

Study Guide



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United Nation's
Security Council



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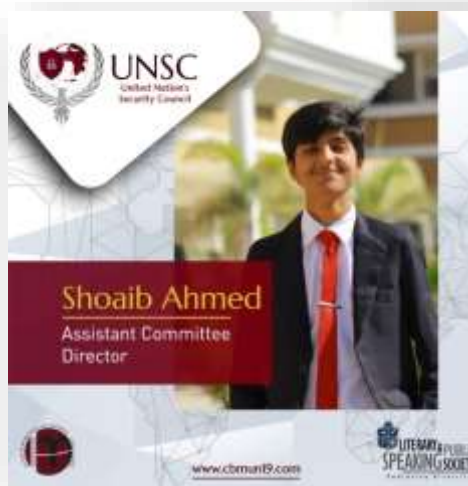


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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	4
Mandate	4
Maintaining Peace and Security.....	4
TOPIC: THE VENENZUELAN CRISIS	5
Introduction.....	5
History.....	6
DEFINATION OF KEY TERMS.....	8
MADURO ADMISTRATION	9
JUAN GUAIDÓ.....	9
HYPER INFLATION IN VENENZUELA	10
Inflation.....	12
Corruption	12
Health Assistance	13
Oil Output	13
Shortages	13
Human Rights	14
Refugees.....	14
Protests.....	14
UN INVOLVEMENT	16
BLOC POSITION.....	16
QARMA	18
BIBLOGRAPHY.....	19



INTRODUCTION

Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. There are 5 permanent members of the Security Council: The People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. These states have the power of veto in the voting process. It enables them to prevent the adoption of any —substantive resolution, as well as to decide which resolutions and topics are —substantive. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

1. Mandate

The UN Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes first is to maintain international peace and security, secondly, to develop friendly relations among nations, thirdly, to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights and Lastly, to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

2. Maintaining Peace and Security

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may set forth principles for such an agreement and undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases, moreover, it can also dispatch a mission; appoint special envoys; or request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute. When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict including dispatching of military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans, severance of diplomatic relations, blockade or even collective military action. A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices



condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

TOPIC AREA: THE VENEZUELAN CRISIS



TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Venezuela is in the midst of a very severe crisis, which is constantly getting worse. The country is suffering the worst economic crisis in its history. It relies heavily on revenue from oil but poverty persists; the numbers speak for themselves. By IMF figures, it has the world's worst negative growth rate (-8%), and the worst inflation rate (482%). The unemployment rate is 17% but is expected to climb to near 30% in the coming few years. Venezuela was supposed to pay back \$15.8 billion in debt between 2015 and the end of 2016, but the country has only \$15.2 billion in foreign reserves to make good on that. The economic crisis entails shortage of both food and water; food is now being transported under armed guard, basic necessities are being rationed and water is arriving in capital city Caracas once a week. Water shortage provoked energy shortage, since without enough water the hydroelectric dam, that normally provided 60% of the nation's power demand cannot run into full capacity. As a result, the government shuts down electricity for hours every day

Along with the economic crisis comes the constantly growing anti-government sentiment that boosts the opposition's efforts to oust the president Nicolas Maduro, by calling for a recall referendum¹. People are dissatisfied and angry (just over one in four Venezuelans approves of President Nicolas Maduro's governance), since 7.3 percent of Venezuelan households are classified as living in "extreme poverty" and 40 percent of people working in Venezuela make the minimum wage or less, meaning that they can only afford a week's worth of



groceries per month. Venezuela suffers from a high crime rate of 90 per 100,000 residents, according to the Venezuelan Violence Observatory (Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia-OVV)² and is listed as the 9th most corrupt country in the world, according to Transparency International.³ As a result, in February 2014 political and economic dissatisfaction caused a wave of anti-government protests across Venezuela, with an average of 17 demonstrations per day, according to the Venezuelan Observatory for Social Conflict. Not surprisingly, in recent years Venezuela has suffered a 'brain drain' as many wealthy people have fled abroad. So to sum up, Venezuela is in a food, health and energy crisis and President Nicolas Maduro is facing the tough challenges of the situation since he took office in 2013. In 2016 the situation got worse; in January the government declared a 60-day economic emergency, followed by currency devaluation, first petrol price rise in 20 years and establishment of two-day working week for public sector workers, resulting at thousands of people protesting in Caracas, accusing him for the economic crisis and the political unrest and calling for his removal from office

