**Committee**: Venezuelan National Assembly

**Character Assignment**: Enrique Marquez (Zulia)

Enrique Marquez was born in Maracaibo, 19 May 1963; Marquez is an electrical engineer who graduated from the University of Zulia. His political life began in the 20 movement, and was further inspired by the union party *La Causa R.[[1]](#footnote-1)* He became the first Venezuelan National Assembly Vice President on 5 January 2016, of this year, for the period of 2016-2020 after having been the elected deputy for the Zulia region during 2000-2005.[[2]](#footnote-2) His beliefs fundamentally coincide with the Mesa de la Unidad Democratica (MUD) although his identifying political group is Un Nuevo Tiempo.

T**opic 1**: Safety and Security in Venezuela

The safety and security of Venezuela is a main concern for the Venezuelan National Assembly and I because it is at an unacceptable state currently made worse by a government which refuses to acknowledge or combat the increasing violence throughout the nation. A clear demonstration of the lack of safety and security as a result of a weak police force and corrupt government is the fact that Caracas, Venezuela’s capital city, is the World’s most dangerous city with a 119.87 murder rate per 100,000 people.[[3]](#footnote-3) As the Vice President of the Venezuelan National Assembly I believe that the Venezuelan people are putting up with an insufferable situation of violence and crime that has been exacerbated by the growing economic crisis and ignorance of the government failing to act on the violence. My suggestion for a solution is to decrease the influence of drugs and gangs within Barrios by addressing the corruption with in the government and the police, to improve police training and equipment, increase central government funding, and solve the growing economic crisis.

**Topic 2**: Venezuela’s Economic Crisis

It is very evident that the current economic crisis is having many effects on various people not only through economic influences but through the exacerbating cycle it creates of violence and crisis. Devastating results from the economic crisis is the death of people due to starvation and lack of medical attention as well as an approximate 8% unemployment rate and an inflation of 152%. [[4]](#footnote-4) The main course of action to come close to solving the grand economic crisis is to establish good dialogue between the government and the opposition with the cooperation of the Public Powers. Dialogue is a crucial obligation to be able to solve the issues within Venezuela.

**Topic 3**: Social Division and Venezuelan Politics

It would not be wrong to make the statement that the topics of violence and economic crisis were a result of the Venezuelan government’s political instability and the social divisions. If the government and opposition can focus on having strong dialogue for the good of the people rather than political party interest than progress towards a better Venezuela is possible. The terms of this dialogue would be entirely of good and pure intentions, not to overthrow one government but to stimulate an understanding to organize the two contrasting powers. In addition, I think the international community should become involved, not necessarily to intervene or influence the Venezuelan government but to become aware and pressure the Venezuelan government towards respecting the constitution and laws of the nation. [[5]](#footnote-5) It would also be necessary to revoke the Maduro government because everyone is under his manipulative control except for the National Assembly. Democratic, peaceful, and public political change is vital for the salvation of Venezuela because dialogue will define Venezuelan future.

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5. Enrique Marquez, “Enrique Marquez: En Venezuela todos los poderes estan concentrados en un solo hombre,” interview by CNN, *CNN,* June 17, 2016, <http://www.cnn.com/videos/spanish/2016/06/17/cnnee-panorama-intvw-enrique-marquez-crisis-en-venezuela.cnn> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)