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Letter dated 31 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you, pursuant to resolutions [73/205](#) and [74/188](#), adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2018 and 18 December 2019, respectively, in order to bring to your attention a series of reprehensible incidents that occurred at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Federative Republic of Brazil, with grave implications for the safety and well-being of the Venezuelan diplomatic officials and local staff who work there.

On 13 November 2019 the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the city of Brasilia, Federative Republic of Brazil, was besieged and taken over by a violent group of supporters of the Venezuelan opposition, who, faced with the indifference of the Brazilian police authorities, forced their way into the Embassy, in flagrant violation of the rules of international law. Fortunately, the diplomatic and local staff working inside the facility at that time managed to take refuge, thus preventing the loss of human life.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has condemned and decried this serious incident before the international community, holding the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil responsible for any impact on the physical well-being of the diplomatic and local personnel assigned to the Embassy, whose safety and protection must be assured at all times by the authorities of Brazil, as the receiving State and by virtue of its obligations as a signatory to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Therefore, on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, we respectfully appeal to you to urge the Brazilian authorities to strictly observe, apply and enforce all the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations, including those relating to the inviolability of diplomatic missions. In particular, they should ensure, in accordance with their international obligations, the protection, safety and well-being of the missions within their jurisdiction, and adopt, as a matter of urgency, the necessary measures, including those of a preventive nature, to ensure that the events in question are thoroughly investigated, with a view to bringing to justice those who encouraged, instigated, organized or engaged in the



perpetration of these acts of violence against the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Brasilia.

It is worth highlighting that the Venezuelan diplomatic officials, legitimately posted to Brasilia by the Government of President Nicolás Maduro and currently on an official mission in that country, are duly accredited by the Brazilian Government, have kept their respective diplomatic accreditations up to date, perform their duties on a daily basis, have not been declared personae non gratae, and enjoy diplomatic immunity, which protects them under international law.

However, in an official letter to the Chamber of Deputies dated 26 December 2019 relating to the acts of aggression described above, Ernesto Araújo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, indicated that his Government did not recognize the Venezuelan diplomatic officials who were on official mission at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Brasilia, thereby imperilling their diplomatic immunity.

Any ambiguity on the part of the Brazilian authorities with regard to the recognition of the Venezuelan officials in Brasilia and of their status as diplomatic agents only serves to imperil their safety and physical well-being; this is why, through you, we are calling on the relevant Brazilian authorities to fully respect and comply with their obligations under international law, in particular the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, as the Venezuelan State does in ensuring the immunity, privileges and safety of accredited Brazilian diplomatic agents in Venezuela.

Lastly, I respectfully request your good offices to have the present communication circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 80.

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