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Topic 1: Safety and Security in Venezuela

Venezuela has become a dangerous country. It has the highest homicide rates in South America. In 2014 there were 82 homicides per 100,00 people and by the year 2015 that number increased to 90. This is a widespread issue over Venezuela and even cities face problems such as kidnapping, home invasions and robbery. Because Venezuela shares a border with Columbia they have seen much more drug trafficking. After the government change and the fall of the price of oil, the crime rates have gone up. Policemen in Venezuela have proven ineffective in most cases and they cannot handle the volume of crime happening. The government has considered raising the police funds but when they do that, they worry that it still would remain ineffective. It is clear that for Venezuela, despite crippling crime rates they are not prioritizing an increase in police effectiveness. They tried various methods to help with the drawback of violence such as making it harder to obtain guns but it only made the Venezuelan people want guns more in fear of losing them forever. They credit the violence problems to poverty, oil price decrease and inflation rates. The citizens are forced to a life of crime just in order to obtain food.

Venezuela is currently facing problems such as organized crime and drug violence that all source from the border that we share with Columbia. Venezuela does not need more change, what we need to stabilize our government and assert the socialism that once made this country great under Chavez.

It is important to make sure that people in our country are not taking more than one of these vital supplies that are sold in stores. The system that Maduro tried to instate which would make sure that no one was taking more than they were entitled to is something that we need to stick to. We need finger

scanners in all super markets and for people to justify their purchases so that we do not have economic inequality in this country.

But we too need to make sure that we address the violence that is coming directly from Columbia. By closing off our border more we can subdue the amount of drugs that are coming into our country. Venezuela has not always been this violent. The poverty rate was high before Chavez's rule and there was crime before but not to the extremes that we see today. Because of the capitalists in our country that do not put their earnings back into our economy, we are losing money. And when the economy loses money we cannot import as many goods and this leads to the extreme poverty we are faced with today. We need to up the police effectiveness and their supplies in our country. But we need more money that has been taken out of our economy by those capitalist businesses in our country.

Topic 2: Venezuela's economic crisis

Venezuela has one of the largest oil reserves in the world. But the price of oil has gone down and is worth less. Venezuela has taken loans from countries such as China and to pay back the loan they give oil. But because the price of oil is so low, they have to give up a lot of supply. Chavez implemented a price control system which mandated that stores could sell essential items at only one price despite the fluctuation in economy. It has become increasingly difficult to stock items in supermarkets. This has lead to the expansion and establishment of a black market in Venezuela. After the oil discovery, Venezuela quickly became too oil dependent, companies ditched their previous prospects and went into the oil business. Many people in rural areas migrated to the cities so that they could be part of the oil market. But when the price of oil fell, this left a high concentration of people in one area who were poor and turned to crime. The government controls how much the Venezuelan people and companies spend outside of the country and subsequently outside of the economy.

Right now we need companies to stay inside Venezuela and not leave so that their profit can be put back into the economy. Because our economy needs more money to stay viable it would be possible to ask for money from Turkey and in exchange we can offer them oil from our large reserves. No measures should be taken to reduce the “restrictions” in foreign currency. We need the money to stay in our economy and need to stick to Chavez’s ideals to limit outward expansion. While I agree that we should be economically independent from our inside companies and outside economies, I could be open to offering lower taxes to the companies inside our country.

Overall we need to aim on fighting the poverty and to close the gap between the rich and the poor. The capitalist people in our country need to stay inside our economy and re-invest their money. That will close the gap between our diversity of economic status. We are at an economic point where we could ask for a loan from Turkey so that we can improve things such as the effectiveness of our police program.

Topic 3: Social Division and Venezuelan Politics

There are two political parties in Venezuela, MUD and PSUV. The MUD is made up of a lot of political parties but who are all against the socialist party in Venezuela. Right now, the MUD has a two thirds majority in the national assembly which is the party that is opposed to the government. This is similar to the U.S government because they have a democratic president but the U.S congress has a republican majority. The one thing that they have in common is that they are both in favor of stabilizing the party system, fighting poverty and abolishing the violence that Venezuela faces today. But they both have very different ways of achieving this tranquility in Venezuela. Increasingly, there are protests against the current president. The National Assembly in Venezuela means that the people of Venezuela are fairly

and adequately represented. When Chavez came into power he preached to the lower income citizens who were upset and hurt by the inflation due to the loan taken out by the previous president.

What we need to do is make sure that we need to ensure the diversity of the National Assembly so that all of the Venezuelan people are fairly represented. We need to continue the communal councils so that any citizen can express their beliefs to the government. I do not agree with the belief that our government is too centralized in the executive branch giving only Maduro power. The only reason that the Supreme court has not gone against us is that we are respecting human rights and they do not see any issues with it. All that the democratic party is trying to do is make us the bad guy and make it appear as if we are controlling all the branches. We only send people to jail for being violent and for perpetrating violence especially at protests. In order to put our country back on track and leave the poverty behind, we must stick to Chavez's ideals. While some believe that the right answer to improve situations would be to kick Maduro out of office, this would be a long process that would cause too much strife in the country. That is not what we really need to focus on. We truly are a democratic society under Maduros rule. We have government agencies that are readily available to citizens to express their beliefs.

Works Cited

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