

RESOLUTION No. 24-195

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CONGRESSMAN MARIO DIAZ-BALART'S AND SENATOR MARCO RUBIO'S BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EDMUNDO GONZALEZ AS PRESIDENT ELECT OF VENEZUELA; CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN AND CONGRESS TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLERK; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, since Nicolas Maduro's assumption as president of Venezuela in 2013, following the death of Hugo Chavez, his autocratic rule has crippled the Venezuelan economy and silenced all forms of political dissent; and

WHEREAS, during the past decade, Nicolas Maduro has ruled with an iron fist, persecuting political opponents by subjecting them to arbitrary detentions, torture and extrajudicial murder; and

WHEREAS, Nicolas Maduro's despotic policies have forced millions of Venezuelans to flee their homeland in search of economic and political freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Doral (the "City") is home to the largest population of Venezuelan immigrants in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2024, after more than a decade of violent repression, more than a million Venezuelan's turned out to vote in the Venezuelan Presidential Elections; and

WHEREAS, prior to the election, Nicolas Maduro banned opposition leaders Maria Corina Machado, and Corina Yoris; and

WHEREAS, Nicolas Maduro stated prior to the election that he had no intention of accepting defeat or providing for a peaceful transition of power; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime currently holds more than two hundred and seventy (270) political prisoners and has conducted over fifteen thousand (15,000) politically motivated arrests throughout the past decade; and

WHEREAS, despite these torrid conditions, rendering the elections neither free nor fair, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia stepped forward to represent the opposition in the election for President; and

WHEREAS, according to independent observers, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia received an overwhelming seven million, one hundred nineteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-eight votes, or 67% of the total over Nicolas Maduro, who obtained only three million, two hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred nineteen votes or 30% of the total; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has issued arrest warrants for Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez on false criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime attempts to steal the July 2024 elections and silence the democratic will and desire of the Venezuelan people; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, accompanied by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, have introduced a bi-partisan Congressional Resolution denouncing Maduro's actions and recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as the

President-Elect of Venezuela, a copy of the Congressional Resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marco Rubio, accompanied by Senator Rick Scott and Dick Durbin have introduced a bi-partisan Congressional Resolution denouncing Maduro's actions and recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as the President-Elect of Venezuela, a copy of the Senate Resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Doral announces its adoption and support of Congressman Diaz-Balart's, bi-partisan Congressional Resolution and calls on the U.S. Government to demand that the Maduro regime immediately release all political prisoners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are confirmed, adopted, and incorporated herein and made part hereof by this reference.

Section 2. Adoption of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Wasserman-Shultz, Bi-Partisan Congressional Resolution Recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as Venezuela's President Elect. The Mayor and City Council of Doral adopt and provide their support to Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Wasserman-Shultz, Bi-Partisan Congressional Resolution and Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, and Dick Durbin's Bi-Partisan Senatorial Resolution Recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as Venezuela's lawful President Elect as enclosed herein as Exhibit "A" and "B."

Section 3. Urging President Joseph R. Biden and U.S. Congress to demand the release of Political Prisoners. The Mayor and City Council of Doral urge President

Biden and U.S. Congress to demand and take all actions necessary to seek the release of all Venezuelan political prisoners.

Section 4. Instructions to the City Clerk. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, and Senator Dick Durbin.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Councilman Rafael Pineyro.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilmember Cabral who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Puig-Corve and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Christi Fraga	Yes
Vice Mayor Oscar Puig-Corve	Yes
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	Yes
Councilman Rafael Pineyro	Yes
Councilwoman Maureen Porras	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14 day of August, 2024.




CHRISTI FRAGA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CONNIE DIAZ, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF DORAL ONLY:



LORENZO COBIELLA
GASTESI, LOPEZ & MESTRE, PLLC
CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBITS

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Standing in solidarity with the Venezuelan people and condemning Nicolás Maduro's attempt to steal the Venezuelan Presidential election.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Standing in solidarity with the Venezuelan people and condemning Nicolás Maduro's attempt to steal the Venezuelan Presidential election.

Whereas, on July 28, 2024, more than 11,000,000 Venezuelans turned out to vote in the Venezuelan Presidential election;

Whereas this election was preceded by over a decade of violent repression and persecution of political opponents, elimination of checks and balances, capture of state institutions, extrajudicial murder, arbitrary detention and torture, curtailed freedom of expression and the press, and systematic abuse of power by Nicolás Maduro and his regime;

Whereas the vast majority of the more than 8,000,000 Venezuelan citizens who have fled Venezuela under Maduro's reign were denied their right to vote in this election due to excessive and arbitrary legal requirements to register;

Whereas opposition leaders María Corina Machado and Corina Yoris were banned from running for President by the regime-controlled supreme court despite Machado winning the opposition Presidential primary with over 90 percent of the vote;

Whereas the Maduro regime barred several groups of independent electoral observers from entering the country to monitor the election;

