or a tight fourth-quarter game. He's always going after somebody's throat. He's always passionate about the game."

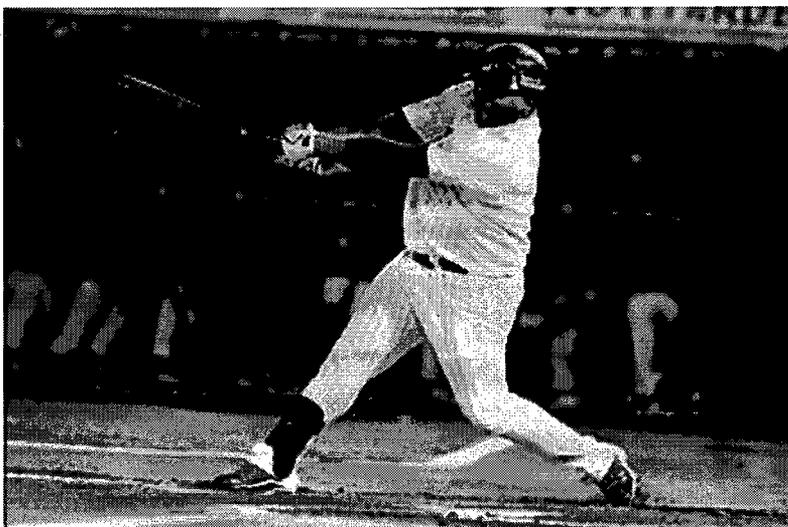
And despite all his recent success, Vasquez's modesty and strong sense of identity remain intact.

After a recent game against the New York Knicks, he said: "Even if I establish myself as a starting point guard, an elite point guard, whatever it is, I'm always going to play like nobody knows me, like I'm an underdog, that I have to prove a point. That's the thing about me. I'm such a competitor, what makes me good makes me bad. But that's just who I am."

Ir arriba

Pablo Sandoval Seals another Championship Win, This Time in Venezuela

Pablo Sandoval has led the Navegantes del Magallanes to victory in a championship in his native Venezuela, just three months after becoming World Series M.V.P. with the San Francisco Giants.



The Magallanes beat the Lara Cardenales 11-9 on January 30 in the last of a seven-game series. Sandoval hit two doubles and a home run, one of eight that occurred that night.

According to the *New York Times*, Sandoval was "ecstatic," and told the newspaper *El Meridiano*: "This is a dream. I always wanted to win a title in Venezuela. It's not the same. In your own country it's sweeter."

Sandoval has won many hearts among baseball fans in the U.S., where he is fondly known as "Kung Fu Panda" because of his heft and agility. He has two World Series wins under his belt with the Giants, and he set a record in the last Series by hitting three home runs in game one during his first three at-bats.

After his latest victory, Sandoval told the *Associated Press*: "There's nothing like being champion here in Venezuela with the Navegantes, although it

can't be compared with winning the World Series, because they're different things. But it's very special to be champion here."

The San Francisco Giants gave him permission to join the Magallanes for just four games, and then allowed him to extend his stay to compete in the playoffs.

The Magallanes now go on to compete in the Caribbean Series in Hermosillo, Mexico, where they will face the winners of winter series leagues from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

The *Times* reports: "Sandoval will get ready to join the Giants in Arizona for spring training. But he will leave fairly quickly to join the Venezuelan team in the World Baseball Classic. The team, which will begin play in Puerto Rico, has a roster that includes Seattle's star pitcher, Felix Hernandez; Detroit's Triple Crown winner, Miguel Cabrera; and Sandoval's Giants teammate Marco Scutaro."

The first game is on March 7, when Venezuela faces the Dominican Republic.

Ir arriba

Venezuelan Driver Nelson Canache Wins GX Class in 24 Hours of Daytona

Nelson Canache and his team for Napleton Racing made history in the world of sports car racing on January 27, winning the GX Category of the 51st edition of the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona.

Canache, who is from Caracas, Venezuela, drove a Porsche Cayman identified with the number 16 and was accompanied



by his U.S. teammates David Donahue, Shane Lewis and Jim Norman. According to a team press release, they finished the day-long race with an advantage of 9 laps over the next car on the 3.56 mile-long course.

Canache took two of the three shifts during the night and consolidated the team's winning pace, helping them command the lead for the entire race.

"They gave me the job of driving primarily at night because I'm the youngest on the team. It was a grueling race that we were able to win despite being on the edge of the category," Canache said.

