



REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA

ASAMBLEA NACIONAL

PRESIDENCIA

Caracas, May 29, 2017

Mr. Lloyd Blankfein
CEO
Goldman Sachs
200 West Street
New York, New York 10282

Dear Mr. Blankfein,

As President of Venezuela's National Assembly, I am concerned and outraged that Goldman Sachs has decided to enter a bond purchase transaction of \$2.8 billion with Venezuela's dictator, Nicolas Maduro, which provides a financial lifeline to his authoritarian regime that is systematically violating the human rights of Venezuelans. Your decision to aid and abet Venezuela's dictatorial regime is a clear violation of Goldman Sachs' *Code of Conduct* and *Statement of Human Rights*, which purportedly states your financial institution "recognizes and takes seriously its responsibility to help protect, preserve and promote human rights around the world." It is apparent Goldman Sachs decided to make a quick buck off the suffering of the Venezuelan people.

Goldman Sachs' financial lifeline to the regime will serve to strengthen the brutal repression the unleashed against the hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans peacefully protesting for political change in the country. The Maduro regime's repression has already resulted in the assassination of 57 persons with another 13,000 injured and nearly 2,000 illegally detained and prosecuted in military courts.

The regime's human rights violating has been forcefully condemned by international organizations such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the European Union, and the Southern Common Market, as well as leading human rights NGOs such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International. Furthermore, the Attorney General of the Republic of Venezuela Luisa Ortega Diaz and countries such as the United States, Great Britain and Germany have ratified the rupture of Venezuela's constitutional and democratic order because of the regime's actions and its refusal to hold free and fair elections.

Given the unconstitutional nature of Nicolas Maduro's administration, its unwillingness to hold democratic elections and its systematic violation of human rights, I am dismayed that Goldman Sachs decided to enter this transaction with the Maduro regime. After all, your *Statement on Human Rights* affirms that the company places "...a high priority on the identification of potential human rights issues in the due diligence that precedes our business transactions."

Palacio Federal Legislativo, Avenida Sur 2, Esquinas Monjes a San Francisco,
Caracas, Distrito Capital,
Teléfono 0212.409.6111

A mere cursory look at the hundreds of media reports about human rights abuses in Venezuela and the international condemnation of those abuses, should have clearly informed Goldman Sachs' leadership about the dictatorial nature of Venezuela's regime.

Moreover, the fire sale nature of this transaction is clear evidence the Maduro regime did not have Venezuela's best interest in mind when conducting this operation. The regime's decision to conduct this transaction was made under duress driven by its desperate desire to gain resources needed to secure weapons and other instruments of repression in order to stay in power. There is no financially rational justification for Venezuela's Central Bank to sell PDVSA bonds at a 69% discount or .31 cents to the dollar. These terms are an abysmal 30% lower than the actual market price of .42 cents to the dollar. Given the irregular nature of this transaction and the absurd financial terms involved that are to the detriment of Venezuela and its people, the National Assembly will soon launch an investigation into the matter. I also intend to recommend to any future democratic government of Venezuela not to recognize or pay on these bonds.

Please be assured that Venezuela's National Assembly will forcefully call to the attention of the international community your decision to aid and abet Venezuela's authoritarian regime. Importantly, the people of Venezuela and its future democratic government will not forget where Goldman Sachs stood when it had to choose between supporting the Maduro dictatorship and democracy for our country.

Sincerely,



Deputy Julio Borges

PRESIDENTE DE LA ASAMBLEA NACIONAL

