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Prevention of armed conflict

Letter dated 8 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you to denounce several dangerous actions that undermine the peace and security of both Venezuela and the Latin American and Caribbean region, as also stated in the letter dated 6 August 2019 addressed to the President of the Security Council (see [S/2019/641](#)).

Such actions, based on their seriousness, shall be listed in the following order: first, the threat by the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, regarding the imminent imposition of an illegal naval blockade and a quarantine against our nation; second, the hostile and illegal incursions by United States military aircraft within the flight information region of Venezuela; and third, the illegal incursion of a United States military ship into the jurisdictional waters of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Those three actions have one thing in common: they all precipitate tensions between the two countries in order to justify a large-scale military intervention against our nation. These are planned provocations which threaten the peace and demand attention from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

On 1 August 2019, the following exchange between a journalist and President Trump: “Are you considering a blockade or quarantine against Venezuela, due to the intervention of Russia, China and Iran?” To which he replied “Yes, I am.” This statement alone constitutes a serious threat to use force that endangers peace in the region. The blockade is an act of war, and without the authorization of the Security Council, they are a serious breach of the peace and constitute an aggression. The Government of the United States has no justification whatsoever, factual or legal, for this military action that would have devastating effects on our people.

A naval blockade is a means of force established in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, “Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression”. Article 42, specifically, establishes that:

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations,



blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

We consider the following questions to be important: When did the Security Council approve such actions? When did the Security Council determine that Venezuela is a threat to peace, or that it broke the peace or committed acts of aggression? It is clear that none of the assumptions for an action so severe exists and none of the legal requirements have been met. On the contrary, we are faced with a situation in which the aggression and violation of the Charter is perpetrated by a permanent member of the Security Council, in view of the entire world with total impunity. The action of all the corresponding organs of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly, is necessary, since any threat and action by the United States against Venezuela is illegal and criminal and potentially catastrophic for the civilian population.

The second action listed herein has to do with the increasing number of incursions by United States military aircraft into the flight information region of Venezuela, with the capacity for electronic espionage, without prior notice and without informing their motives, thus endangering international civil aviation security.

According to international regulations, any aircraft that travels through international airspace must report the reason, route and technical characteristics of the flight to the authorities of the corresponding flight information region. United States military aircraft have expressly refused to comply with these regulations, deliberately jeopardizing free and safe air traffic, thus hampering Venezuela's ability to exercise effective and safe control of its flight information region.

On 29 July 2019, the Commander of the Southern Command of the United States of America, Admiral Craig Faller, tried to conceal from the media the dangerous breach of international regulations by denying the accusations by the Venezuelan Government with insults. However, he acknowledged that the raids have occurred. The aggressive and tendentious nature of his statements indicates that it is a deliberate act of military and political provocation, as can be read in his statement below:

Maduro's lies and false narrative spread throughout the world and unfortunately that devastated all affected people. Our forces, our operations in this hemisphere, have operated in international airspace in international waters in accordance with recognized flight safety standards.

So, whatever Maduro is saying agrees with all the other lies and false stories he is preaching, and unfortunately what he and his henchmen use is the mafia as a regime that turns its back on the people. We will continue, the United States of America, our army, our navy, will continue to fly and operate wherever international standards apply, and that includes around Venezuela, South America and around the world.

The central theme of our complaint is precisely that United States military aircraft are not complying with international regulations, as they refuse to have contact with the authorities of the flight information region of Venezuela.

