

We the undersigned ask for your leadership to ensure that the will of the Venezuelan people is respected, and that the international community recognizes the results of the election, with Edmundo González as its winner and the legitimate President of Venezuela.

The statistical data and other evidence are conclusive that González won an overwhelming victory. Credible, expert-validated and independent voter tabulation efforts show that González won roughly two-thirds of the votes. Official tallies from 81% of the polling stations give González 67.1% of valid votes to 30.4% for the incumbent president, Nicolás Maduro. Even if Maduro won 100 percent of all the remaining votes from the 19% of the polling stations, González would still have won a substantial election majority. In other words, the margin of victory as revealed by the official counts from the polling stations is so large that it is mathematically impossible for Maduro to have won the election. Moreover, the opposition victory is consistent with all available opinion polling data and the opposition's own exhaustive ballot monitoring effort. And this victory is despite extreme measures taken by the regime to undermine the democratic process, including the unconstitutional disenfranchisement of nearly 8 million Venezuelans (a quarter of the population) who have fled the country in recent years.

Based on these facts, the Organization of American States and several independent observers such as the Carter Center have condemned the electoral process as fraudulent, and several Latin American governments have already recognized President González's win. If the international community unites on this point, it will prevent the previous regime from normalizing election fraud. This will also help to support international norms around democratic elections and the transfer of power. It is telling that the few national leaders to recognize Nicolás Maduro as the winner are all autocrats themselves.

Tyranny is not just a domestic issue. Threats of international armed conflict (pressing territorial claims on its neighbor Guyana) and massive emigrant flows from Venezuela have threatened to destabilize the region. Migration has been driven by the freefall of the Venezuelan economy and skyrocketing poverty as well as grave repression and violations of human rights.

Despite the attempts of President Maduro's regime to silence them, the Venezuelan people have spoken loudly and clearly for a better future. They do not seek vengeance but rather a peaceful transition to a government they have elected, enabling the economic reconstruction and revival of the country. We ask you to use your respected voice and global influence to help persuade the Maduro government to accept the election results and to ensure a full and peaceful transfer of power to the new administration of the legitimate President, Edmundo González.

With respect,

Mary Robinson, First woman President of Ireland

Ban Ki-moon, Former UN Secretary General

Juan Manuel Santos, Former President of Colombia, Nobel Peace Laureate

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, Former President of Mexico

Gro Harlem Brundtland, First woman Prime Minister of Norway and former Director-General of WHO

Elbegdorj Tsakhia, Former President and Prime Minister of Mongolia

Gary Kasparov, World Chess Champion and Chair of Human Rights Foundation

Masih Alinejad, Journalist, Author, Activist

Leopoldo Lopez, Venezuelan opposition leader and Co-Founder of World Liberty Congress

Ricken Patel, Founding CEO, Avaaz