HISTORY

The economy of Venezuela has experienced a “boom and bust” cycle throughout the years, meaning that it went from its peak to a sudden downfall in a short period of time. A factor that contributed to this situation was the fact that Venezuela’s whole economy was based on oil exports. In the 1970s, with oil exports being extremely high, the country had the highest rate of growth and the lowest rate of inequality in the world and government spending increased at unprecedented levels. Venezuela was the richest country in Latin America. In 1973, the oil crisis and OPEC oil embargo enabled Venezuela to increase its oil exports even more. The newly elected president, Carlos Andrés Perez, talked about his vision of Venezuela’s economy becoming developed in a short time period due to its oil reserves. His project, “La Gran Venezuela”, would fight poverty by controlling prices and increasing incomes. In 1976 he completed his plan by nationalizing Venezuela’s oil industry and creating Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA).

However, in the 1980s, world oil prices fell extremely low, leading to a loss in the value of Venezuelan exports and a current account deficit in the balance of trade of Venezuela. Consequently, national debts were created during that period due to the low value of exports in comparison to the value of imports. The size of the debts was also increased due to the fact that the oil industry had been nationalized, which increased the amount of government spending in the country. In 1983 the Venezuelan currency was devalued by the government in an attempt to increase revenues by making exports cheaper to foreigners. The depreciation of the currency led to a fall in the living standards of Venezuelans, as imports became more expensive for them and purchasing power fell by 75 percent.

In the 1990s, Hugo Chávez, who took over after the elections in 1998 and created the Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement-200, managed to bring the economy back on its feet and increase economic growth. Later on, world oil prices increased from \$10 a barrel in 1999 to \$140 in 2008. With a high government budget, Chávez decided to concentrate government spending on education, health care and social services. From 1999 to 2011, during the oil boom, standards of living increased for Venezuelans. Unemployment fell by 14.5 percent to 7.6 percent, while GDP per capita increased from \$4,105 in 1999 to \$10,810 in 2011. Even though the economy seems to be functioning excellently, that was not quite the case. Chávez did not concentrate on investing abroad to ensure long-term



revenues for the country when oil prices would fall again and instead focused on, forcing currency exchange controls and establishing price controls on basic goods. He also went on to nationalize about 1,147 private companies, that belonged to sectors such as oil, tourism, heavy industry, power and telecommunications. Thus, the economy turned from a free market one towards almost a central one, where the government is in charge of the allocation of almost all goods and services in the market. This resulted in inefficient production from the public sector and loss of investors from abroad. Moreover, the currency controls that were imposed made imports of raw materials almost impossible for many large private companies and so many of them have left the country.

Date	Events
1908-1935	Venezuela becomes the world's biggest oil exporter.
1945	Democracy is established with a coup, after many years of military authoritarianism.
1973	Venezuela experiences an oil boom which gives its economy a boost. The oil industry is nationalized
1983	Hugo Chavez establishes the leftist Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement-200, which has as goal a unified Latin America and criticizes the Venezuelan government. It also holds an anti-US view.
1989	Carlos Andres Perez is makes economic formations that lead to protests, with many being killed.
1992	Two coup attempts are made by Hugo Chavez and his group, who support Bolivarianism.
1998	Chavez is elected president and he brings the "Bolivarian Revolution"
2001	President Chavez passes 49 laws that redistribute land and wealth, giving the state most of the political and economic power.
2005	Military members loyal to Chavez take government positions.
2007	Key energy and telecommunication private companies are nationalized.
2010	Chavez lowers the value of the Venezuelan bolivar to help the economy regain its strength.
2013	Hugo Chavez dies at age 58. He is succeeded by Nicolas Maduro
2014	Cuts in government spending due to low oil prices
2016 February	Maduro announces economic crisis and his plan to get out of it by reducing the value of the currency
2016 September	Huge protest in Caracas, where people are demanding that Maduro leaves his presidential position.
2018 May	Nicolas Maduro wins again the presidential election. The



	results are contested by the opposition on grounds of being undemocratic
2018 August	Venezuela slashes five zeros from its old currency, renaming it the Sovereign Bolivar and tying it to a state-backed cryptocurrency in a bid to tackle rampant hyperinflation

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

The United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV)

Socialist political party in Venezuela which resulted from the fusion of some of the political and social forces that support the Bolivarian Revolution led by the late president Hugo Chavez.