His first shift was on Saturday night from 7:20 p.m. until 9:20 pm. He returned to the pavement at 3 a.m. and drove until 5 a.m., and again at 11:20 a.m.

The overall winners in the general category were the distinguished Colombian driver, Juan Pablo Montoya, and teammates Scott Pruett, Memo Rojas, Scott Dixon and Travis Kimball. They drove a BMW for Chip Ganassi Racing.

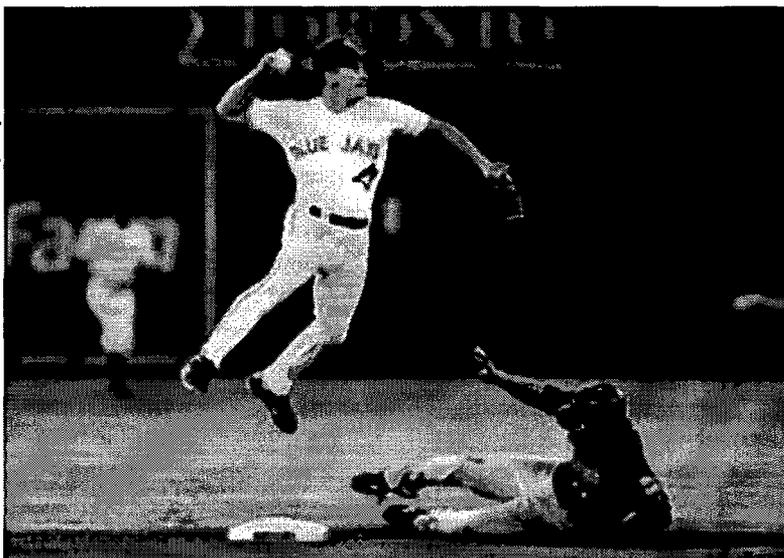
The 24 Hours of Daytona is an annual race as part of the Grand-Am Road Racing series, and generally kicks off the car racing season in the U.S. This was the first year that it included a GX Class.

Ir arriba

Omar Vizquel to Take the Field Again, as a Coach

The legendary Venezuelan shortstop Omar Vizquel, who retired last year after 24 seasons in the Major Leagues, will soon be an infield coach for the Angels.

According to an article in the *L.A. Times*, the Angels have hired Vizquel to be a "roving infield instructor" during Spring Training, which begins in two weeks. He will replace Dick Schofield.



The *L.A. Times* reports: "The Angels were in the final stages of the hiring process Tuesday and hadn't made an official announcement when Vizquel,

who aspires to be a major league manager some day, revealed the news at a speaking engagement in Akron, Ohio. The move was subsequently confirmed by the team."

Vizquel, age 45, has won 11 Gold Glove Awards and has more career hits than Babe Ruth, with 2,877. During his distinguished career, he played for six different teams: the Toronto Blue Jays (2012), Chicago White Sox (2010-2011), Texas Rangers (2009), San Francisco Giants (2005-2008), Cleveland Indians (1994-2004), and the Seattle Mariners (1989-1993).

The General Manager of the Angels, Jerry Dipoto, was a teammate of Vizquel's in Cleveland in 2004.

Vizquel was born in Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela, and has maintained strong ties to his home country. After a mudslide devastated the state of Vargas, he helped with relief efforts and raised \$500,000 to benefit the victims of the disaster.

For more information, visit our website at venezuela-us.org or write us at prensa@venezuela-us.org

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From: Olivia Goumbri [mailto:ogoumbri@venezuela-us.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 4:54 PM
To: 'Olivia Goumbri'
Subject: upcoming events in honor of President Hugo Chavez Frias

Dear friends and colleagues,

I thought you would be interested to know about these very touching events being organized in Washington DC by the inter-faith and social justice communities this coming Saturday and Tuesday.

