

# **HANDS OFF VENEZUELA F.A.Q.**

## **WHY KIDNAP MADURO?**

On January 3, 2026, the US kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores after months of utterly baseless accusations by the Trump administration of links between the Maduro government and organizations like Tren de Aragua. The US government's own intelligence assessments found no such connection! US forces murdered dozens of civilians in Caracas and over 100 people at sea on this lie. If the Trump administration truly cared about drug trafficking, why did they pardon former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández--someone who trafficked over 400 tons of cocaine into the United States and had well-established ties to MS-13 and the Sinaloa cartel?

Obviously, the Trump administration's true motive is Venezuela's oil. Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world, which over the years Trump has obscenely referred to as "our oil". After kidnapping Maduro, Trump stated that the US will "run Venezuela" and operate its oil industry. Whether you call it the "Donroe" Doctrine or US imperialism, this violation of a nation's sovereignty and plundering of their resources must end!

## **WHAT IS THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION?**

In 1998, Hugo Chávez was elected President of Venezuela, and the Bolivarian Revolution was born. Prior to his election, Venezuela suffered through many decades of rampant corruption, high poverty, and extreme wealth inequality. Much of the suffering of the poorest Venezuelans was the direct result of "structural adjustment programs" imposed by the US-backed International Monetary Fund.

The Bolivarian Revolution put Venezuela at the vanguard of the movement against neoliberalism. Instead of lining the pockets of the elite and private corporations, Venezuela's oil revenues were put toward social and economic programs known as *misiones*, which uplifted the lives of millions of Venezuelans, who received housing, food, medical care, and education. For this reason, millions of Venezuelans continue to support the Bolivarian Revolution even in the face of debilitating sanctions and economic warfare by the US. *¡Viva la revolución!*

## **WHAT ABOUT VENEZUELAN?**

Since 2014, the US and its allies have imposed sanctions against Venezuela with over 900 sanctions from the US alone. These sanctions are wide-ranging, and target everything from the shipping companies that export Venezuelan oil to Venezuela's ability to access the dollar to imports of chemicals necessary for oil production.

Not surprisingly, this economic warfare has strangled Venezuela's economy, which has contracted by 80%. Since the sanctions started, nearly 8 million people have left Venezuela. Yet, Venezuelans continue to endure and fight these sanctions by organizing local autonomous *comunas* to provide for their human needs. *Comunas* have worked to develop local agriculture to achieve food sovereignty. The spirit of the Venezuelan people shows us that a better world is possible, and that in order to achieve it, we must defeat capitalism and imperialism.



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