



EU-LAT
Advocacy Network
Red de Incidencia

The EU-LAT network urges the European Union to reject the military actions carried out in Venezuelan territory.

The [EU-LAT Network](#) expresses its dismay at the violation of international law committed by the US government in Venezuela on January 3, 2026, and joins the warnings expressed by its [members](#) and allied organizations¹, as well as the alarm raised by the [UN Secretary-General](#) about the serious impacts of these events on peace, democracy and human rights in the region and the world.

The US armed aggression comes after months of escalating tensions, including a significant [military deployment](#) off the coast of Venezuela and a series of deadly attacks on vessels under the pretext, without evidence, of potential links to drug trafficking. **These actions threaten regional stability, constitute a serious violation of the UN Charter, and blatantly undermine the rules-based international order.** They also contradict the principle of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, established by the states of the region and widely endorsed during recent CELAC-US Summits. Furthermore, they set a dangerous precedent within a worrying trend toward a new international order where dialogue and rules appear to be replaced by the law of the strongest.

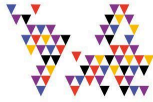
The international community is aware that **Venezuela is experiencing a prolonged decline in democracy, the rule of law, and a [complete closure of civic space](#), resulting in an unprecedented social, economic, and humanitarian crisis and forcing approximately [8 million Venezuelans to migrate](#).** Nicolás Maduro has remained in power following 2014 elections that failed to meet standards of electoral integrity and transparency, a situation widely condemned by the international community². During his administration, various actors have been involved in serious and systematic human rights violations and crimes against humanity, extensively documented in regional forums of the OAS, the European Union, and the [United Nations](#).

While acknowledging the gravity of this situation, **we warn of the serious risk of further massive human rights violations amid the current high level of uncertainty, the state of emergency, and the recent declarations by the United States government regarding its intention to administer the country.** [As the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has stated](#), human rights must, without exception, take precedence. The Venezuelan people need and deserve solutions that fully comply with international law, guarantee accountability for human rights violations, and do not exacerbate the situation in the country.

For all these reasons, **we categorically reject this illegal military intervention, whose stated objective is the control of the country's oil resources and their administration by a foreign power.** We stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people, who for decades have been victims of grave human rights

¹ [Latindadd condena violación de la soberanía venezolana por parte de Estados Unidos](#); CEJIL: [Venezuela: Llamado al respeto de los derechos humanos y al derecho internacional](#); CLACSO: [A la comunidad internacional ante ataque a Venezuela](#).

² [Informe-Venezuela-graves-violacionesDDHH-contexto-electoral](#); [Carter Center Statement on Venezuela Election - The Carter Center](#)



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violations. We affirm that the only way to resolve this crisis must be forged by the Venezuelan people themselves, with the active support and accompaniment of the international community, through peaceful and democratic mechanisms, in full respect for international law and the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty, and self-determination of peoples.

The commitment of the European Union and its Member States to democracy, justice, and fundamental freedoms requires a clear and unwavering defense of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. These are not optional: they are a guiding framework, both in times of calm and in times of crisis, such as the one Venezuela is experiencing today. **From the EU-LAT Network, we urge the European Union and its Member States to clearly and publicly express their rejection of this military intervention and to call on the US government to refrain from resorting to the use of force and threats against the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of Venezuela.**