Chavism (CHAVISMO)

Left-wing political ideology that has grown to be described as a cult that is based on the ideas, programs and government style associated with the former president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez.

Bolivarianism

Bolivarianism is a movement that follows the ideas of Simón Bolívar, who liberated Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Ecuador from Spanish Imperialism. “At its core Bolivarianism is a mix of pan-American, socialist, and democratic ideals fixed against the injustices of imperialism, inequality, and corruption so common to the Latin nations.”¹ Hugo Chávez was a great supporter of the movement and he was the one who created the Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement-200, which had certain positive effects on the economy of Venezuela.

PDVSA - Petróleos de Venezuela (Spanish: Petroleum of Venezuela)

PDVSA is the Venezuelan state-owned oil and natural gas company. It has activities in exploration, production, refining and exporting oil as well as exploration and production of natural gas.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organisation of 14 nations, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela)



MADURO ADMINISTRATION

Following Chávez's death and the election of his successor Nicolás Maduro in 2013, shortage rates continued to increase and reached a record high of 28% in February 2014. Venezuela stopped reporting its shortage data after the rate stood at 28%. In January 2015, the hashtag "AnaquelesVaciosEnVenezuela" or "EmptyShelvesInVenezuela" was the number one trending topic on Twitter in Venezuela for two days, with Venezuelans posting pictures of empty store shelves around the country.

By May 2016, experts feared that Venezuela was possibly entering a period of famine, with President Maduro encouraging Venezuelans to cultivate their own food. In January 2016, it was estimated, that the food scarcity rate was between 50% and 80%. The newly elected National Assembly, composed primarily of opposition delegates, "declared a national food crisis" a month later in February 2016. Many Venezuelans then began to suffer from shortages of common utilities, such as electricity and water, because of the prolonged period of mishandling and corruption under the Maduro government. By July 2016, Venezuelans desperate for food moved to the Colombian border. Over 500 women stormed past Venezuelan National Guard troops into Colombia looking for food on 6 July 2016. By 10 July 2016, Venezuela temporarily opened its borders, which had been closed since August 2015, for 12 hours. Over 35,000 Venezuelans traveled to Colombia for food within that period. Between 16–17 July, over 123,000 Venezuelans crossed into Colombia seeking food. The Colombian government set up what it called a "humanitarian corridor" to welcome Venezuelans. Around the same time in July 2016, reports of desperate Venezuelans rummaging through garbage for food appeared.

By early 2017, priests began telling Venezuelans to label their garbage so needy individuals could feed on their refuse. In March 2017, despite having the largest oil reserves in the world, some regions of Venezuela began having shortages of gasoline with reports that fuel imports had begun. The government continued to deny there was a "humanitarian crisis", instead saying there was simply "a decrease in the availability of food". Yván Gil, vice minister of relations to the European Union, said that an "economic war" had affected "the availability of food, but [Venezuela is] still within the thresholds set by the UN". Following targeted sanctions by the United States government in late-2017 due to the controversial 2017 Constituent National Assembly, the Maduro government began to blame the United States for shortages. It enacted "Plan Rabbit", encouraging Venezuelans to breed rabbits, slaughter them and eat their meat.

By early 2018, gasoline shortages began to spread, with hundreds of drivers in some regions waiting in lines to fill their tanks, sleeping overnight in their vehicles during the process. In a September 2018 Meganalysis survey, nearly one-third of Venezuelans stated they consumed only one meal per day while 78.6 percent of respondents said they had issues with food security.

