



Independent Venezuelan American Citizens

IVAC's response to Congressman Connie Mack and Sanctions on Petroleum's of Venezuela (PDVSA)

Miami May, 27 2011. - The Independent Venezuelan American Citizens- IVAC- organization would like to clarify their position regarding Venezuela as a State Sponsor of Terrorism and the sanctions imposed on PDVSA.

In a press release issued recently, Congressman Connie Mack proposed that Venezuela should be included in the list of countries that are categorized as State Sponsor of Terrorism. He explained that every country has a unique set of sanctions, for which in the case of Venezuela these would not have a major impact on its citizens but on the dictatorial government of Mr. Hugo Chavez.

“The purpose of a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) designation for Venezuela is not to harm its people but to pressure the government of Hugo Chavez to end its support for terrorism, ”said Congressman Mack.

He also mentioned that

“Designating Venezuela as a SST is beneficial for U.S. national security interests as well as for the Venezuelan people. The economic pressure on the Hugo Chavez government would compel the dictatorship to end support for terrorism, cooperate with international norms, and make democratic concessions to the Venezuelan people. Each SST is treated with a unique set of sanctions, and the designation does not prevent travel to and from Venezuela, stop legal remittances to Venezuelan families, or impact services at the U.S. embassy.”

On a related note, the opposition's Democratic Unity Table (MUD) opted to criticize the position of the American government of imposing sanctions on PDVSA for carrying out business with Iran.

With respect to Congressman Mack's statement, IVAC notes a change in attitude from the Congressman after listening to his Venezuelan American constituents in their constant plea with respect to Venezuela as an SST. IVAC has the disposition to work together with Congressman Mack to make sure that the sanctions do not directly impact the citizens of Venezuela.

With respect to the position of MUD, although we believe and stand by their work to return Venezuela to a democratic form of government through a peaceful and electoral process, we disagree with their position in regards to the recent sanctions on PDVSA. It is important to make clear that the decision by the U.S. government is not unilateral as Mr. Chavez would like his followers to believe.

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By criticizing these sanctions, MUD is supporting Mr. Chavez's erroneous position. The decision of imposing these sanctions was due to the actions of President Hugo Chavez through PDVSA which violate the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iran.

It is for this reason that IVAC reiterates its disposition to work hand in hand with Congressman Mack in the case that Venezuela were to become an SST and its position in favor of the sanctions imposed on Venezuela for PDVSA's business with Iran. We must not allow for PDVSA to be used to give away \$20 Million dollars to the Castro regime, to steal the savings of its employees, to be a vehicle for corruption, to allow 180,000 tons of food to go to waste, only so that some in the Venezuelan government fill their pockets with millions of American Dollars.

By the Boards of Directors of IVAC

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