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HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

CONDEMNING THE INVASION OF VENEZUELA BY THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA.

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2026, at the direction of the
administration of President Donald J. Trump and under the code
name "Operation Absolute Resolve", United States military
forces invaded Venezuela and captured its president, Nicolas
Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores; and

WHEREAS, according to officials in Venezuela and Cuba,
more than eighty people were killed in the invasion, including
thirty-two members of the Cuban military and Cuban intelligence
agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration did not notify the
United States congress in advance of the invasion; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has no authority to take
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1 military action on its own behalf against a sovereign nation,
2 as the United States constitution deliberately assigns to
3 congress, not the president, the power to decide when the
4 United States will initiate hostilities against foreign
5 sovereigns; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States constitution assigns to
7 congress the power to declare war and the related authority to
8 issue letters of marque and reprisal to private entities, both
9 of which reflect a constitutional judgement that decisions
10 risking international conflict, retaliation and escalation
11 should not rest with a single actor; and

12 WHEREAS, when a United States president unilaterally
13 deploys military force abroad to seize a foreign head of state,
14 effectively collapsing war powers, foreign relations and
15 criminal law enforcement into a single executive action, the
16 constitutional safeguards designed to cabin the use of military
17 force against other countries are bypassed entirely; and

18 WHEREAS, this unilateral action is not cured by the
19 existence of a valid indictment, which may or may not explain
20 why a president wishes to act but cannot provide the
21 constitutional authority to do so through military force
22 without meaningful congressional engagement or authorization;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the violation of Venezuelan air space by United
25 States military forces, the air strikes in Caracas, the seizure

1 of Nicolas Maduro and Cilia Flores and their forced removal to
2 the United States are egregious violations of the United
3 Nations charter, which makes clear that all members of the
4 United Nations are to refrain from the use of force against the
5 territorial integrity or political independence of any nation;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Trump administration claims to have seized
8 control of Venezuela and has announced its intent to "run" the
9 Venezuelan government, while not providing timelines, clear
10 objectives or a transition plan; and

11 WHEREAS, in the absence of a clear plan for transition to
12 a legitimate democratic government, the presence of United
13 States military forces in Venezuela constitutes an illegal
14 occupation of the country; and

15 WHEREAS, the Trump administration has announced its intent
16 to control Venezuela's vast oil reserves and its large deposits
17 of gold and rare earth minerals; and

18 WHEREAS, the seizure of Venezuelan oil for United States
19 corporate or national interests is a further violation of
20 international law; and

21 WHEREAS, the American people are entitled to a clear
22 accounting of all nongovernmental actors seeking interests in
23 Venezuela, and all corporate businesses or interests coming
24 into Venezuela during the United States occupation must be
25 identified and their business interests and activities

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1 disclosed, including disclosure of corporate management and
2 operations; due diligence policies for all corporate plans or
3 management systems; plans for the management of social and
4 environmental issues; risk assessment, including the
5 identification of potential and actual human rights violations
6 and environmental impacts; measures to prevent and mitigate
7 identified actual or potential harms; measures for remediation
8 of negative impacts; and procedures for tracking the
9 effectiveness of remedial measures and for monitoring and
10 reporting the effectiveness of those measures to shareholders
11 and stakeholders; and

12 WHEREAS, all private United States corporations doing
13 business in Venezuela must be called upon to divest their
14 Venezuelan interests and cease any activities that support the
15 illegal occupation of the country by the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, all private United States corporations doing
17 business in both Venezuela and New Mexico must be held
18 accountable for any and all violations of international law and
19 human rights;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Trump
22 administration's invasion of Venezuela, including the seizure
23 of Nicolas Maduro and Cilia Flores and the occupation of
24 Venezuela by United States military forces, be condemned as
25 unauthorized by the United State congress and a clear violation

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1 of international law; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Trump administration be
3 called upon to promptly initiate a transition plan for the
4 election of a legitimate democratic government in Venezuela;
5 and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all United States corporations
7 doing business in both New Mexico and Venezuela be called upon
8 to divest all Venezuelan holdings and interests, cease all
9 activities in Venezuela during the occupation of Venezuela by
10 the United States and refrain from doing business in Venezuela
11 until a democratically elected government is in place; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the attorney general, the chair of
14 the legislative finance committee and the chair of the courts,
15 corrections and justice committee.

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