



Regarding United States Action in Venezuela

January 5, 2026

In recent days, the Trump Administration has demonstrated again its disregard for international law, violating the U.N. Charter's prohibition on the use of force by attacking Venezuela and abducting Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores.

In the process, the Administration has also violated United States law, which at a minimum requires consultation with members of Congress before involving U.S. armed forces in attacks like the one the world has just witnessed.

Nicolás Maduro unlawfully claimed power after losing his country's most recent election. He has exacted untold brutality and suffering on the people of Venezuela. But this does not justify the Trump Administration's unlawful actions.

The Society will continue to educate Americans—including members of the Administration and of Congress—as to the responsibility of the United States to act consistent with, and to prevent further violations of, international law.

The aspiration of the Venezuelan people for a return of democracy is commendable and must be respected. But democracy in Venezuela should not be, and is unlikely to be, advanced through the abdication of respect for international law.

Michael D. Cooper, Executive Director & Executive Vice President

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