Whereas the Maduro regime has arbitrarily detained, forcefully disappeared, or forced into exile thousands of opposition political organizers, activists, human rights defenders, and others perceived to be critical of Maduro's illegitimate rule in Venezuela;

Whereas, according to Foro Penal, the Maduro regime currently holds more than 270 political prisoners and has conducted over 15,000 politically motivated arbitrary arrests over the last decade in Venezuela;

Whereas Nicolás Maduro stated prior to the election that he had no intention of accepting defeat or providing for a peaceful transition of power;

Whereas the United States determined that these arbitrary and unconstitutional actions by the Maduro regime violated the terms of the Barbados Agreement, which provided for certain electoral conditions to be met and was signed by the regime and the opposition democratic Unitary Platform;

Whereas despite these conditions rendering the election neither free nor fair, Edmundo González Urrutia stepped forward to represent the opposition in the election for President in order to provide an alternative to Maduro's tyranny;

Whereas, according to the opposition, official tally sheets from 24,384 voting centers in Venezuela, representing 81.21 percent of the total estimated vote count, were collected by observers;

Whereas the results from these tally sheets appear to demonstrate an overwhelming victory for González, who received 7,119,768 votes or 67 percent of the total, over Maduro, who received only 3,225,819 votes or 30 percent of the total;

Whereas the margin of victory for González is such that the remaining 18.79 percent of uncounted votes would not be sufficient to reverse the result;

Whereas the regime-controlled National Electoral Council refused to reveal the votes and instead announced that Maduro had prevailed in the election while failing to announce disaggregated results by polling station;

Whereas the announced results are not evidenced with any electoral data and appear to represent a blatant electoral fraud at the behest of Maduro;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who gathered to peacefully protest the Maduro regime's attempt to steal the election were met with arbitrary force and violent repression that has left hundreds arrested, at least 16 dead, and hundreds injured;

Whereas the Maduro regime has issued arrest warrants for María Corina Machado and Edmundo González on false criminal charges; and

Whereas the United States was joined by 16 Latin American and Caribbean nations, the European Union, and several other democratic governments in raising concerns about this apparent electoral fraud, requesting the release of full, transparent, and detailed voting data, and demanding that the Maduro regime honor the will of the Venezuelan people: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes Edmundo González Urrutia as
3 the President-elect of Venezuela;

4 (2) expresses solidarity with the Venezuelan
5 people and Venezuelan Americans in their aspira-
6 tions for a democratic future for Venezuela;

7 (3) commends Venezuela’s pro-democracy oppo-
8 sition movement for their pursuit of a peaceful tran-
9 sition of power through electoral means despite the
10 regime’s actions over the last year that rendered the
11 election neither free nor fair;

12 (4) condemns the Maduro regime’s cowardly
13 and destructive attempt to steal the election and un-
14 dermine the will of the Venezuelan people;

15 (5) denounces the Maduro regime’s violent re-
16 pression of Venezuelans peacefully demonstrating in
17 support of democracy;

1 (6) affirms that the will of the voters must be
2 respected and a peaceful transition of power initi-
3 ated;

4 (7) calls for the imposition of new sanctions on
5 the Maduro regime as well as sanctions targeting in-
6 dividuals and entities involved in subverting democ-
7 racy and repressing the opposition, including foreign
8 governments and non-state entities assisting the re-
9 gime's election subversion and repression; and

10 (8) calls on the United States Government and
11 all democratic nations to reject Maduro's fraudulent
12 claim of victory and employ all available diplomatic
13 and economic means to pressure the Maduro regime
14 to honor the true election results.

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Recognizing Edmundo González Urrutia as the President-elect of Venezuela.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Edmundo González Urrutia as the President-elect of Venezuela.

Whereas, on July 28, 2024, Venezuela held Presidential elections, the first in the country since the widely discredited Presidential election in 2018;

Whereas the elections were neither free nor fair, and the process lacked respect for fundamental freedoms, with the Carter Center stating, “Venezuela’s 2024 presidential election did not meet international standards of electoral integrity and cannot be considered democratic.”;

Whereas President Joe Biden has publicly stated the need for an immediate release of full, transparent, and detailed voting data by Venezuelan authorities;

Whereas the data released by the vast majority of polling centers showed that the leader of the opposition, Edmundo González Urrutia, won with an overwhelming number of votes;

Whereas the Venezuelan people have demonstrated their desire to live in peace and political freedom, represented by a democratically elected President of their choosing;

Whereas many international organizations and heads of state have voiced concern with the lack of transparency throughout the electoral process; and

Whereas numerous countries have either called for transparency in the tally of election results or have rejected the results outright based on clear evidence of fraud, including Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, and Uruguay: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the victory of Edmundo González
3 Urrutia in the Presidential election in Venezuela
4 held on July 28, 2024;

5 (2) notes that such recognition is widely shared
6 around the world;

7 (3) asserts that the victory of Edmundo
8 González marks the return of a democratically elect-
9 ed leader at the national level in Venezuela; and

1 (4) stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan
2 people in their democratic aspirations to live freely
3 without repression.