JUAN GUAIDÓ



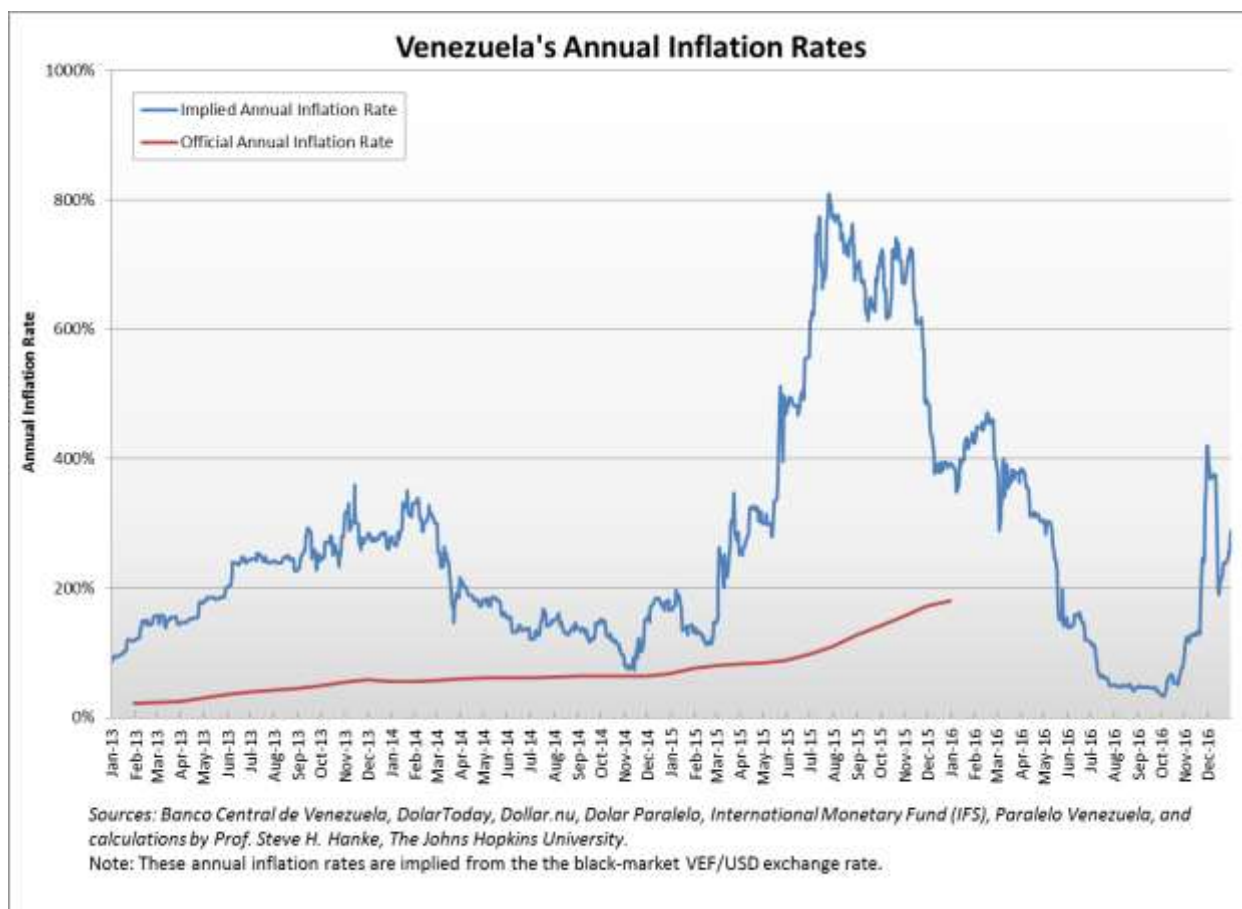
On 23 January 2019, Guaidó took a public oath to serve as interim President of Venezuela. The inauguration of Nicolás Maduro as President of Venezuela earlier that month was contested and the National Assembly considered the position vacant; under the Constitution of Venezuela, if the office of President of the Republic becomes vacant, the President of the National Assembly may serve as interim president until elections can be held. Guaidó's claim to the interim presidency has been recognized by many governments across the Americas and the world, with some calls for dialogue to resolve the dispute. The pro-Maduro Supreme Tribunal of Justice (TSJ) rejected the National Assembly decisions, while the Supreme Tribunal of Justice of Venezuela in exile in Panama welcomed him as interim president.

As of 1 February 2019, Guaidó has announced a National Assembly-approved amnesty law for police, military and authorities who help restore constitutional order; announced a sector-by-sector plan, called Plan País, for the revitalization of the country considering the crisis in Venezuela, with attention to the most poverty-stricken; secured a promise of humanitarian aid from the US and announced plans for international shipments and convoys; gained control of Venezuela's US financial accounts and worked to secure other foreign assets; appointed diplomats and ambassadors; gained the endorsement as interim president by the European Parliament; and given interviews and attended packed public assemblies. He is the subject of a government probe, was prohibited from leaving the country, his assets were frozen, and his family has been intimidated. The US levied further sanctions on PDVSA (Venezuela's petroleum company); Maduro retains control of most of the government, PDVSA, and top military command, and accuses the US of orchestrating a coup with Guaidó.

