

An Appeal

# **Yes to Constitutional Reform, No to the attempts to destabilize Venezuela**

Saturday 24 November 2007, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 20 November 2007).

In recent years Venezuela has suffered unremitting pressure from the imperial powers, a hostile campaign by the international media and attempted coups by the domestic elite. Time and again, working people and the poor in Venezuela have defeated the old oligarchy, both in the streets and at the ballot box. Their refusal to submit reflects the dignity of the entire Venezuelan people and is an example not only for others in Latin America but across the world.

Whether or not we agree with all aspects of the proposed reform of the Bolivarian Constitution, there is no doubt that as a whole it offers the possibility of deepening the process of change.

The ban on large land-holdings and monopolies, the recognition of people's councils as part of the institutions of power, the end to the autonomy of the Central Bank, the right to vote at 16, the reduction of the working week, the promotion of economic activities guided by socialist principles, are profoundly anti-neoliberal and anti-imperialist measures.

Above all this is a reform that is to be ratified by referendum, in yet another demonstration of popular sovereignty.

Big business and the pro-imperialist right in Venezuela, divided between those who call for abstention and those who call for a 'No' vote, retain their economic power and continue to enjoy the financial and political backing of the US and European governments. Now they have been joined by General Baduel, the former Defence Minister, who has come out against the reform.

All are terrified of the changes proposed in the Constitutional Reform. They seek to undermine its approval by destabilizing the country, in the hope of either preventing the referendum or ensuring it takes place under conditions of coercion.

No doubt they will use all the means at their disposal, and will be supported by the main mass media. We must be ready for this because approval of the reform by a big margin will be another massive blow to those who for years have feared losing their privileges and not being able to recover them.

We have no doubt that the deepening of the Bolivarian process and its continuation in other parts of Latin America offer the best possible guarantee for defeating imperialism and the coup-mongers. We are confident the Venezuelan people will again triumph over those who deny them their freedom. They will do this again in 2007 as they did in April 2002 or during the employers' lockout and oil stoppage. That is why we call on labour movements and youth, on social movements and the left, around the world, to support the 'Yes' vote in this referendum on the Constitution, and to show the broadest possible solidarity with the Venezuelan people and their Bolivarian revolution, as they struggle for a socialism of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*First signatures:*

## ARGENTINA

Claudio Katz - economista, Prof. UBA - Integrante EDI-Economistas de Izquierda

Jorge Marchini - economista, Prof. UBA - Directivo SEPLA/OID

Eduardo Lucita - economista/periodista - Integrante de EDI

Jorge Sanmartino - Corriente Praxis, tendencia interna del MST

Herman Schiller - periodista

Mabel Bellucci - ensayista

Roberto Pianelli - Cuerpo de Delegados Metro de Bs.As. - Mesa Nacional MIC Movimiento Intersindical Clasista.

Marcos Britos - Delegado APUBA (trabajadores de Universidad) - Mesa Nacional MIC.

Jorge Muracciole- Secretario Gremial UTPBA, (periodistas)

Cristina Martín - Delegada ATE-Capital (estatales)

Eduardo Ruarte - Cooperativa BAUEN Hotel, recuperado por la gestión obrera.

Fabio Resino - Coop. BAUEN Hotel - Directivo FACTA - (Federación de Coop. de Trabajadores Autogestionados)

José Abelli - Directivo FACTA.

Gustavo Muñiszaga - FTC-29M / Mesa Nacional del Bloque Piquetero Nacional - BPN

Roberto Martino - MTR / Mesa Nacional del Bloque Piquetero Nacional - BPN

Hugo Cáceres - UTC/ Mesa Nacional del Bloque Piquetero Nacional - BPN

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## BRASIL

Marcela Moreira - concejal del Partido Socialismo y Libertad /Campinas -SP/Brasil

João Alfredo Telles Melo - abogado, ex diputado nacional del PSOL/CE, Brasil

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Tárzia Medeiros - Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres y dirigente nacional del PSOL / Brasil

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#### OTHER COUNTRIES

B. Skanthakumar , Sri Lanka

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