Warm regards, Olivia

*The inter-faith, social justice and solidarity community of the
Washington DC metro area
invites you to two events in honor of our dear brother President Hugo
Chavez Frias:*

*A Peoples Celebration of the life of President
Hugo Chávez Frias
Saturday, March 9th from 1:00pm-4:00pm
Simon Bolívar Plaza
18th Street, between Virginia and C Street, NW, Washington
DC 20006*



*Memorial Service for President Hugo
Chávez Frías*

Tuesday, March 12th, 6:30pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1525 Newton Street, NW Washington, DC 20010

*La comunidad religiosa, por la justicia social y la solidaridad de los
pueblos del área metropolitana de Washington DC, le invitan a
participar en dos (02) eventos en honor a nuestro hermano, Presidente
Hugo Chávez Frías.*

*Una celebración por la vida del Presidente
Hugo Chávez Frías*

Sábado, 9 de marzo, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Plaza Simón Bolívar

18th Street, entre las calles Virginia y C Street, NW,

Washington DC 20006

Ceremonia en memoria a la vida del Presidente

Hugo Chávez Frías

Martes, 12 de marzo, 6:30pm

Iglesia Episcopal St. Stephen

1525 calle Newton, NW Washington, DC 20010

(Esquina de la calle 16 y Newton)

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Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

From: Olivia Goumbri [mailto:ogoumbri@venezuela-us.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 10:34 AM
To: 'ogoumbri@venezuela-us.org'
Subject: Special Section dedicated to President Hugo Chavez Frias on website

Dear friends and colleagues,

I thought you would be interested in this special section about our beloved President Hugo Chavez Frias that is now featured on the embassy website. <http://venezuela-us.org/%C2%A1hasta-la-victoria-siempre/>

This special section, dedicated to our president by the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States and all of its diplomats and workers, is an homage to the social activist who had the courage to declare: Today we have a nation!

Warm regards, Olivia

¡Hasta la victoria siempre!

On March 5, 2013, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez Frías passed away. Representatives of 53 countries around the world traveled to Venezuela to accompany the people during ceremonies held in the capital city of Caracas to honor the life and legacy of the leader of the Bolivarian Revolution. Some 16 countries in Latin America and elsewhere declared periods of national mourning due to the loss of the Venezuelan president. In other tributes, a neighborhood was named after President Chávez in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a street was named after him in the West Bank, and a stamp with his image was printed in Iran. But within Venezuela, the commander, as he is known, will also be remembered by the legacy he leaves in the conscience of many Venezuelans and his transformative impact on the nation, for he made previously marginalized sectors of society visible.



Under the new constitution of 1999, which was drafted with citizen participation and approved in a national referendum that kicked off a new era of unprecedented political participation, all Venezuelans now have the right to health care, education, dignified housing, dignified work, and social security. To ensure universal access to these and other essential services, the government used part of the profits of its oil industry to fund programs called “social missions.” These missions have saved many lives, helped millions of families escape extreme poverty, eradicated illiteracy, and empowered countless citizens.

In 2005, a law on Indigenous peoples expanded the guarantees and protections they were afforded in the constitution, and a Ministry of Indigenous Affairs was created in 2007. This institution helped demarcate indigenous lands and ensure the provision of basic services in these communities. In 2009, a Ministry for Women and Gender Equality was created, and other laws like the Law Against All Forms of Violence Against Women and Children in TK and the Labor Law in 2012 have deepened women's rights.

In 2011, the country approved the Law Against Racial Discrimination, which establishes mechanisms to prevent and punish all forms of discrimination. The last national census conducted in 2011 was the first to include an option for citizens to identify themselves as Afro-descendent.

The policies of President Chávez knew no borders, and hence for the last eight years, Venezuela's Bolivarian Government has helped more than 1.7 million low-income people in the United States to keep their homes warm during the cold winter months through the donation of more than 200 million gallons of heating oil to families in 25 states and the District of Columbia, including members of 240 indigenous communities and 200 homeless shelters.

The political terrain of the entire hemisphere was deeply altered by President Chávez's role in promoting regional cooperation and integration. During the Bolivarian Revolution, Venezuela was admitted into the trade group Mercosur, it formed an energy agreement called PetroCaribe and helped found multilateral institutions like the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The Legacy of President Chávez

Today, the legacy of President Chávez remains alive, his infinite love for his fellow man can be seen in the voices of all of the people and organizations that raised their voices to express their condolences and support for the Venezuelan people. This special section dedicated to our president by the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States and all of its diplomats and workers, is an homage to the social activist who had the courage to declare: Today we have a nation!

