

73
killed by security
forces in 2017 protests
Source: UN OHCHR

620
political prisoners
Source: OAS

4,000
civilians injured
during protests
Source: Foro Penal

5,051
arrested during
protests
Source: Foro Penal

600
cases of torture
passed on to ICC
Source: Casla Institute

70%
of torture cases
involve sexual assault
Source: Casla Institute

The human rights crisis in Venezuela

The crisis in Venezuela is not about politics or ideology; it is about human rights violations and the breach of democracy.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has decried the “widespread and systematic use of excessive force” against demonstrators in Venezuela.

This is not the time for debates about socialism versus capitalism, or American

interventionism in Latin America. The world needs to act now to stop the violence.

Venezuela is a kleptocracy. The regime is sustained by a web of corrupt business dealings that have seen over 350 billion US dollars disappear from state coffers.

The most effective pressure that the international community can put on Venezuelan officials is to prevent them from enjoying their pocketed millions and from doing business abroad.

Timeline

2013 April	Maduro wins contested election by 1.5%
November	Maduro is given power to rule by decree
2014 February	Protests lead to 43 deaths
2015 December	Opposition wins 2/3 of seats in National Assembly
2016 March	Supreme Court limits Assembly's power
October	National Electoral Council suspends presidential recall referendum
2017 January	Supreme Court attempts a coup against Assembly
March	Protests extend throughout the country
May	Maduro calls an election for a Constituent Assembly to re-write the Constitution
July	EU, OAS, Mercosur and dozens of governments reject the election results
August	Constituent Assembly fires Attorney General investigating human rights abuses and corruption

Over 120 people have been killed during four months of protests

Parliament must act now

Condemnation is not enough. The UK government must show resolve through tangible actions that will put pressure on President Maduro and his allies to respect democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The United Nations will not act because China and Russia, who are doing business with Venezuela, will veto any measures. It is up to the UK Parliament to take action. This could be done through targeted sanctions against individuals in the Venezuelan government responsible for human rights violations and for the breach of democracy:

- The President, Vice President, ministers, commanders of the National Guard and National Police, Supreme Court and Constituent Assembly

The sanctions can include:

- Freeze any assets in the UK belonging to these individuals, and prevent UK individuals and companies from doing business with them
- Enforce a travel ban against these individuals
- Enforce a ban on exporting weapons or any equipment that might be used for internal repression in Venezuela

These are NOT economic sanctions against Venezuela: they will have no effect on the economy or the country's access to food and medicines.

82%
households in poverty
Source: UCAB

87%
shortages of food
and medicines
Source: BCV

720%
inflation for 2017
Source: IMF

6,000
companies expropriated
by the government
Source: Consecomercio

66%
fall in international
reserves in 2016/17
Source: Financial Times

7.4%
contraction of
GDP for 2017
Source: IMF