

Whereas Nicolás Maduro has provided diplomatic support to, and engaged with, countries that have been designated as state sponsors of terrorism under United States law, including by—

(1) allowing the Republic of Cuba to restructure the Venezuelan military, train armed forces in Venezuela, train Venezuelan intelligence agents in Cuba, and stating that Venezuela is “grateful to Cuba’s revolutionary armed forces” and “salute them and will always welcome them”;

(2) awarding a \$490,000,000 contract to the state-owned National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company to revamp the Paraguana Refining Center, the largest refining complex in Venezuela; and

(3) establishing a diplomatic mission and embassy in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (commonly known as “North Korea”) and allowing North Korea to similarly establish a mission and embassy in Venezuela;

Whereas, in response to the numerous criminal, anti-democratic, unconstitutional, and corrupt acts and basic human rights violations committed by Nicolás Maduro and persons serving in his illegitimate regime, the United States has imposed a number of sanctions on him and his enablers, including—

(1) on March 8, 2015, when President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13692 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry of certain persons contributing to the situation in Venezuela) to sanction persons engaged in public corruption activities and involved in human rights violations, the persecution of political opponents, the curtailment of press freedoms, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of anti-government protestors;

(2) on August 24, 2017, when President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13808 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to imposing additional sanctions with respect to the situation in Venezuela), which prohibited the Government of Venezuela from accessing financial markets of the United States;

(3) on March 19, 2018, when President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13827 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to taking additional steps to address the situation in Venezuela) to prohibit any transaction involving the issuance of any Venezuelan digital currency;

(4) on May 21, 2018, when President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13835 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain additional transactions with respect to Venezuela) to prohibit transactions related to purchasing Venezuelan debt;

(5) on August 5, 2019, when President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13884 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of the Government of Venezuela), freezing the assets of the Maduro government in the United States and blocking the property, imposing visa restrictions, and permitting financial sanctions on non-United States persons that assist the Maduro government; and

(6) under section 7031(c)(1)(A) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Appropriations Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 133 Stat. 317) and section 7031(c)(1)(A) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Appropriations Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-94; 133 Stat. 2864);

Whereas, on October 17, 2023, the illegitimate Maduro regime signed the Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All (commonly known as the “Barbados Agreement”), which states that all parties, including the opposition party, shall be allowed to freely select their candidates for the presidential election;

Whereas the Biden Administration—

(1) on October 18, 2023, in response to the signing of the Barbados Agreement, issued General License No. 44 and suspended certain sanctions on Venezuela’s oil and gas sector; and

(2) allowed General License No. 44 to expire on April 18, 2024, in response the illegitimate Maduro regime preventing the democratic opposition from registering the candidate of their choice, harassing and intimidating political opponents, and unjustly detaining numerous political actors and members of civil society;

Whereas María Corina Machado—

(1) was elected by the people of Venezuela on October 26, 2023, as the opposition candidate to run against the illegitimate Maduro regime in the July 28, 2024, presidential election in Venezuela;

(2) was subsequently disqualified on January 26, 2024, by the Supreme Justice Tribunal, the highest court of Venezuela, from running in the election and was not provided the opportunity to respond to the disqualifying allegations in court; and

(3) has since endorsed Edmundo González Urrutia to run for President of Venezuela since her unwarranted disqualification, stating on the campaign trail, “We are united and strong”;

Whereas, on December 20, 2023, the Maduro regime finally released 6 wrongfully detained United States citizens in Venezuela only after the Biden Administration agreed to release Alex Saab, who was charged in Federal court in October 2021, for laundering the proceeds of violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-213; 91 Stat. 1494) in connection with a scheme to pay bribes to take advantage of the exchange rate controlled by Venezuela;

Whereas the Department of State has described Saab as “one of the two most important money men in the Maduro government” and “the middle man” between Maduro’s narco-terrorist regime and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas, prior to his arrest, Saab established the illegal “Gold for Gas” scheme with Iran, allowing the country to avoid sanctions and be paid in Venezuelan gold in exchange for sham “humanitarian” deliveries of fuel to Venezuela;

Whereas, on January 15, 2024, Maduro proved to the world that he operates a criminal enterprise disguised as a country when he named Alex Saab as the head of Venezuela’s International Investment Center; and

Whereas the illegitimate Maduro regime has exhibited a clear pattern of corruption, ruling by force, and undermining stability and democracy in Venezuela: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) rejects the attempt by the illegitimate Maduro regime to hold sham elections and consolidate power through weaponizing institutions, especially the electoral committee and judicial system;

(2) demands that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hold free and fair elections on July 28, 2024, and allow all opposition candidates, including Edmundo González Urrutia, to register on the ballot and participate in the elections in compliance with the Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All (commonly known as the “Barbados Agreement”);

(3) denounces any attempt by the illegitimate Maduro regime to intimidate and repress the Venezuelan people and its democratic candidates through any kind of violence;

(4) condemns the illegitimate Maduro regime for the flagrant and repeated acts of corruption, desecrating the rule of law, and

engaging in anti-democratic and criminal acts; and

(5) encourages the Administration to condemn the results of the Venezuelan election on July 28, 2024, if fraud occurs, and to subsequently impose additional sanctions on Maduro and the coconspirators in his illegitimate regime to ensure they are unable to profit through their illegal and corrupt activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 3:45 p.m., to hold a working coffee titled “Visit of His Excellency Jens Stoltenberg.”

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my interns for the following days—these are the days that they are having their shadow day where they accompany me around the