1. Statements:

Former President Jimmy Carter

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

Congressman Jose E. Serrano

The Reverend Jesse Jackson and Rainbow PUSH Coalition

All-African People's Revolutionary Party

Other Statements

People who expressed their condolences to the Embassy of Venezuela to the U.S. in Washington, DC through emails and the Embassy's social media

2. News from Venezuela

- State Ceremonies in Honor of President Chávez Begin in Caracas
- Representatives of 53 Countries to Attend Funeral for Hugo Chávez
- Latin American Leaders Lament the "Irreparable" Loss of President Hugo Chávez
- Venezuelan Flag at Half Mast

3. News from the United States and Venezuelan Consulates in the U.S.

- Chávez Lives on in the People
- United Nations Lauds Chávez's Contribution to Regional and Global Integration
- Hundreds Gather in New York to Honor the Life and Legacy of Hugo Chávez
- President Chávez Remembered at Ecumenical Service in Washington
- Jesse Jackson: President Chávez Fed the Hungry and Raised Hopes
- U.S. Activists Express Solidarity with Venezuela and President Chávez
- Venezuelan Embassy to the U.S. Receives Messages of Solidarity
- Ex-President
Chávez Boldly Asserted Autonomy and Independence for Latin American Governments
- Book of Condolences Available at the Venezuelan Embassy
- National Mourning

Carter:

4. Transcripts and Texts

- Transcript of the Last Public Appearance of President Chávez (Spanish)
- La Idea de Chávez (Group of Texts)

5. Videos

His Life

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lni8g3QuFN8>

The Singer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5pc8HIQYVQ>

The Children

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcKEYAulRf0>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0l_UaTVAN8&NR=1&feature=endscreen

Last Public Appearance

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKmlHhjMGP0>

Other Videos

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6_WIRH03IQ

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpa4JABP8u4&feature=youtu.be>

6.Photos

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2013/03/fotos-mandatarios-del-mundo-rinden-homenaje-al-lider-bolivariano-hugo-chavez/>

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2013/03/fotos-millones-de-venezolanos-y-venezolanas-despiden-a-hugo-chavez/>

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2013/03/asi-se-volco-el-pueblo-de-bolivar-a-las-calles-de-caracas-para-acompanar-al-presidente-hugo-chavez/>

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2013/03/hugo-chavez-el-lider-revolucionario/>

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2012/07/encuentro-con-los-ninos-zulianos-21-y-22-de-julio-de-2012/>

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2012/07/chavez-y-la-generacion-de-oro/>

<http://www.minci.gob.ve/2012/07/entrega-de-asignaciones-a-misiones-hijos-de-venezuela-y-en-amor-mayor-11-de-julio-de-2012/>

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From: Olivia Goubri [mailto:ogoubri@venezuela-us.org]

Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 1:01 PM

To: 'Olivia Goubri'

Subject: event with Venezuela's former Vice President this Friday, 7pm in honor of return to democracy and upcoming election

Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to let you know about this upcoming event this Friday at 7pm that Washington DC and Baltimore area solidarity and community organizations are organizing in honor of Venezuela's upcoming elections on Sunday and the return of democracy on April 13, 2002 to Venezuela. I hope to see you there. See text version below and original flyer attached.

Warm regards, Olivia

In honor of the return of democracy and the democratically elected PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS on April 13, 2002 and the upcoming presidential election in Venezuela on April 14, 2013

WE INVITE YOU TO A DISCUSSION WITH ADINA BASTIDAS



Former Venezuelan Vice President and current representative of Venezuela to the Inter-American Development Bank

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013, 7PM
at the Bolivarian Hall
2443 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington D.C.**

Co-sponsored by: (partial list)

All Peoples Congress; ANSWER; Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly;
Casa de Maryland; FMLN Committees of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia;
Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Baltimore chapter and others

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From: Olivia Goubri [mailto:ogoubri@venezuela-us.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:01 AM
To: 'ogoubri@venezuela-us.org'
Subject: Election Bulletin I- 2013 Venezuelan Presidential Elections

Dear friends,

Please find below the first election bulletin of the day in both English and Spanish.

Best, Olivia



**Embassy of the Bolivarian
Republic of Venezuela**

Washington, DC • U.S.A.

**Ministry of People's Power
for Foreign Affairs**

Election Bulletin I- 2013 Venezuelan Presidential Elections

Venezuela Electoral Council Says Electoral Centers Opening

International Electoral Accompaniers Ratify Security and Efficiency of Venezuelan Electoral System

CNE: Electoral Results Reflect the Sovereign Will of the People

Venezuela Electoral Council Says Electoral Centers Opening

Tibisay Lucena, the president of Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE), announced Sunday morning that more than 50% of electoral centers throughout the country were open.

