

***PERMANENT MISSION OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OAS***

OAS.- II.2.E8.D-OAS.16-386

**The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Organization of American States** extends its very sincere greetings to the Honorable Chair of the Permanent Council, availing itself of this opportunity to forward **Official Communiqué from the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, dated 31 May 2016**, rejecting the petition presented by the Secretary General of the OAS against Venezuela.

The Mission requests that the aforementioned Communiqué be **translated into the official languages** of the OAS and **distributed immediately** to all the Permanent Missions. A request is further made to have it **published on the official webpage** of the Organization of American States.

**The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Organization of American States** takes this opportunity to reiterate to the Honorable Chair of the Permanent Council the assurances of its highest and most distinguished consideration.

[Stamp with signature:

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela]

Washington, DC, May 31, 2016

To the Honorable  
**Chair of the Permanent Council  
Organization of American States**  
Washington, DC -

**Venezuela Categorically Rejects the Petition of the Secretary General of the OAS**

**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
MINISTRY OF PEOPLE'S POWER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMUNIQUÉ**

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically rejects the petition presented by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro, which falsely endeavors to invoke Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

The Secretary General is infringing Venezuela's legal and constitutional order by conferring unto himself supranational powers, and is in breach of the OAS Charter, specifically Article 118 thereof.

Venezuela condemns the actions taken outside of his purview by Mr. Luis Almagro as Secretary General of the OAS, including overreach of his functions and abuse of power, which hinder the proper functioning [of the Organization] pursuant to Article 116, running counter to the principles and purposes established in the Charter of this Organization.

Luis Almagro has aligned himself, without any scruples or ethics whatsoever, with coup supporters and violent and anti-democratic sectors that, with the support of international interventionist forces, are pushing for the overthrow of the legitimate and constitutional government of President Nicolás Maduro Moros.

Almagro is a leading figure in the ongoing and systematic efforts of imperial powers and their local operators to concoct falsehoods about Venezuela, the only purpose of which is to provide justification for foreign intervention, including military intervention, to seize control of the vast natural resources we have in our Nation.

We are alerting the world to the fact that there is once again a coup underway that seeks to undermine the sovereign will of our people.

We call upon the sovereign peoples and governments, particularly those of the countries of the South, to condemn this renewed attempt to destroy Bolivarian constitutional democracy, and the achievements it has made in the area of human rights, initiated by our Supreme Leader Hugo Chávez, and to explicitly state their support for our people at this crucial juncture in history for independence and liberty.

Today, Venezuela is a model of sovereignty and self-determination. The imperialists and their local agents are endeavoring to tear down this insurmountable wall of sovereign dignity, built upon the invincible historic power of our Liberators.

We join Simon Bolivar, Father of our Nation, in proclaiming:  
"LOVE OF COUNTRY SHALL PREVAIL"

Caracas, May 31, 2016