

# *Venezuelan Foreign Minister Says People-Centered Human Rights Model Is Irreversible*

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Geneva, November 4 (RHC)-- Venezuela celebrated its human rights achievements in a report presented to the United Nations in Geneva as dialogue between President Nicolas Maduro's government and the opposition is underway despite lasting resistance from some factions of the opposition after months of a tense stalemate.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodríguez argued that putting Venezuelan people and their well-being at the center of political change in the South American country has strengthened human rights. "The human rights model in Venezuela is absolutely irreversible," she said, "because citizens have for themselves and by themselves carried out the deep transformation that is underway in our country."

Delcy Rodríguez added that the election of late President Hugo Chavez marked a turning point in Venezuela's human rights record, setting of the Bolivarian Revolution that rose up against imperialism and tackled the injustice of putting profits over people under a capitalist model.

"We can compare what the neo-liberal capitalist model meant, how it meant a failure for our people," she said. "The revolution in Venezuela is deeply for human rights. There is a constitutional state for human

rights.”

Venezuela is routinely attacked internationally by foreign governments, media and some NGOs for alleged human rights abuses, which often lays bare hypocrisy amid relative silence on more serious rights abuses in other countries. Venezuelan officials have chastised the United States for condemning alleged human rights abuses in the country, including so-called police crackdown on protests, when in fact the U.S. has serious human rights problems, including police brutality and repression.

The top Venezuelan diplomat argued that her country's performance as the “vanguard” of human rights has provoked resistance and backlash from the “imperial and de facto centers of power.”

Successes by progressive governments in Latin America, including Venezuela, in redistributing wealth, drastically reducing inequality and extreme poverty, expanding access to public services, such as healthcare and education, are recognized as advances in human rights in line with U.N. Millennial Development Goals and their new iteration, the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

“From Venezuela we make a call: Now is the time for the people,” added Rodriguez. “Between a model that failed, and those of us who have the intention to save life, save the human species.”

The report is part of the Universal Periodic Review, the U.N. mechanism that reviews all member states' human rights compliance.

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