



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-01641**

BY: **MR. KMIEC (CALGARY SHEPARD)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSIA FREELAND**

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Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Venezuela**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Canadians are deeply alarmed by the Venezuelan government's deepening descent into dictatorship.

On September 22, 2017, Canada imposed, under the *Special Economic Measures Act*, targeted sanctions against 40 top officials of the Maduro regime who have played a key role in undermining the security, stability and integrity of democratic institutions of Venezuela. The *Special Economic Measures (Venezuela) Regulations* impose an asset freeze and dealings prohibition on listed persons. Listed persons include, inter alia, current or former senior officials in the Government of Venezuela; current or former members of the Constituent National Assembly of Venezuela; persons engaged in activities that directly or indirectly undermine the security, stability or integrity of democratic institutions of Venezuela; or associates or family members of these individuals. Consistent with Canadian principles, these sanctions are aimed at maintaining pressure on the Government of Venezuela to restore constitutional order.

Canada has been a leading voice in denouncing the deteriorating situation in Venezuela. In addition to actively engaging within the Organization of American States (OAS) to press for consensus on the need to act, Canada has also joined with hemispheric partners through the Lima Group - a group of likeminded countries committed to the restoration of democracy in Venezuela. The first Lima declaration, issued on August 8, 2017, has built international momentum. The Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the second meeting of the Lima Group on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. Canada also hosted the third meeting of the Group in Toronto on October 26. The statement adopted

at the meeting can be found here: <http://www.international.gc.ca/americas-ameriques/statement-lima-declaration-2017-10-26.aspx?lang=eng>

On September 15, 2017, Canada announced the appointment of Professor Irwin Cotler to a panel of independent international experts that will examine evidence collected on possible crimes against humanity in Venezuela. Canada also supports in-country programming that assists civil society and engagement with democratic actors and human rights defenders.

Canada's actions join those of the international community in increasing pressure on the Maduro regime to restore democratic order. Collective pressure (both through Lima Group declarations and bilateral actions such as Canada's and the US' targeted sanctions) is credited with bringing the government of Venezuela to the table for talks with the opposition..

Canada is committed to defending democracy and human rights around the world and stands in solidarity with the people of Venezuela as they struggle to restore democracy in their country.

For details and background on the sanctions:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/09/canada\\_imposes\\_sanctions\\_on\\_maduro\\_regime\\_in\\_venezuela.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/09/canada_imposes_sanctions_on_maduro_regime_in_venezuela.html)