In statements made to the Bolivarian System of



Communication and Information (SIBCI), Lucena also indicated that 100% of the operators of the voting machines were at their posts as of 5:30 this morning.

Regarding the members of the voting tables, the head of the CNE called on the members of tables in the states of Aragua, Delta Amacuro, Vargas and the Capital District to go to their corresponding voting centers and carry out their obligatory electoral service.

"We call on voters to go out to vote with total calm, because the Electoral Center guarantees the right to vote," she said.

YVKE Mundial / Press – Venezuelan Embassy to the U.S. / April 14, 2013

Ir arriba

International Electoral Accompaniers Ratify Security and Efficiency of Venezuelan Electoral System

At the start of election day, as Venezuelans went to the polls to choose a new president for the next six years, international accompaniers ratified security and efficiency of the country's electoral system.



After a meeting yesterday between the international accompaniers and acting president Nicolas Maduro at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, former president of Guatemala

Alvaro Colom said: "it appears to me the [electoral] system is facing. It is a system that at any point if there is a problem with any machine, accounting can be done manually."

Participating in today's elections are 3,435 national electoral observers, 170 international accompaniers, 40 accompaniers from the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), 30 from the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE), and 40 accompaniers from different political parties.

For his part, the ex-president of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernandez, said that on the eve of the elections, he perceived "an environment of happiness, a warm environment that heralds massive participation among the Venezuela electorate at the polls tomorrow."

"We are here as companions in this electoral process in order to be able to bear witness to the legitimacy of the process," he said.

Roberto Rosario, the president of UNIORE, said that his organization brought a technical mission that was allowed to participate in "the production of the machines, the auditing, and the process of educating members of the electoral committees."

He said the three processes were done in the presence of representatives of the different political parties and candidacies, and "in none of them were there any situations that would tarnish the process."

AVN/ Press - Venezuelan Embassy to the U.S. /April 14, 2013

Ir arriba

CNE: Electoral Results Reflect the Sovereign Will of the People

The president of Venezuela's Electoral Council, (CNE), Tibisay Lucena, reiterated Saturday that the electoral results transmitted after today's presidential elections will be an accurate reflection of the will of the people.

Lucena called on political actors to recognize the results because "to recognize them is to respect the decision of all Venezuelans."



She added: "those who have never contributed to democracy and attempt to threaten it today are ignorant and condemned to be an absurd minority that belongs to the past."

She asked political parties to convey messages that are in keeping with the environment of peace that prevails throughout the country.

"It's very important that we act responsibly and not interfere in any way with the spirit or the proper unfolding of the process."

She said that this election, which was organized in just 37 days, draws on the experience of CNE workers, the members of electoral tables, and state officials. She thanked them for their efforts and "the tasks they have assumed and that reveal their commitment to democracy."

Meanwhile, she called on Venezuelans to vote peacefully.

"Tomorrow Venezuela will once again show that it is a true democracy. Tomorrow we're all going to vote in peace."

AVN/ Press – Embassy of Venezuela to the US/ April 14, 2013

[Ir arriba](#)

Boletín especial I- Elecciones presidenciales venezolanas 2013

CNE ha abierto más del 50% de los centros electorales del país

Acompañantes internacionales ratifican seguridad y eficiencia del sistema electoral venezolano

Resultados de elecciones presidenciales reflejarán la voluntad soberana del pueblo

CNE ha abierto más del 50% de los centros electorales del país

La presidenta del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), Tibisay Lucena, informó este domingo que el ente comicial ha abierto



más del 50% de los centros electorales del país.

En declaraciones ofrecidas al Sistema Bolivariano de Comunicación e Información (SiBCI), Lucena también indicó que 100% de los operadores de las máquinas de votación se encuentran en sus puestos de trabajo desde las 5:30 de la mañana.

Con respecto a los miembros de mesa, la titular del CNE hizo un llamado a los miembros de mesa de los estados Aragua, Delta Amacuro, Vargas y Distrito Capital para que se acerquen a sus centros de votación y cumplan el servicio electoral obligatorio.

"Hacemos un llamado a las electoras y electores para que acudan a votar con la mayor tranquilidad porque el Poder Electoral garantiza el derecho al sufragio", manifestó.

YVKE Mundial/ Prensa-Embajada venezolana en EE UU/ 14 de abril de 2013

[Ir arriba](#)

Acompañantes internacionales ratifican seguridad y eficiencia del sistema electoral venezolano

A inicios del día votación en la que las y los venezolanos elegirán al Presidente de la República por los próximos seis años, acompañantes internacionales ratificaron la seguridad y eficiencia del sistema electoral nacional.



Tras una reunión ayer entre el presidente encargado, Nicolás Maduro, y acompañantes internacionales, efectuada en el Palacio presidencial de Miraflores el ex presidente de Guatemala, Álvaro Colom, dijo: "Yo veo al sistema (electoral) muy seguro. Es un sistema que si en algún momento alguna máquina llegara a tener problemas se podría hacer el conteo manual".

En los comicios de hoy participarán 3.435 observadores nacionales, 170 acompañantes internacionales, 40 acompañantes de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur), 30 de la Unión Interamericana de Organismos Electorales (Uniore) y 40 acompañantes políticos de los diferentes partidos.

Por su parte, el ex presidente de República Dominicana, Leonel Fernández, comentó que en la víspera electoral lo que se siente en el país "es un ambiente de alegría, un ambiente afectivo que anuncia una participación masiva del electorado venezolano para los comicios de mañana".

"Estamos aquí en calidad de acompañantes de ese certamen electoral con la finalidad de poder testimoniar respecto a la legitimidad (del proceso)", señaló.

Asimismo, Roberto Rosario, presidente de la Uniore, comentó que ese organismo realizó una misión técnica que le permitió intervenir en el proceso de "producción de las máquinas, de auditoría y en el proceso de educación a los miembros de juntas electorales".

Precisó que los tres procesos se realizaron con la presencia de representantes de los diferentes partidos políticos y candidaturas, y "en ninguno de ellos se produjeron situaciones que pudieran demeritar el proceso".

AVN/ Prensa-Embajada venezolana en EE UU/ 14 de abril de 2013

[Ir arriba](#)

CNE:

Resultados de elecciones presidenciales reflejarán la voluntad soberana del pueblo

La presidenta del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), Tibisay Lucena, reiteró ayer sábado que los resultados electorales que emita el ente rector luego de la elección presidencial de hoy serán fiel reflejo de la voluntad del pueblo.



Instó a los actores políticos a respetar los resultados porque "reconocerlos es respetar la decisión de las venezolanas y de los venezolanos".

A esta idea agregó: "Aquellos que nunca han aportado a la democracia y pretenden acecharla hoy deben ser ignorados y condenados como una minoría absurda que pertenece al pasado".

En este sentido, pidió a las organizaciones políticas emitir sus mensajes en consonancia con el ambiente de paz que caracteriza al país.

"Es muy importante que actuemos responsablemente para que no exista alteración alguna de ánimos, ni lesión al buen desenvolvimiento del proceso".

Destacó que esta elección, organizada en 37 días, se realizó sobre la base en la experiencia de los trabajadores del CNE, de los miembros de mesa y de funcionarios de Estado. A ellos, agradeció su esfuerzo en la "tarea que han asumido y que revela su compromiso con la democracia".

Igualmente, invitó a los venezolanos a votar pacíficamente. "Mañana Venezuela escribe de nuevo en su haber otra muestra de los que es una democracia verdadera. Mañana vamos todos a votar, en paz".

AVN/ Prensa-Embajada venezolana en EE UU/14 de abril de 2013

For more information, visit our website at venezuela-us.org or write us at prensa@venezuela-us.org

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Friend Us: [Facebook.com/VzlaEmbassyUS](https://facebook.com/VzlaEmbassyUS)

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Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

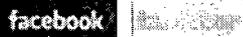
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Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

From: Olivia Goumbri [mailto:ogoumbri@venezuela-us.org]
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 10:17 AM
To: 'ogoumbri@venezuela-us.org'
Subject: Update on Venezuelan Election

Dear friends,

I thought you would be interested in knowing that the National Electoral Council (CNE) has decided to audit the remaining ballot boxes (46%) that were not automatically audited on election day. On election day, as the author points out below in an op-ed you may be interested to read, 54% of the boxes were audited, which automatically happens.

Best, Olivia

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-kovalik/us-must-recognize-venezuela_b_3103540.html?utm_hp_ref=tw

U.S. Must Recognize Venezuela's Elections

Posted: 04/18/2013 6:03 pm

The United States is refusing to recognize the results of the Venezuelan elections, insisting that Venezuela conduct a re-count of 100 percent of the votes in light of the narrow margin of victory for Nicolas Maduro. The facts surrounding the voting process and election outcome in Venezuela, the U.S.'s own experiences with close presidential elections, and the U.S.'s recent recognition of coup governments in Latin America demonstrate that the U.S.'s position in regard to Venezuela has nothing to do with the U.S.'s alleged concerns for democracy, but rather, its complete disdain for it.



