Position Paper – Theodora Ruddy Citadel High

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The issues facing all the members of the Venezuelan National Assembly are:

I. Safety and Security in Venezuela

II. Venezuela’s economic crisis

III. Social Division and Venezuelan Politics

I. The violence that plagues our streets and cities can no longer be ignored by our government and our president. In this past year we had 27,875 homicides, as homicide rates dramatically increased. If we do nothing, the trend will continue and our beloved country will descend into total chaos. Our police force is worsening problems, as shown by the people’s complaints about police corruption. I do not support statism, however the PNB needs to either be national and run in every state or be disbanded, in favor of another police force.

Violence is caused by inequality, poor living conditions, and drugs and these conditions need to be addressed however we must begin with the direct crime at first, then we can addresses both issues together. I believe we can create the just and peaceful country we promise in our constitution but we must work together, beyond borders and self-interest.. I believe we need to work with other countries to stop drug trafficking and the black market as well. Fixing inequality and civil liberties is truly necessary, however it is a gradual process and we need to start lowering crime now.

Therefore

1. I emphasize that we need to immediately respond to the crime and violence wave as this is abnormal in our country and call for the removal of black market guns and all forms of ammunition from our streets.

2. I am fully aware of the police corruption and disorganization. To correct this I recommend investigating the PNB while further recommending discussion of ways to improve the police force in Venezuela.

3. I reaffirm the improvement of living conditions and civil rights will help to deter the violence and therefore do not support any measures that will continuously infringe on civil liberties of citizens.

II. The economic crisis is something I believe both the PSUV and MUD can agree on. Having some of the largest oil reserves in the world has made our countries wants thriving economy wither, and to become too narrow, which has been hurting our ceremony for the last four years. What we once produced with ease, we now import. Our exports are mainly oil and raw materials, not pharmaceuticals or other higher cost items. We need to create a 2 to 4 year plan as this is a long term issue that affects us all.

Countries like China have no interest in us but are our main trading partners. The countries surrounding us have a stake in whether we are a stable country and it would save on transport costs if we focused on becoming export and import partners them. We have incredibly high debt, and if we do nothing, it will continue to become higher. It would hurt our economy to the point of no return to try and fix this immediately, especially as no one is willing to invest in us. It will require an honest conversation between our countries, and between ourselves but we must have faith that honest dialogue is possible.

Therefore

1. I affirm the need to diversify our economy and to lessen restrictions on foreign currency. For both these issues I call upon the National Assembly to create a 2 to 4 year plan for both issues that is achievable, clear, and measurable.

2. I recommend trading with bordering nations instead of China to cut down on cost of imports as it is in their best interest to keep Venezuela stable to a certain extent

3. I encourage discussion towards a plan to pay off this nations debits that we can propose to our creditors, this plan should perform with our plan to diversify the economy.

III. Venezuela is wants change, it’s our job to make this change as peaceful and democratic as possible. The mass rallies show that people desperately need equality, freedom, and better conditions. Before the Bolivarian regime, Venezuela had a peaceful two party system, since the Bolivarian regime we have had more violence and less freedom, in other words the exact opposite of our constitution. At this moment in history we, the opposition now have the majority and can begin to make change, however the National Assembly needs to keep its power and not let it be taken away by our President, if we are to be effective.

Therefore

1. I strongly condemn the political imprisonments, and call for their release.

2. Implore the National Assembly to take measures against voting fraud or the National Assembly being bypassed by the President.

3. Calls for discussion on how to change the Bolivarian regime peacefully, so that it will respect the country’s constitution and Venezuelan’s human rights.

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