

C2new Venezuela: shades of gray

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Text

1 Over the last years, the economic, social and political situation in Venezuela
2 have worsen and turned into a crisis of international relevance since the
3 president of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó, proclaimed himself
4 Interim President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

5 The country's crisis doesn't start here. Since President Maduro came to power,
6 the economic, social and political crises have become more acute.

7 On the socio-economic side, the situation has been severely degrading and is
8 marked by an important inflation as well as problems in the supply of basic
9 products such as food and medical products. The economic blockade and sanctions
10 led by the United States of America are one of the main causes of the economic
11 crisis developing in Venezuela since the paralysis of its main economic activity
12 translate into a lack of
13 economic resources for the whole country. Since Venezuela has the largest proven
14 oil reserves and that their export-derived revenue almost entirely depends on
15 oil-related products, the economic crisis of the country is also due to the
16 falling of oil prices.

17 On the political side, the rights of the opposition parties and critics of the
18 government are not fully respected. Cases of intimidations, arbitrary
19 detentions, ill-treatment and torture, sexual and gender-based violence in
20 detention and excessive use of force during demonstrations have been
21 highlighted, such as in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
22 Human Rights (UNHCHR) on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian
23 Republic of Venezuela of 5 July 2019.

24 Venezuela's actual democratic situation is the result of the presidential
25 elections of 20 May 2018, in which President Maduro won overwhelmingly, but
26 where main Venezuelan opposition parties claimed limited participation and lack
27 of democratic guarantees. After this event, organisations such as the office of
28 the UNHCHR, the Organization of American States and the European Union,
29 considered the elections
30 fraudulent.

31 Following this situation, National's Assembly President Juan Guaidó proclaimed
32 himself Interim President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, invoking

33 article 233 (which lists cases in which the president shall be considered
34 "permanently unavailable to serve"), 333 (Constitution's restoration) and 350
35 (the right to rebellion) of the Venezuelan Constitution.
36 While a majority of countries (around 150) interpreted this act as a coup
37 d'état, others including the US and some European governments, consider it a
38 legitimate act and unilaterally recognised Juan Guaidó as the legitimate
39 president of Venezuela.
40 The constitution states that a new election should have been held within 30
41 days, which hasn't happen. In addition to this concern, we can see that the
42 opposition is also using violence.

43 It should be highlighted that the democratic system, the separation of powers
44 and the rule of law are currently in a state of fragility. The legislative power
45 has been duplicated, there is no independence in the judiciary and there is no
46 control over the executive power. To all this, we must add the bias of the media
47 in both Latin America and the Global North in the situation of the South
48 American state. The role of the United States in the conflict should be made
49 clearer. The recent developments in Venezuela should be seen in the light of the
50 change of governments in other South American countries in recent years.

51 Considering that the Venezuelan situation is neither black nor white, but
52 different shades of grey, the Federation of Young European Greens, calls the
53 European Union and European countries governments:

- 54 • to facilitate dialogue between the parties in conflict to develop democratic
55 guarantees in the country
56 • not to interfere in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's internal matters to
57 favour one part over the other
58 • to oppose and prevent any military interventions in Venezuela
59 • to respect the result derived from the round of dialogue and the subsequent
60 working table between the two parties, endorsed by Norway.
61 • to encourage the unlocking of Venezuela's economic situation in order to
62 reduce internal crises and to avoid that the Venezuelan population is unfairly
63 punished
64 and do not have access to fundamental rights, by calling for ending the US-led
65 embargo.