HYPERINFLATION IN VENEZUELA

The hyperinflation in Venezuela has a fairly standard cause. Venezuela owes the rest of the world more than 50 billion dollars.

If it owed 50 billion bolivars this would not be a problem because the Venezuelan government can create as many bolivars as it needs to pay off its bolivar debts. While that might cause inflation, the inflation would reduce the value of any remaining debt. Hence the inflation would not become hyperinflation because the inflation would destroy the debt.



Unfortunately for Venezuela the same is not true when the debt is a dollar debt. Venezuela cannot create dollars. When the price of oil was high, it was able to earn the needed dollars to service its debt. However when the oil price dropped, it could no longer earn enough dollars to service the debt. Consequently it had to create bolivars to buy the dollars on the foreign exchange markets in order to pay its debt.

This made bolivars lose value on the foreign exchange markets (inflation in other words) because no one needed that many bolivars but it had no effect on the Venezuelan debt because that debt is not a bolivar debt. Hence, why the bolivar inflation has become a bolivar hyperinflation.

Revolutionizing Discourse, Reinstating Diplomacy.

The hyperinflation has been a particular problem for Venezuela because the country is dependent on food imports to feed all of its people and (believe it or not) energy imports because it produces a lot of crude oil but cannot refine it. This means that it has to keep on printing bolivars to buy dollars even though it has defaulted on its dollar debts. That is why the inflation remains despite Venezuela's default on its dollar debt.



Inflation

The situation is made worse by inflation that has exceeded 1600% in just the past year. The Venezuelan government has tried to curb soaring prices by inserting price controls, but this decision has only increased underground economic activity and led to the disappearance of the supply of many goods completely. President Maduro made two crucial decisions regarding the government's finances. First, he refused to cut the government budget. Second, he refused to widen the tax base or raise taxes. This caused the deficit to skyrocket, leading to Venezuela printing massive amounts of money to fund the now unfunded programs. Fearing the political ramifications of cutting the budget or raising taxes, increased printing has led to mass inflation.

Corruption

Corruption is another issue that has propelled the economic recession. Officials have embezzled billions of dollars, earning Venezuela the title of the most corrupt country in Latin America, a tough title to win. Venezuela has always had a problem with corruption. In 1824, Simon Bolivar established the death penalty for “all public officers guilty of stealing 10 pesos or more”. In 1875, Venezuelan finance ministers said that “Venezuela does not know to whom it owes money and how much,” and a century later, the General Comptroller called the same financial system “totally out of control”. With high oil prices in the 1970s, the government found itself with immense wealth. They poured money into 300 non-profitable state-owned companies with insufficient oversight and regulation enforcement, allowing corruption to flourish. Before this, only the top officials of Venezuela could steal from the country with impunity. Now with more departments and state-enterprises than ever, public funds could be abused at every level. In 1997, an NGO estimated that over 100 billion dollars of government money was either stolen or mismanaged since the 1970s.

Venezuela continued these malpractices under the Chavez Administration. While billions of dollars are missing from collected taxes, it is difficult to calculate an exact figure because Venezuela rarely discloses its public financial records to scrutiny. This lack of transparency has not covered up the half of 22 billion dollar transfers during Chavez’s presidency that are unaccounted for in foreign accounts. Chavez’s administration was corrupted because of his corruption directly, his policies to ensure loyalty and his “mediocre management team working without transparency or accountability”.

Anyone who tried to expose Chavez’s corruption were jailed or silenced. The government wasted billions on providing free oil transfers to Cuba, buying weapons, and propping up failing businesses, and its officials, around 1,500 party elites, have stolen 95 billion dollars under Chavez’s watch. Corruption has not slowed down since Chavez’s death. While Maduro may claim to be tough on corruption, it is not clear what arrests are for justice and what are for consolidating power and jailing political and economic opponents. Luisa Ortega, who was the former chief prosecutor in Venezuela was fired and then fled for her life after she accused



the President and other government officials of corruption. After her declaration, an arrest warrant was put out for her husband on charges of extortion. This issue of corruption must be addressed, or else Venezuela cannot hope to progress into a modern, stable, and transparent economy.

Shortages

Since the 1990s, food production in Venezuela has dropped continuously, with Hugo Chávez's Bolivarian government beginning to rely upon imported food using the country's then-large oil profits.

