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## Statement by the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) On the Illegal Capture of Venezuela's President and the Assault on the International Order

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The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) speaks with grave alarm and moral conviction in response to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela and the unilateral assumption of control over Venezuela by the United States under President Donald Trump. This act is a flagrant violation of international law, an assault on national sovereignty, and a dangerous expression of imperial overreach that threatens the fragile global order.

The justifications offered for President Maduro's capture to combat corruption, drug trafficking, or authoritarianism do not withstand moral, legal, or theological scrutiny. Criminal allegations do not grant any state the right to abduct a foreign leader, impose regime change, or act beyond the law. To accept such reasoning is to normalize lawlessness and set a perilous precedent in which power, not law, governs international relations. If powerful nations may now unilaterally seize leaders of weaker states, then international law has ceased to be law and has become merely a tool of the strong.

By acting without United Nations authorization, without multilateral consensus, and without the restraint of the U.S. Congress, the United States has signaled that might, not law, determines global affairs. While the Maduro government may have faults, two wrongs do not make a right. This action undermines international institutions, legitimizes lawlessness, and threatens weaker nations worldwide. The future of Venezuela belongs to its people not to Washington, foreign militaries, or global economic interests. History shows that externally imposed "liberation" almost always masks exploitation and long-term suffering. Venezuela's vast mineral and energy wealth raises urgent questions about who truly benefits from this intervention. The Church names this act for what it is: a denial of self-determination, a violation of sovereignty, and a potential attempt to replace national will with the interests of powerful external actors.

The history of U.S.-led invasions in Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan demonstrates that such interventions rarely improve quality of life, governance, or democracy. The devastation and instability that followed these actions are a foregone warning: there is no reason to believe Venezuela will fare differently under coercion and foreign control. God stands with the oppressed, not the oppressor; with the invaded, not the invader; with the weak, not the powerful. The Church therefore stands unequivocally with the people of

Venezuela, with international law, and with dialogue and diplomacy, not with coercion, sanctions, or unilateral force. Neutrality in such a moment would be complicity in injustice.

We call upon the United States to cease all actions that violate Venezuela's sovereignty and to submit fully to international legal and diplomatic processes. We urge the United Nations and the global community to defend the rules-based order. We call on churches, faith communities, and people of conscience worldwide to resist imperial violence and uphold justice. American Christians, in particular, must take seriously the suffering inflicted upon the Venezuelan people. They are called to organize prayerful demonstrations, participate in acts of public witness, and use every lawful avenue to hold accountable those in power who have sanctioned lawlessness, including demanding the resignation or impeachment of President Trump.

God does not stand with lawlessness, however powerful its authors. God rejects a necropolitical order in which the rich and powerful decide who lives or dies, who wins or loses, and what is right or wrong. The poor will not forever bear the cost of geopolitical ambition. The weak will not always be crushed beneath sanctions, soldiers, or the calculations of the mighty. The powerful will not escape divine judgment, the accountability of nations, or the verdict of history.

May God awaken the conscience of nations, strengthen all who speak truth to power, and unite the global community in demanding a world governed not by domination, but by justice, dignity, and peace.

In Christ's love,

For more information, please contact the UCCSA office or visit our website at [[www.uccsadenomination.org.za](http://www.uccsadenomination.org.za)].

**Signed by**



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