

METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY'S HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER STATEMENT ON THE FACTS OCCURRED IN CARACAS ON JANUARY 5th, 2020

From the Metropolitan University's Human Rights Center, we alert the national and international community of the grave human rights violations that have been observed today, January 5th, 2020, in the vicinity of the Federal Legislative Palace, in the city of Caracas.

The deputies to the National Assembly are representatives of the citizens; they are elected per the provisions of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CBRV). The fact that members of the Armed Forces, specifically of the National Guard, prevented the deputies identified as dissidents of the *de facto* government of Nicolás Maduro, from accessing the Federal Legislative Palace, headquarters of the National Assembly, as evidenced in different media and social networks, involves the violation of the deputies' political rights, but mainly of all the Venezuelans. The latter voted for them on the 2015 parliamentary elections.

Thus, the State agents prevented today's session from being installed, in accordance to what is constitutionally established in the Article 221 of the CBRV, at the Parliament's headquarters, forcing the National Assembly to meet in other facilities, according to with what it is stated in Article 221 of the CBRV per Article 1 of the Internal Regulations and Debates of the National Assembly.

The rights violated until the time of publication of this statement are:

1. **The right to equality**, as only the deputies identified as opponents to the *de facto* government of Nicolás Maduro were those who were prevented from entering the chamber (right embodied under Articles 3 and 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights -ICCPR-, Article 21 of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights -UDHR-, Article 2 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man -ADRDM- and Article 20 of the CBRV).

2. **The right to public participation**, of the deputies who were not allowed to participate in the session called to choose the new Board of the Assembly; and of the citizens who elected them on December 2015; constituting, what happened inside of the chamber this afternoon, a null act (right embodied on Article 25 of the ICCPR, Article 21 of the UDHR, Article 20 of the ADRDM and Article 62 of the CBRV).
3. **The right to vote**, as agents of the State, fail to acknowledge the election results of December 2015- by preventing the access to the constitutionally elected deputies of the National Assembly to the headquarters of this power (right embodied in Article 25 of the ICCPR, Article 21 of the UDHR, Article 20 of the ADRDM and Article 63 of the CBRV).
4. **The right to freedom of information and expression**, since dozens of journalists and media, were prevented from entering the Parliament headquarters, as denounced by the National Union of Press Workers (right embodied in Article 19 of the ICCPR, Article 19 of the UDHR, Article 4 of the ADRDM and Articles 57 and 58 of the CBRV)

Once more, we face a violation of popular sovereignty, embodied in Article 5 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, by officials of the National Armed Forces, eroding the Constitutional Rule of Law and acting in clear violation of the country's current Constitution.

Caracas, January 5, 2020

6:30 p.m.