



ORGANIZATION OF VENEZUELAN IN EXILE

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Miami, April 30, 2015

Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President:

Urgently, I again turn to you on behalf of the thousands of Venezuelans who, due to the serious crisis caused by the continued violation of human rights, persecution, imprisonment, torture and death experienced by those who think differently; the terrible deterioration of basic living conditions; the high murder rate, which the regime disguises as common crimes to hide the targeted killings carried out by its paramilitary groups, among them the known COLECTIVOS, such as TUPAMARO, and FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA FRONT, have had to leave by any means and many of them are already here in the U.S. without any legal status and with a lot of fear of returning to a country where sadly, sooner or later, death awaits them.

ORVEX, Organization of Venezuelans in Exile, was founded in Miami, Florida, on April 11, 2005, to help the growing number of Venezuelans who are coming to the United States seeking the freedom and peace that is being denied to them in their country of origin.

Since that very same year, we took on the task of collecting signatures to ask the then President George W. Bush, a DED action - Deferred Enforced Departure, which we did throughout the U.S., and on Tuesday, October 30th, 2007 a number of 30.000 signatures were handed to then-Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, at his office in Miami, Florida.

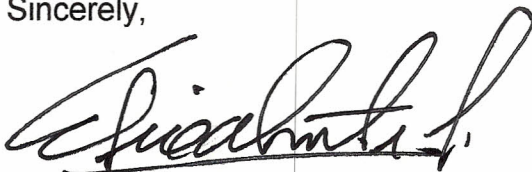
On October 2, 2008, and before former President George W. Bush left office, we sent him a letter asking for a DED, and he referred our request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), within the Department of Homeland Security, for response. On November 25, 2008, ICE sent us a letter, which we attach, which clearly invited all Venezuelans to apply for asylum; however, this solution did not help because many of them were deported for having been in the U.S. for many years and for not having sufficient evidence to support their cases.

Now, we see with growing concern the number of compatriots who are still being deported at a greater danger because that regime believes that any Venezuelan who spends more than 30 days on American soil is suspected of having been stealthily trained by CIA and U.S. Department of State to overthrow the government and to murder the head of state.

Given this terrible situation faced by Venezuelans in danger of being deported, and even by those who have already been deported, we kindly ask you to consider enacting a DED - Deferred Enforced Departure (Deferring Deportation) in favor of Venezuelans currently living in the US and who fear returning to a country which regime has already declared them war.

We appeal to your good heart and we trust that God will continue lightening you to help the world to live in peace and democracy, and to relieve the existing humanitarian crisis of Venezuelans who are already in the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elio C. Aponte', written in a cursive style.

Elio C. Aponte
President
Organization of Venezuelans in Exile

Attached: Copy of letter sent to us by ICE on November 25, 2008

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

NOV 25 2008

Mr. Elio C. Aponte
President
Organization of Venezuelans in Exile
26 SE 2nd Avenue
Third Floor, Suite 311
Miami, Florida 33131

Dear Mr. Aponte:


Thank you for your October 2, 2008, letter to President George W. Bush regarding Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Venezuelans currently present in the United States. Your letter was referred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), within the Department of Homeland Security, for response. As you are aware, a grant of DED protection to certain individuals of designated nationality is made by the President and the decision is issued as an Executive Order or a Presidential Memorandum.

The authority to grant DED has no statutory basis, rather it emanates from the President's constitutional power to conduct foreign relations. Deferred Enforced Departure is a temporary, discretionary, administrative stay of removal granted to aliens from designated countries, and as such, it does not confer any immigration status under the Immigration and Nationality Act or 8 C.F.R. § 208.14(c)(2) (applicant who is maintaining valid immigrant, nonimmigrant, Temporary Protected Status) or 8 C.F.R. § 208.14(c)(3) (valid parole).

Deferred Enforced Departure for some nationals of designated countries constitutes an extraordinary remedy granted under the most extenuating of circumstances. We will keep your request under advisement. However, please be assured that other avenues of protection or relief from removal are available on an individual basis such as asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture. Individual requests for such relief or protection are given full and careful consideration on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you again for your letter. If you wish further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,


for Timothy J. Tubbs
Chief of Staff