



Security Council

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Letter dated 6 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you to denounce several dangerous actions that undermine the peace and security of both Venezuela and the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Such actions, based on their seriousness, shall be listed in the following order: first, the threat by the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, regarding the imminent imposition of an illegal naval blockade and a quarantine against our nation; second, the hostile and illegal incursions by United States military aircraft within the flight information region of Venezuela; and third, the illegal incursion of a United States military ship into the jurisdictional waters of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The three actions have one thing in common: they all precipitate tensions between the two countries in order to justify a large-scale military intervention against our nation. These are planned provocations that threaten peace and demand a response from the United Nations Security Council.

On 1 August 2019, the following exchange took place between a journalist and President Trump: “*Are you considering a blockade or quarantine against Venezuela, due to the intervention of Russia, China and Iran?*” To which he replied “*Yes, I am.*” This statement by itself represents a serious threat to use force that endangers regional peace. Blockades are acts of war and, without the express authorization of the Security Council, they are a serious breach of peace and constitute an aggression. The United States Government has no justification, factual or legal, for conducting this military action that would have devastating consequences on our people.

A naval blockade is a means of force established in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, “*Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression.*” Article 42 specifically states that:

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

It is therefore necessary that the Security Council answer the following questions: When did the Council approve such actions? When did the Council determine that Venezuela is a threat to peace, or that it broke the peace or committed acts of aggression? It is clear that none of the assumptions for such a serious action



exist and none of the legal requirements have been met. On the contrary, we are facing a situation in which the aggression and violation of the Charter is perpetrated by a permanent member of the Security Council, in view of the entire world with utter impunity. This situation must be corrected by the Security Council itself, since any threat and action by the United States against Venezuela is illegal and criminal and potentially catastrophic for the civilian population.

The second action listed herein has to do with the increasing number of incursions by United States military aircraft into the flight information region of Venezuela, with the capacity for electronic espionage, without prior notice and without informing their motives, thus endangering international civil aviation security.

According to international regulations, any aircraft that travels through international airspace must report the reason, route and technical characteristics of the flight to the authorities of the corresponding flight information region. United States military aircraft have expressly refused to comply with these regulations, deliberately jeopardizing free and safe air traffic, thus hampering Venezuela's ability to exercise effective and safe control of its flight information region.

On 29 July 2019, the Commander of the Southern Command of the United States of America, Admiral Craig Faller, tried to conceal from the media the dangerous breach of international regulations by denying the accusations by the Venezuelan Government with insults. However, he acknowledged that the raids have occurred. The aggressive and tendentious nature of his statements indicates that it is a deliberate act of military and political provocation, as can be read in his statement below:

Maduro's lies and false narrative spread throughout the world and unfortunately that devastated all affected people. Our forces, our operations in this hemisphere, have operated in international airspace in international waters in accordance with recognized flight safety standards.

So, whatever Maduro is saying agrees with all the other lies and false stories he is preaching, and unfortunately what he and his henchmen use is the mafia as a regime that turns its back on the people. We will continue, the United States of America, our army, our navy, will continue to fly and operate wherever international standards apply, and that includes around Venezuela, South America and around the world.

The central theme of our complaint is precisely that United States military aircraft are not complying with international regulations, as they refuse to have contact with the authorities of the flight information region of Venezuela.

The intention of destabilizing the democratic institutions of Venezuela is even clearer when Admiral Faller himself links his spy flight programme to the internal political situation of our country, announcing that he is prepared to use military force as soon as a sector of the Venezuelan political opposition asks for it, in correspondence with President Trump's orders, as can be read below:

Anything that the legitimate government requests would be a political decision of our leaders here in the United States, based on that decision, we will be prepared to support it. All threats to this hemisphere such as drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of all kinds, terrorists who threaten Colombian neighbors, FARC dissidents, and all of them, benefit directly from Maduro's leadership and anarchy in Venezuela. Venezuela is, in fact, a lawless region that has allowed threats to emanate, accelerate, and unfortunately impact the entire hemisphere.¹

¹ See www.noticierodigital.com/2019/07/jefe-del-comando-sur-apoyaremos-cualquier-decision-tome-guaido/.

This is a military invasion to impose a coup d'état in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, against Article 2.4, which states the following:

All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

The United States Government is clearly violating the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by intervening in the sovereign affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, threatening to violate our territorial integrity in order to alter both internal and regional peace and using military force to impose its domination over our people.

So far in 2019, the Southern Command, which is the armed branch of the United States Government in South America and the Caribbean, has made 55 incursions into the flight information region of Venezuela, disregarding international regulations, all for espionage, recognition and electronic interception purposes (see annex).

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has denounced these incursions on previous occasions through the International Civil Aviation Organization, the body responsible for ensuring compliance with aeronautical regulations. However, the United States Government refuses to recognize its responsibility for the transgressions. Even worse, the United States Government has increased the frequency of the incursions, as well as the risk of an incident that we all have an obligation to avoid. This reckless behaviour, together with statements by United States senior officials on the matter, demonstrate that it is not an isolated issue of a technical nature, but a plan to increase aggression against Venezuela.