The intention of destabilizing the democratic institutions of Venezuela is even clearer when Admiral Faller himself links his spy flight programme to the internal political situation of our country, announcing that he is prepared to use military force as soon as a sector of the Venezuelan political opposition asks for it, in correspondence with President Trump's orders, as can be read below:

Anything that the legitimate government requests would be a political decision of our leaders here in the United States, based on that decision, we will be prepared to support it. All threats to this hemisphere such as drug trafficking,

illicit trafficking of all kinds, terrorists who threaten Colombian neighbors, FARC dissidents, and all of them, benefit directly from Maduro's leadership and anarchy in Venezuela. Venezuela is, in fact, a lawless region that has allowed threats to emanate, accelerate, and unfortunately impact the entire hemisphere.¹

This is a military invasion to impose a coup d'état in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, it is against Article 2.4, which states the following:

All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

The Government of the United States is clearly violating the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by intervening in the sovereign affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, threatening to violate our territorial integrity in order to alter both internal and regional peace and using military force to impose its domination over our people.

So far in 2019, the Southern Command, which is the armed branch of the United States Government in South America and the Caribbean, has made 55 incursions into the flight information region of Venezuela, disregarding international regulations, all for espionage, recognition and electronic interception purposes (see annex).

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has denounced these incursions on previous occasions through the International Civil Aviation Organization, the body responsible for ensuring compliance with aeronautical regulations. However, the United States Government refuses to recognize its responsibility for the transgressions. Even worse, the United States Government has increased the frequency of the incursions, as well as the risk of an incident that we all have an obligation to avoid. This reckless behaviour, together with statements by United States senior officials on the matter, demonstrate that it is not an isolated issue of a technical nature, but a plan to increase aggression against Venezuela.

The third action listed herein relates to the intention of the United States Government to provoke an incident in the jurisdictional waters of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through the use of military ships. As in the previous case, it is not a mistake, a technical issue or an anti-drug operation as the media has tried to convey. It is actually a political-military operation the objective of which is to try to bend the political decisions of the Venezuelan Government in favour of the interests of the United States Government. It is a military coercion operation, as was recognized by United States Government officials in the *Washington Post*, on 8 May 2019, when after the failure of the coup d'état that they planned in Venezuela on 30 April, they restated the pressure strategy with tactics like the following:

Officials said the options under discussion while Maduro is still in power include sending additional military assets to the region (...) and more forward-leaning options include sending Navy ships to waters off Venezuela as a show of force.

Clearly this is a political-military plan, part of a major operation to destabilize the Venezuelan Government. Consequently, on 8 May 2019, a United States Coast Guard vessel, the *USCGC James*, entered without authorization, and in a hostile manner, into the exclusive economic zone of Venezuela, approaching the nearest and main Venezuelan port, just 14 nautical miles away from Caracas, Venezuela's capital

¹ See www.noticierodigital.com/2019/07/jefe-del-comando-sur-apoyaremos-cualquier-decision-tome-guaido/.

city. As a result, the *USCGC James* had to be escorted out of Venezuelan jurisdictional waters by the Venezuelan Navy.

The three above-mentioned incidents are enough evidence that further prove the general plan of aggression by President Trump against Venezuela, in frank transgression of international law. In this regard, we can only conclude that the Trump administration is a threat to international peace and security. We are facing an inadmissible situation in which a permanent member of the Security Council violates international norms that it is otherwise obliged to comply with and help other States to enforce. On the contrary, the United States Government demands that the rest of the Security Council and the international community endorse the abuses they commit against other States Members of the United Nations. The United States Government believes that it is an exceptional country, exempt from complying with international law; this absurd belief is a danger to the rest of the world.

That is why we wish to denounce the Government of President Donald Trump, as a threat to international peace and security and ask you to make a public pronouncement rejecting the threats of the use of military force against Venezuela.

In Venezuela, we reject the nightmare of war proposed to us by President Donald Trump, and we ask you to contribute to international peace and security by drawing attention to the importance of ensuring compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. In short, to use your good offices to halt the imminent catastrophe of a world power that behaves like an outlaw State and threatens all humanity.

I respectfully hereby request your good offices to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34.

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Violations of the security of air operations in the flight information region of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Maiquetía flight information region)

2019

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
1	Violation of the security of air operations	9 January 2019	1155	D-328	United States of America	12°38'19"N 064°15'01"W	Azimuth 350°, 98 nautical miles from Santiago Mariño International Airport on Isla Margarita, state of Nueva Esparta
2	Violation of the security of air operations	9 February 2019	1230	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°42'38"N 067°41'09"W	Azimuth 341°, 133 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
3	Violation of the security of air operations	22 February 2019	0940	RC-135V	United States of America	13°01'43"N 067°05'00"W	Azimuth 358°, 145 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
4	Violation of the security of air operations	22 February 2019	2040	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°54'05"N 067°37'56"W	Azimuth 344°, 147 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
5	Violation of the security of air operations	23 February 2019	1125	RC-135V	United States of America	12°38'44"N 067°37'44"W	Azimuth 342°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
6	Violation of the security of air operations	24 February 2019	1920	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°32'55"N 067°39'37"W	Azimuth 335°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
7	Violation of the security of air operations	25 February 2019	1608	RC-135V	United States of America	12°49'41"N 067°41'07"W	Azimuth 343°, 140 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
8	Violation of the security of air operations	26 February 2019	0746	RC-135V	United States of America	12°52'55"N 067°40'02"W	Azimuth 342°, 142 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
9	Violation of the security of air operations	27 February 2019	1150	RC-135V	United States of America	12°51'49"N 067°39'00"W	Azimut 342°, 140 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
10	Violation of the security of air operations	6 March 2019	1335	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'39"N 067°41'51"W	Azimut 341°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
11	Violation of the security of air operations	8 March 2019	1139	EP-3E	United States of America	12°34'22"N 067°57'51"W	Azimut 340°, 126 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
12	Violation of the security of air operations	9 March 2019	1532	EP-3E	United States of America	12°33'40"N 067°42'37"W	Azimut 340°, 126 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
13	Violation of the security of air operations	10 March 2019	0028	RC-135V	United States of America	12°38'15"N 067°42'19"W	Azimut 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
14	Violation of the security of air operations	11 March 2019	1113	EP-3E	United States of America	12°35'39"N 067°43'47"W	Azimut 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
15	Violation of the security of air operations	12 March 2019	0750	RC-135V	United States of America	12°59'04"N 067°37'14"W	Azimut 345°, 149 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
16	Violation of the security of air operations	12 March 2019	1430	EP-3E	United States of America	13°37'17"N 067°41'40"W	Azimut 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
17	Violation of the security of air operations	12 March 2019	2130	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°35'07"N 067°43'14"W	Azimut 340°, 126 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
18	Violation of the security of air operations	13 March 2019	0602	RC-135V	United States of America	13°35'18"N 067°30'28"W	Azimut 350°, 183 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
19	Violation of the security of air operations	15 March 2019	0829	RC-135V	United States of America	12°41'03"N 067°40'53"W	Azimut 343°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

