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## CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

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January 9, 2026

Hon. Mark Carney, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Hon. Anita Anand, MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Global Affairs Canada  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

### **Re: VOW strongly condemns the U.S. attack on Venezuela and abduction of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores**

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Anand,

We, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW), are writing to you to express our condemnation of the illegal bombing of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores by the United States on Saturday, January 3. In the United States' violent military operation, approximately one hundred people were killed, including thirty-two Cuban nationals, and civilian infrastructure was destroyed. We are concerned that the Canadian government has not issued a statement to clearly denounce the U.S.'s act of aggression against Venezuela.

At the emergency session of the United Nations' Security Council on January 5, the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations (GOF) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which represent the majority of countries at the UN, issued strong denunciations of the U.S.'s unprovoked use of military force against Venezuela. In their remarks, the GOF and the NAM described the Trump administration's illegitimate actions as a grave threat to peace, multilateralism, and international law.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), a non-governmental organization of the leading judges and lawyers from around the world, have denounced the U.S. attacks against Venezuela as an unlawful use of force and a clear violation of Article 2(4) of the *United Nations Charter* in their recent statement. The ICJ also explained that the unlawful abduction of Venezuelan President Maduro and his wife was a violation of

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Canadian Voice of Women for Peace founded in 1960.  
A national & international network of women working to help  
build a world founded on peace and justice for all.

Consultative Status with the  
United Nations – ECOSOC  
Economic & Social Council

*Honourary Board Members:*

Jean Augustine, Kim Phuc, Judy Rebick, Metta Spencer, Mary Wynne-Ashford and LeeAnn McKenna

international law. The ICJ expressed further concern that statements made by the U.S. government suggests an intention to “run” Venezuela or to determine its political and economic future, which is a violation of the Venezuelan people’s right to self-determination.

As President Trump admitted in the press conference on Sunday, January 4, the U.S. “wants to control Venezuelan oil.” The U.S. Energy Information Agency confirmed that Venezuela possesses the largest proven reserves of crude oil and vast mineral resources in the world. At a meeting with oil and gas executives on Friday, January 9, Trump made it clear that the U.S. administration and American corporations want to control the petroleum production and wealth of Venezuela. We also know that Canadian mining companies and banks have economic interests in Venezuela. Under international law, countries have sovereign control over their natural resources and development.

VOW calls on you to:

- Join the majority of the international community and unequivocally condemn the U.S government’s aggression against Venezuela as violation of Article 2 of the *UN Charter*;
- Demand the immediate release and repatriation of President Maduro and of his wife;
- Call for an emergency session of Parliament’s Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development;
- End all Canadian military and civilian participation in the U.S.’s *Operation Caribe* and do not provide any support to the U.S. military or intelligence operations in the region;
- Ensure that Canada is not involved in any covert operations to further destabilize or disrupt Venezuela;
- Ensure that Canadian companies respect Venezuela’s sovereign control over its natural resources and that Canadian companies follow the law and uphold human rights in the country;
- Lift all economic coercive measures against Venezuela and sanctions that have been imposed against Venezuelan officials; and
- Re-establish diplomatic ties with Venezuela and re-open Canada’s Embassy in Caracas.

We also ask that the Canadian government respect the peace declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which includes Venezuela. In 2014, at the Second Summit in Havana, the CELAC countries declared that Latin America is a “Zone of Peace” and must be free from foreign interference and armed intervention.

Finally, we bring to your attention that VOW and other peace groups under the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network held protests across the country on Sunday, January 4 and Monday, January 5 to publicly condemn the U.S.’s attack against Venezuela. As well, there were large-scale demonstrations in support of President Maduro in Caracas and

over one hundred rallies in the U.S. against the Trump administration's assault on Venezuela. We note that there have been massive rallies across Venezuela in support of President Maduro and First Lady Flores as reported in the *Orinoco Tribune*, *Democracy Now* and *Telesur*. VOW stands in solidarity with people of conscience in Canada and around the world who support Venezuela. There will be a Global Day of Action for Venezuela on Saturday, January 17, which our members will be participating in. We do not want the U.S. to conduct another assault against Venezuela as Trump has threatened to do. And we do not want Canada to be involved in another U.S. war for oil like the war against Iraq and the war against Libya. Canada must demonstrate its commitment to international law and multilateralism by publicly denouncing the U.S.'s unilateral act of aggression against Venezuela.

Sincerely,




Lyn Adamson & Hannah Hadikin  
Co-Chairs, National Board

The **Canadian Voice of Women for Peace** (VOW) is the largest national feminist peace organization with members and chapters across the country. VOW was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a network of diverse women. VOW's main office is in Toronto. VOW runs many campaigns related to women, peace, disarmament and anti-militarism. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year brings a delegation of Canadian women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference. For over 60 years, VOW has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. VOW stands for a feminist peace based on nonviolence, disarmament, diplomacy and common security with gender equality.

Web site: <http://vowpeace.org>

#### References:

Canada reacts to the situation in Venezuela

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2026/01/canada-reacts-to-the-situation-in-venezuela.html>

CELAC Declares Latin America and the Caribbean a Peace Zone

<https://www.sela.org/celac-declares-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-a-peace-zone/>

Consolidated Canadian Autonomous Sanctions List

[https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/sanctions/consolidated-consolide.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/consolidated-consolide.aspx?lang=eng)

International Commission of Jurists (ICJ): “United States/Venezuela: Territorial sovereignty, the rule of law and human rights must be guaranteed and respected”  
<https://www.icj.org/united-states-venezuela-territorial-sovereignty-the-rule-of-law-and-human-rights-must-be-guaranteed-and-respected/>

UN Security Council Meeting on Venezuela:  
<https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16271.doc.htm>

Venezuela’s Energy Overview, U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA):  
<https://www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/VEN>