The third action listed herein relates to the intention of the United States Government to provoke an incident in the jurisdictional waters of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through the use of military ships. As in the previous case, it is not a mistake, a technical issue or an anti-drug operation as the media has tried to convey. It is actually a political-military operation the objective of which is to try to bend the political decisions of the Venezuelan Government in favour of the interests of the United States Government. It is a military coercion operation, as was recognized by United States Government officials in the *Washington Post*, on 8 May 2019, when after the failure of the coup d'état that they had planned in Venezuela on 30 April 30, they restated the pressure strategy with tactics like the following:

Officials said the options under discussion while Maduro is still in power include sending additional military assets to the region (...) and more forward-leaning options include sending Navy ships to waters off Venezuela as a show of force.

Clearly this is a political-military plan, part of a major operation to destabilize the Venezuelan Government. On 8 May, a United States Coast Guard vessel, the *USCGC James*, entered without authorization, and in a hostile manner, into the exclusive economic zone of Venezuela, approaching the nearest and main Venezuelan port, just 14 nautical miles away from Caracas, Venezuela's capital city. As a result, the *USCGC James* had to be escorted out of Venezuelan jurisdictional waters by the Venezuelan Navy.

The three above-mentioned incidents are enough evidence that further prove the general plan of aggression by President Trump against Venezuela, in frank transgression of international law. In this regard, we can only conclude that the Trump administration is a threat to international peace and security. We are facing an inadmissible situation in which a permanent member of the Security Council violates international norms that it is otherwise obliged to comply with and help other States to enforce. On the contrary, the United States Government demands that the rest of the Security Council and the international community endorse the abuses they commit

against other States Members of the United Nations. The United States Government believes that it is an exceptional country, exempt from complying with international law; this absurd belief is a danger to the rest of the world.

That is why we hereby ask the Security Council to investigate the recent threats against Venezuela, in accordance with the provisions of Article 34 of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides:

The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

In Venezuela, we reject the nightmare proposal of war by President Donald Trump and we urgently demand that this Security Council enforce the Charter of the United Nations, defend international law and maintain peace. In short, to stop the impending catastrophe of a world power that behaves like an outlaw State. That was the founding purpose of the United Nations and today it is more valid than ever.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 6 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Spanish]

Violations of the security of air operations in the flight information region of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Maiquetía flight information region)