I just returned from Venezuela where I was one of over 170 international election observers from around the world, including India, Guyana, Suriname, Colombia, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Scotland, England, the United States, Guatemala, Argentina, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Brazil, Chile, Greece, France, Panama and Mexico. These observers included two former presidents (of Guatemala and the Dominican Republic), judges, lawyers and numerous high ranking officials of national electoral councils. What we found was an election system which was transparent, inherently reliable, well-run and thoroughly audited.

Proud Voter in Acevedo, Venezuela (Kovalik, 2013)

Indeed, as to the auditing, what has been barely mentioned by the mainstream press is the fact that around 54 percent of all votes are, and indeed have already been, audited to ensure that the electronic votes match up with the paper receipts which serve as back-up for these electronic votes. And, this auditing is done in the presence of witnesses from both the governing and opposition parties right in the local polling places themselves. I witnessed just such an audit at the end of election day on Sunday. And, as is the usual case, the paper results matched up perfectly with the electronic ones. As the former Guatemalan President, Alvaro Colom, who served as an observer, opined, the vote in Venezuela is "secure" and easily verifiable.

In short, the observers' experience this past week aligns with former U.S. president Jimmy Carter's observation last year that Venezuela's electoral system is indeed the "the best in the world."

And so, what were the results of the election? With an impressive 79 percent of registered voters going to the polls, Nicolas Maduro won by over 260,000 votes, with a 1.6 percentage point margin over Henrique Capriles (50.7 to 49.1 percent). While this was certainly a close race, 260,000 votes is a comfortable victory, certainly by U.S. election standards. Thus, recall that John F. Kennedy beat Richard Nixon in 1960 with 49.7 percent of the vote to Nixon's 49.6 percent. In addition, George W. Bush became president in 2000, though losing the popular vote to Al Gore, with 47.87 percent of the vote to Gore's 48.38 percent, and with the entire race coming down to several hundred votes in Florida, with the Supreme Court actually blocking a hand recount in Florida. In none of these cases, did any nation in the world insist upon a recount or hesitate in recognizing the man declared to be the winner. Indeed, had a country like Venezuela done so, we would have found such a position absurd. The U.S.'s current position vis à vis Venezuela is no less absurd.

The U.S.'s position is all the more ridiculous given its quick recognition of the coup government in Paraguay after the former bishop-turned president, Fernando Lugo, was ousted in 2012, and its recognition of the 2009 elections in Honduras despite the fact that the U.S.'s stated precondition for recognizing this election -- the return of President Manuel Zelaya to power after his forcible ouster by the military -- never occurred. Of course, this even pales in comparison to the U.S.'s active involvement in coups against democratically-elected leaders in Latin America (e.g., against President Árbenz in Guatemala in 1954, against President Allende in Chile in 1973, and against President Aristide in Haiti in 2004).

And, the U.S.'s failure to recognize the Venezuelan elections is having devastating consequences in Venezuela, for it is emboldening the Venezuelan opposition to carry out violence in order to destabilize that country. Unlike Al Gore in 2000 who stepped aside for George W. Bush in the interest of his country and the U.S. Constitution, the Venezuelan opposition, being led by Henrique Capriles, clearly wants to foster chaos and crisis in Venezuela in order to topple the Maduro government by force (just as the same forces represented by Capriles forcibly kidnapped and briefly overthrew President Chavez, with U.S. support, in 2002). Thus, reasonably believing

itself to have the backing of the U.S. and its military, the opposition is causing mayhem in Venezuela, including burning down clinics, destroying property, attacking Cuban doctors and destroying ruling party buildings. In all, seven Venezuelans are dead and dozens injured in this opposition-led violence.

There is no doubt that the U.S. could halt this violence right now by recognizing the results of the Venezuelan elections, just as the nations of the world recognized, without question, the results of the elections which put John F. Kennedy in power in 1960 and George W. Bush in power in 2000. The reason the U.S. is not doing so is obvious: It does not like the Venezuelans' chosen form of government, and welcomes that government's demise, even through violence. The U.S., therefore, is not supporting democracy and stability in Venezuela; it is intentionally undermining it.

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