In 2003, the government created CADIVI (now CENCOEX), a currency control board charged with handling foreign exchange procedures to control capital flight by placing currency limits on individuals. Such currency controls have been determined to be the cause of shortages according to many economists and other experts. However, the Venezuelan government blamed other entities such as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and smugglers for shortages, and has stated that an "economic war" had been declared on Venezuela.

During the presidency of Chávez, Venezuela faced occasional shortages owing to high inflation and government financial inefficiencies. In 2005, Chávez announced the initiation of Venezuela's own "great leap forward", following the example of Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward. An increase in shortages began to occur that year as 5% of items became unavailable according to the Central Bank of Venezuela. In January 2008, 24.7% of goods were reported to be unavailable in Venezuela, with the scarcity of goods remaining high until May 2008, when there was a shortage of 16.3% of goods. However, shortages increased again in January 2012 to nearly the same rate as in 2008

Health Assistance

The economic crisis is also hitting Venezuela's public health system the hardest. In the country's public hospitals, medicine and equipment are increasingly not available.

"Most of the time patients die because their families are out of the hospital looking for the treatments and they don't come at a time we can use the treatment, when they bring the treatment, the patient's already dying," Orfram Moreno, a doctor working in a public hospital in Merida, Al Jazeera.

Oil Output:

As Venezuela's energy sector struggles to pump enough crude oil to meet the country's OPEC output target, rival producers have started to plug the gap, according to OPEC and industry sources and US government data.



The South American country's oil output hit a 28-year low in October as state-owned oil giant PDVSA struggled to find the funds to drill wells, maintain oilfields and keep pipelines and ports working.

Venezuela's oil production, which has been falling by about 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) a month since last year, is on track to fall by at least 250,000 bpd in 2017, according to numbers reported to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as US sanctions and a lack of capital hobble operations.

Some OPEC members expect the fall to accelerate in 2018, reaching at least 300,000 bpd.

Opec's production quota system has been largely adhered to, but that alone cannot account for a \$15 rise in prices. The real change has been the sharp reduction in output in Venezuela as a result of its political and economic crisis. At current levels, output is less than half what it was when Hugo Chávez became president in 1999. In 2003, Chavez replaced the professional management of PDVSA, the state oil company, with political appointees. The resulting lack of expertise and a lack of investment in new fields has produced a gradual decline in production.

Human Rights

From a humanitarian perspective, Venezuela is clearly in need of assistance. As a consequence of the strict restrictions in imports and inflation, food and medicine's prices are higher than ever. Most hospitals don't even have supplies to operate, therefore the hundreds of injured people by the authorities most likely die. Human Rights Watch has asked to declare Venezuela in a humanitarian crisis but the CEPAL opposed this proposal because they think this doesn't match the reality this country is living. Apart from the severe shortages in medicine and food, that generates protests that are suppressed with violence, there are also problems in prisons, impunity to police that harass protestors, human rights defenders, and independent media. People struggle to find basic needs; there is little food, really high prices and overall subpar living conditions.

Refugees

According to U.N. figures, some 2.3 million Venezuelans about 7 percent of the population have left their homeland over the past couple of years.

The exodus is the consequence of severe economic deprivation and mounting desperation among Venezuelans. The country's economy has shrunk by half in just five years, and inflation is nearing a staggering 1 million percent. Shortages of food and medicine have led to a crisis in public health, with once-vanquished diseases such as diphtheria and measles



returning and the rate of infant mortality rising sharply. U.N. officials claim that some 1.3 million Venezuelans who left the country were “suffering from malnourishment.”

The stream of refugees is straining Venezuela’s neighbors as well. violence broke out in the northern Brazilian town of Pacaraima between Venezuelan migrants and local mobs, which burns a number of squalid migrant encampments. But neither the anger of locals, who resent the burden of refugees in an already-impoverished part of the country, nor a beefed-up military presence on the border stopped hundreds more Venezuelans from crossing into Brazil every day. While the bulk of the refugees have crossed into Colombia, many are moving on from there to other countries, including Ecuador, Peru and Chile. Even authorities in Ecuador closed border crossings with Colombia to Venezuelans who do not have passports. Many poor Venezuelans do not have passports, which are increasingly difficult to obtain

Protests

Venezuela is in the grip of a major crisis. Hundreds of thousands of protesters demonstrating against the government of President Nicolas Maduro have been met by riot police almost daily.

Legislators election suspended. In January 2016, the Supreme Court suspended the election of four legislators - three that were enrolled with the opposition and one with the ruling party - for alleged voting irregularities.