2019

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
1	Violation of the security of air operations	9 January 2019	11.55	D-328	United States of America	12°38'19"N 064°15'01"W	Azimuth 350°, 98 nautical miles from Santiago Mariño International Airport on Isla Margarita, state of Nueva Esparta
2	Violation of the security of air operations	9 February 2019	12.30	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°42'38"N 067°41'09"W	Azimuth 341°, 133 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
3	Violation of the security of air operations	22 February 2019	9.40	RC-135V	United States of America	13°01'43"N 067°05'00"W	Azimuth 358°, 145 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
4	Violation of the security of air operations	22 February 2019	20.40	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°54'05"N 067°37'56"W	Azimuth 344°, 147 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
5	Violation of the security of air operations	23 February 2019	11.25	RC-135V	United States of America	12°38'44"N 067°37'44"W	Azimuth 342°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
6	Violation of the security of air operations	24 February 2019	19.20	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°32'55"N 067°39'37"W	Azimuth 335°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
7	Violation of the security of air operations	25 February 2019	16.08	RC-135V	United States of America	12°49'41"N 067°41'07"W	Azimuth 343°, 140 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
8	Violation of the security of air operations	26 February 2019	7.46	RC-135V	United States of America	12°52'55"N 067°40'02"W	Azimuth 342°, 142 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
9	Violation of the security of air operations	27 February 2019	11.50	RC-135V	United States of America	12°51'49"N 067°39'00"W	Azimuth 342°, 140 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
10	Violation of the security of air operations	6 March 2019	13.35	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'39"N 067°41'51"W	Azimuth 341°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
11	Violation of the security of air operations	8 March 2019	11.39	EP-3E	United States of America	12°34'22"N 067°57'51"W	Azimuth 340°, 126 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
12	Violation of the security of air operations	9 March 2019	15.32	EP-3E	United States of America	12°33'40"N 067°42'37"W	Azimuth 340°, 126 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
13	Violation of the security of air operations	10 March 2019	0.28	RC-135V	United States of America	12°38'15"N 067°42'19"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
14	Violation of the security of air operations	11 March 2019	11.13	EP-3E	United States of America	12°35'39"N 067°43'47"W	Azimuth 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
15	Violation of the security of air operations	12 March 2019	7.50	RC-135V	United States of America	12°59'04"N 067°37'14"W	Azimuth 345°, 149 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
16	Violation of the security of air operations	12 March 2019	14.30	EP-3E	United States of America	13°37'17"N 067°41'40"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
17	Violation of the security of air operations	12 March 2019	21.30	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°35'07"N 067°43'14"W	Azimuth 340°, 126 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
18	Violation of the security of air operations	13 March 2019	6.02	RC-135V	United States of America	13°35'18"N 067°30'28"W	Azimuth 350°, 183 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
19	Violation of the security of air operations	15 March 2019	8.29	RC-135V	United States of America	12°41'03"N 067°40'53"W	Azimuth 343°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
20	Violation of the security of air operations	15 March 2019	19.45	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°38'14"N 067°42'18"W	Azimuth 341°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
21	Violation of the security of air operations	17 March 2019	8.30	RC-135V	United States of America	12°36'01"N 067°40'41"W	Azimuth 341°, 122 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
22	Violation of the security of air operations	19 March 2019	10.13	RC-135V	United States of America	12°37'57"N 067°43'10"W	Azimuth 355°, 271 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
23	Violation of the security of air operations	21 March 2019	10.34	RC-135V	United States of America	12°44'40"N 067°40'36"W	Azimut 349°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
24	Violation of the security of air operations	27 March 2019	11.10	RC-135V	United States of America	12°39'26"N 067°41'41"W	Azimut 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
25	Violation of the security of air operations	29 March 2019	10.18	RC-135V	United States of America	12°43'56"N 067°41'07"W	Azimut 342°, 136 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
26	Violation of the security of air operations	31 March 2019	11.11	RC-135V	United States of America	12°37'40"N 067°40'05"W	Azimut 341°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
27	Violation of the security of air operations	1 May 2019	15.15	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'05"N 067°40'50"W	Azimut 342°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
28	Violation of the security of air operations	3 May 2019	10.54	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'11"N 067°41'00"W	Azimut 338°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
29	Violation of the security of air operations	6 May 2019	8.29	EP-3E	United States of America	12°36'45"N 067°43'05"W	Azimut 340°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
30	Violation of the security of air operations	8 May 2019	10.34	EP-3E	United States of America	12°51'07"N 067°38'02"W	Azimut 342°, 142 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
31	Violation of the security of air operations	13 May 2019	10.40	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'38"N 067°40'53"W	Azimut 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
32	Violation of the security of air operations	16 May 2019	11.46	EP-3E	United States of America	12°36'58"N 067°41'38"W	Azimut 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
33	Violation of the security of air operations	18 May 2019	9.28	EP-3E	United States of America	12°35'05"N 067°41'55"W	Azimut 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
34	Violation of the security of air operations	21 May 2019	13.55	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'09"N 067°43'10"W	Azimut 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
35	Violation of the security of air operations	29 May 2019	16.05	RC-135V	United States of America	13°00'10"N 067°35'56"W	Azimut 343°, 150 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
36	Violation of the security of air operations	30 May 2019	10.35	EP-3E	United States of America	12°37'27"N 067°41'44"W	Azimut 340°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
37	Violation of the security of air operations	31 May 2019	14.30	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'07"N 067°41'24"W	Azimut 342°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
38	Violation of the security of air operations	4 June 2019	11.08	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'36"N 067°41'40"W	Azimut 340°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
39	Violation of the security of air operations	5 June 2019	12.45	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°39'35"N 067°41'40"W	Azimuth 341°, 131 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
40	Violation of the security of air operations	8 June 2019	11.50	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'04"N 067°40'55"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
41	Violation of the security of air operations	14 June 2019	11.50	EP-3E	United States of America	12°28'53"N 067°44'02"W	Azimuth 338°, 122 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
42	Violation of the security of air operations	17 June 2019	11.09	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'28"N 067°41'35"W	Azimuth 340°, 135 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
43	Violation of the security of air operations	25 June 2019	11.05	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'01"N 067°42'16"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
44	Violation of the security of air operations	26 June 2019	13.50	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°48'30"N 067°40'08"W	Azimuth 343°, 140 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
45	Violation of the security of air operations	28 June 2019	11.02	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'08"N 067°42'23"W	Azimuth 341°, 131 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
46	Violation of the security of air operations	29 June 2019	14.18	EP-3E	United States of America	12°13'22"N 065°50'05"W	Azimuth 029°, 138 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
47	Violation of the security of air operations	2 July 2019	14.55	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°34'39"N 067°42'45"W	Azimuth 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
48	Violation of the security of air operations	5 July 2019	10.55	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'47"N 067°41'55"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
49	Violation of the security of air operations	11 July 2019	14.10	EP-3E	United States of America	12°40'57"N 067°42'58"W	Azimuth 340°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
50	Violation of the security of air operations	16 July 2019	11.03	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'51"N 067°41'00"W	Azimuth 324°, 135 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
51	Violation of the security of air operations	19 July 2019	10.46	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'20"N 067°41'52"W	Azimuth 341°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
52	Violation of the security of air operations	22 July 2019	11.02	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'19"N 067°40'31"W	Azimuth 340°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
53	Violation of the security of air operations	24 July 2019	12.55	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'20"N 067°41'52"W	Azimuth 341°, 131 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
54	Violation of the security of air operations	27 July 2019	10.58	EP-3E	United States of America	12°37'16"N 067°40'49"W	Azimuth 342°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
55	Violation of the security of air operations	31 July 2019	12.56	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'59"N 067°42'11"W	Azimut 341°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira