



## **Joint Statement: Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)**

FUNDALATIN  
ACNU

### **Item 4: ID HC on Venezuela**

#### **Unilateral Sanctions Subject the Target Civilians to Mass Killing**

##### **Mr. President**

ODVV is deeply alarmed by the effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) on people of Venezuela under Covid-19. UCMs are unlawful terroristic measures that target civilian lives contrary to all claims made by the source countries. Comprehensive unilateral measures are worsening the limitation of access to medicine under Covid-19 outbreak, threatening millions of lives in all target countries, including Venezuela, Iran and Cuba.

ODVV echoes the concerns expressed by the UN HC in March 2020. Also, ODVV calls on all sanctioning countries including the EU and the US to lift all unilateral illegal sanctions under the virus outbreak in order to ensure the access of all Venezuelans to necessary medical care and medicine.

ODVV shares the repeated criticisms made by the UN HC on US sanctions imposed on Venezuela, indicating that “the extremely broad sanctions” “would intensify the suffering of millions” of people.

##### **Mr. President**

ODVV reiterates that UCMs directly target the health<sup>v</sup> and economic infrastructures in sanctioned countries and negatively affect the right to life in addition to all economic, social and cultural rights. Therefore, noting the UN HC repeated calls on UCM source countries to lift all unilateral sanctions under Covid-19, and the disregard of sanctioning countries, ODVV urges the UN HC to use all cards at hand to hold the sanctioning countries accountable for all their crimes using unilateral sanctions.

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<sup>v</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-49287899>; <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060092>;  
<sup>v</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/26/venezuela-urgent-aid-needed-combat-covid-19>