

# *Brazilian social movements demand President Lula da Silva recognize Nicolás Maduro's victory on July 28th*

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The signing group states that "recognizing (Maduro's election) not only reaffirms our commitment to respecting Venezuelan sovereignty, but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and cooperation that have historically united our two nations." Photo: Clacso. Photo. MTS.

Brasilia, December 29 (RHC)-- Through a letter sent to the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, social movements from the South American giant have requested the recognition by the Brazilian Government of the election of the Venezuelan dignitary, Nicolás Maduro, who won the recent elections on July 28th.

Among the signatory movements are the National Youth Movement, the Brazilian Press Association, the Brazilian Association of Jurists for Democracy, the National Confederation of Neighborhood Associations, and the Popular Brazil Movement.

Likewise, the Landless Workers' Movement, the Brazilian Women's Union, the Brazilian Secondary School Students' Union, the Black Union for Equality, and the National LGBT Union also signed.

The current president of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, won the elections and was recognized by the nation's electoral body (CNE)—which has that constitutional function—so he will lead the country for six more years.

In the face of the Bolivarian leader's victory, the far-right claimed that the election had been a fraud, warning that the winner had been the candidate Edmundo González, which goes against the results recorded by the electoral body mandated by the Constitution.

In that context, the Brazilian government, although it never joined the infamies of the far-right, did show opposition and did not recognize Maduro's victory.

Now, social movements are seeking recognition from Brasília, which is why they are turning to the Brazilian dignitary.

"We want to highlight the importance of maintaining good-neighborly relations between our country and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, based on mutual respect, cooperation, and understanding of the internal complexities of each nation," reads the document.

Likewise, the signing group points out that "recognizing (Maduro's election) not only reaffirms our commitment to respecting Venezuelan sovereignty, but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and cooperation that have historically united our two nations."

"In our opinion, diplomatic relations, openness to dialogue, sincerity, empathy, and frankness with the Venezuelan Government, especially at this critical post-electoral moment, as well as with other countries in our region, are essential to building regional integration in a more structural, institutional, and permanent way," they add.

Meanwhile, the letter alerts the Brazilian head of state to the "risks that the rise of extremist movements in Venezuela poses for the entire region."

"The most recent seizure by Venezuelan authorities of 400 rifles exclusively for use by the United States and six individuals highlights the undemocratic and terrorist nature of some sectors of the Venezuelan opposition and the United States," they add.

They also highlight that "among these individuals are Venezuelans recruited by the National Intelligence Center of Spain and an active-duty U.S. Navy soldier, Wilbert Joseph Castañeda Gómez."

"The Venezuelan far-right and its allies abroad are promoting a polarizing and destabilizing agenda, which threatens not only the internal peace of the country but also the stability of Latin America as a whole." This situation could have negative repercussions in our own country, generating tensions that could be avoided with Brazilian action based on dialogue and respect for the legitimate choices of the Venezuelan people," continues the document.

Finally, the text explains that Brasilia's recognition of Maduro "not only reaffirms its commitment to the principles of sovereignty and self-determination, but also sends a clear message of support for peace and regional stability, promoting the strengthening of Latin American integration at a time of great global challenges."

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