



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

August 22, 2017

Ms. Idriss Jazairy
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of
unilateral coercive measure on the enjoyment of human rights

Mr. Idriss Jazairy:

Please find attached the U.S. response to your letter dated August 11, 2017,
regarding the use of sanctions with respect to Venezuela.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Mack
U.S. Deputy Permanent
Representative to the UN Human
Rights Council

OHCHR REGISTRY

24 AUG 2017

Recipients : SPB
S. ASBJORNSEN
.....
.....

SUBJECT: Response of the Government of the United States of America to the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights regarding Venezuela sanctions

The United States categorically rejects the insinuation that U.S. sanctions against persons in the Maduro regime violate the human rights of people in Venezuela. Under President Nicolas Maduro, the Venezuelan government has deliberately and repeatedly violated human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through the use of violence, repression, and criminalization of demonstrations. At his direction, the regime's security forces have repressed and targeted members of opposition parties, including through arbitrary detentions, military prosecutions of civilians, and the excessive use of force against demonstrators.

Targeted sanctions can be a powerful tool to promote human rights and hold accountable those who violate them. The United States rejects the premise of the Human Rights Council's mandate on unilateral coercive measures, as detailed in our explanations of vote against the resolutions on this topic.