The opposition accused the court of trying to strip them of their super-majority, and went ahead and swore in three of the legislators in question.

Supreme Court takes over the National Assembly. In response, the Supreme Court ruled that the entire National Assembly was in contempt and all decisions it made would be null.

The deadlock continued when the court suspended a stay-or-go referendum against Maduro and postponed regional elections until 2017.

After the National Assembly refused to approve the country's state-run oil company, PDVSA, from forming joint ventures with private companies, the Supreme Court ruled on March 30 that it will take over the Congress' legislative powers.

Protests start. On the next day, protesters in Caracas took to the streets to protest the court's take-over the National assembly.



The court quickly reversed its decision on April 1, but street protests continued on an almost daily basis for over three months with regular clashes exchanges of rocks and tear gas between young protesters and National Guard troops.

Demonstrators also protested hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicines in the country.

UN INVOLVEMENT

The United Nations Human Rights Council's adoption of a resolution on Venezuela on September 27, 2018 signals the growing concern by governments worldwide about the country's human rights and humanitarian crisis. The Human Rights Council is the main intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for addressing human rights violations.

BLOC POSITIONS:

Latin American Countries

As neighbouring countries continue to take on refugees from Venezuela, and not directly confronting Maduro, they have taken to the Organisation of the American States (OAS) (including the USA) to condemn Maduro for what they consider to be undemocratic elections in May 2018. A panel enlisted by the OAS also accused the Maduro government of crimes against humanity. The Lima Group of Latin American countries (including Canada) announced that it does not recognise the legitimacy of the May 2018 elections. They indicated that they would call their ambassadors back from Caracas for consultations and coordinate a regional response to the exodus of Venezuelans "who have been obligated to abandon their country".

United States of America

Although Hugo Chavez began his rule with the USA as a friendly ally; relations quickly deteriorated as the US failed to alert him about a brewing revolution. Chavez's anti-USA rhetoric, friendship with Iran and Cuba, and sanctions from the USA led to sour relations

between the two nations. Venezuela and the United States maintain the contentious relationship under President Maduro as both States continued to frequently expel diplomats.



In 2014, the United States House of Representatives passed the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act (H.R. 4587; 113th Congress). This was a bill that would apply economic sanctions against Venezuelan officials who were involved in the mistreatment of protests during the 2014 Venezuelan protests. In 2015, President Barack Obama issued a presidential order declaring Venezuela a "threat to national security" and ordered sanctions against seven Venezuelan officials. President Donald Trump in August 2017 said he is "not going to rule out a military option" to confront the Maduro regime

European Union

The EU condemns President Maduro's repression of opposition members and believes the recent elections were neither free nor fair, which led to sanctions against multiple Venezuelan officials by issuing travel bans and freezing their assets¹²⁵. The bloc targeted names including former Vice President Tareck El Aissami because he is "responsible for serious human rights violations ... including arbitrary detention, politically motivated investigations, inhumane and degrading treatment, and torture," and current Vice President Delcy Rodríguez¹²⁶. The EU continues to keep an eye on the economic and humanitarian situation and has committed to supporting Venezuela to find peaceful and democratic solutions. .

Russian Federation

Russia has called Maduro the legitimate president of Venezuela and has called the street protests in Venezuela a Western plot. Russia, along with China, are Venezuela's biggest creditors, having lent money to the Maduro regime to prop up the country's imploding economy.

China

China has also expressed support for Maduro and has said it is opposed to outside interference in Venezuela.

UN Involvement

The Human Rights Council has made some efforts to address the human rights' violations by the Venezuelan government. In 19 March 2018, it adopted a resolution that condemned economic sanctions imposed by countries such as the United States, Canada or countries that belong to the European Union. The document can be found here: <<http://undocs.org/A/HRC/37/L.34>> It also



adopted a resolution on September 27, 2018 which expresses the deep concern about human rights violations in Venezuela.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. What are the salient issues under the topic that require an urgent response?
2. What are issues that require long term efforts to resolve?
3. What economic options does Venezuela have to recover from their crises?
4. Is Venezuela in need of new leadership? If a change is necessary, what is the best way to achieve it?
5. Venezuela's unrest threatens Colombia's fragile peace. What can be done to address this concern?
6. Should more sanctions be placed on Venezuela?
7. What can be done to reduce Venezuela's dependence on oil heading into the future?





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