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20	Violation of the security of air operations	15 March 2019	1945	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°38'14"N 067°42'18"W	Azimut 341°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
21	Violation of the security of air operations	17 March 2019	0830	RC-135V	United States of America	12°36'01"N 067°40'41"W	Azimut 341°, 122 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
22	Violation of the security of air operations	19 March 2019	1013	RC-135V	United States of America	12°37'57"N 067°43'10"W	Azimut 355°, 271 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
23	Violation of the security of air operations	21 March 2019	1034	RC-135V	United States of America	12°44'40"N 067°40'36"W	Azimut 349°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
24	Violation of the security of air operations	27 March 2019	1110	RC-135V	United States of America	12°39'26"N 067°41'41"W	Azimut 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
25	Violation of the security of air operations	29 March 2019	1018	RC-135V	United States of America	12°43'56"N 067°41'07"W	Azimut 342°, 136 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
26	Violation of the security of air operations	31 March 2019	1111	RC-135V	United States of America	12°37'40"N 067°40'05"W	Azimut 341°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
27	Violation of the security of air operations	1 May 2019	1515	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'05"N 067°40'50"W	Azimut 342°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
28	Violation of the security of air operations	3 May 2019	1054	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'11"N 067°41'00"W	Azimut 338°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
29	Violation of the security of air operations	6 May 2019	0829	EP-3E	United States of America	12°36'45"N 067°43'05"W	Azimut 340°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
30	Violation of the security of air operations	8 May 2019	1034	EP-3E	United States of America	12°51'07"N 067°38'02"W	Azimut 342°, 142 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
31	Violation of the security of air operations	13 May 2019	1040	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'38"N 067°40'53"W	Azimuth 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
32	Violation of the security of air operations	16 May 2019	1146	EP-3E	United States of America	12°36'58"N 067°41'38"W	Azimuth 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
33	Violation of the security of air operations	18 May 2019	0928	EP-3E	United States of America	12°35'05"N 067°41'55"W	Azimuth 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
34	Violation of the security of air operations	21 May 2019	1355	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'09"N 067°43'10"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
35	Violation of the security of air operations	29 May 2019	1605	RC-135V	United States of America	13°00'10"N 067°35'56"W	Azimuth 343°, 150 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
36	Violation of the security of air operations	30 May 2019	1035	EP-3E	United States of America	12°37'27"N 067°41'44"W	Azimuth 340°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
37	Violation of the security of air operations	31 May 2019	1430	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'07"N 067°41'24"W	Azimuth 342°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
38	Violation of the security of air operations	4 June 2019	1108	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'36"N 067°41'40"W	Azimuth 340°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
39	Violation of the security of air operations	5 June 2019	1245	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°39'35"N 067°41'40"W	Azimuth 341°, 131 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
40	Violation of the security of air operations	8 June 2019	1150	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'04"N 067°40'55"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of Vargas
41	Violation of the security of air operations	14 June 2019	1150	EP-3E	United States of America	12°28'53"N 067°44'02"W	Azimuth 338°, 122 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
42	Violation of the security of air operations	17 June 2019	1109	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'28"N 067°41'35"W	Azimuth 340°, 135 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
43	Violation of the security of air operations	25 June 2019	1105	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'01"N 067°42'16"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
44	Violation of the security of air operations	26 June 2019	1350	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°48'30"N 067°40'08"W	Azimuth 343°, 140 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
45	Violation of the security of air operations	28 June 2019	1102	EP-3E	United States of America	12°39'08"N 067°42'23"W	Azimuth 341°, 131 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
46	Violation of the security of air operations	29 June 2019	1418	EP-3E	United States of America	12°13'22"N 065°50'05"W	Azimuth 029°, 138 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
47	Violation of the security of air operations	2 July 2019	1455	RQ-4 Global Hawk	United States of America	12°34'39"N 067°42'45"W	Azimuth 340°, 128 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
48	Violation of the security of air operations	5 July 2019	1055	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'47"N 067°41'55"W	Azimuth 340°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
49	Violation of the security of air operations	11 July 2019	1410	EP-3E	United States of America	12°40'57"N 067°42'58"W	Azimuth 340°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
50	Violation of the security of air operations	16 July 2019	1103	EP-3E	United States of America	12°43'51"N 067°41'00"W	Azimuth 324°, 135 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira

<i>No.</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Location</i>
51	Violation of the security of air operations	19 July 2019	1046	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'20"N 067°41'52"W	Azimut 341°, 132 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
52	Violation of the security of air operations	22 July 2019	1102	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'19"N 067°40'31"W	Azimut 340°, 134 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
53	Violation of the security of air operations	24 July 2019	1255	EP-3E	United States of America	12°42'20"N 067°41'52"W	Azimut 341°, 131 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
54	Violation of the security of air operations	27 July 2019	1058	EP-3E	United States of America	12°37'16"N 067°40'49"W	Azimut 342°, 129 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira
55	Violation of the security of air operations	31 July 2019	1256	EP-3E	United States of America	12°38'59"N 067°42'11"W	Azimut 341°, 130 nautical miles from Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, state of La Guaira