

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

July 31, 2024

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to express our deep concerns about the legitimacy of the July 28 election in Venezuela. We call on you to resolutely condemn the actions of the Maduro regime and to impose sanctions.

As you know, Venezuelans bravely went to the polls over the weekend to have their voices heard, despite threats of violence from the brutal, Socialist Maduro regime. The election that resulted, however, was neither free nor fair. The Maduro regime relied on its well-worn tactics of intimidation and manipulation; failing to tally all votes, blocking access to voting locations, opening certain polling places late, and using street checkpoints to limit travel.

Despite exit polls showing tremendous support for the opposition candidate, Edmundo González Urrutia – who stood in the election after the primary winner María Corina Machado was banned by the government from running – the National Electoral Council declared Maduro the winner with no documentation as proof.

Unfortunately, this “election” only follows a long line of irregularities from previous years. The election in 2018, for example, was widely seen as illegitimate, with the European Union, the Lima Group, the Organization of American States, and multiple countries, including the United States under the Trump Administration, refusing to recognize the results. In the lead-up to the 2018 election, the Maduro regime censored the media, intimidated the opposition, and prevented certain candidates from running – a blueprint that the regime has followed in this election.

Taken together, we cannot naively take Maduro at his word – this election was neither free nor fair and violates the “Barbados Agreement” that was facilitated by your Administration, providing sanctions relief to Venezuela’s oil industry in exchange for free elections. The Maduro regime singlehandedly broke this agreement.

We, therefore, call on you to impose new sanctions and to take additional steps with the international community to support the Venezuelan people. We remain heartened by the courage they show in their quest for democracy and stand with them as they push for freedom, security, and a future free of the regime.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Nicole Malliotakis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS