

ICJ Background Guide

AMSIMUN'26

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Dear Delegates,

We are honored to be able to welcome you to the AMSI Model United Nations 2026 conference as the chairs International Court of Justice (ICJ) committee! We, as first-time moderators of this conference, are eager to be able to see each and every one of you delegate as you debate and create a proper line of reasoning within the topics that you care about. Amid regional conflicts, the way that the world works has been in question by a multitude of international organizations and NGOs highlighting the injustice that comes when power supersedes accountability. Therefore, we require you to set up evidence that targets the current issue by reaching a unanimous verdict that tackles the topic at hand.

Through its initial establishment on June 26th, 1945, the International Court of Justice has consistently had the need to maintain a steadfast opinion that seeks to set advisory opinions towards nations or organizations that are guilty setting an ideology that this guilt is accounted for. The ICJ has had a deeply rooted end that required it to place parties that have committed atrocities under jeopardy in creating a verdict against said regions. In doing so, the ICJ has showcased its commitment towards world equality and its need to place parties accountability for the negative influence that they may have on the world and the nations within it. Through this, the ICJ has built the credibility to place itself as an organization of power and security as it has shown in creating a variety of advisory opinions that have led to positive safekeeping within the world. These acts have shown a significant impact on the development of the world and have shined a light on the heinous acts that a sect of nations have placed upon the world showcasing a need to account for those acts. (*The Court | INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE*)

As your chairs, we would like to inform you that this background guide should be used merely as a starter resource and not your core foundational research. You are still expected to conduct your own independent research about the topic to enhance the flow of debate and to showcase the rigor that you bring to the conference. Make sure to grasp the topic as a whole and make sure to understand each characteristic of the situation. This document is created to provide a simple outline of what the content of the topic entails as well as providing you with a solid basis on what the topic is.

We are ecstatic to be a part of the journey that you will have as delegates! Your participation in this year's conference will illuminate the way that you see the world.

As your chairs, we plan to invoke a debate that highlights the individual excellence of each delegate throughout the days of the conference. We frankly cannot wait to see you delegate the ICJ committee! **Please do not forget to send us your position papers through your Mawakeb Mail**, and do not hesitate to ask any questions or any inquiries that you may have as we are always here to help!

Your Chairs,

Rayan Sadek & Youssef Zouaoui



Topic: United States of America Vs. Venezuela: Examining the Justification of the USA's actions in Venezuela

Through the recent scrutiny that the United States of America has employed upon Venezuela, there have been debates on whether the taking of President Nicolás Maduro came with its own justifications. Through the sudden lapse of events, the United States of America (spearheaded by President Donald Trump) has completely shifted the origins that were present within Venezuela prior to the invasion. Under Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, the singularity that Venezuela once maintained against the west confusingly evolved into: renewed diplomatic relations with the USA, engaging in discussions over mining oil, as well as employing Anti – Blockade Law Mechanisms to strengthen the trade with the United States. In specific, trade of around \$2 billion has been discussed in oil exports between Venezuela and the United States. This highlights a simple realization in showcasing the normalization of the two countries despite a wide scale invasion. (Monde, 2026) Despite these sudden relations, it must the topic of abiding by international law must be studied. Through the tremendous strides that were taken by the USA towards the destabilization of Venezuelan sovereignty, Amnesty, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and The UN Human Rights Council’s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela have each cited breaches of international law coupled using unlawful force among the civilians within Venezuela. (*Venezuela: U.S. Attack Seriously Violates International Law*, n.d.) A more suitable explanation for the actions in Venezuela has been asked of President Donald Trump, claiming regional stability came from the extermination of the ex-Venezuelan government. A more confusing reality, came from President Trump being seemingly proud of the invasion in early 2026 which featured employing an executive order that left Venezuelan oil revenue in, “U.S treasury accounts,” signifying the individual benefit that the United States experienced as a result of such an invasion. (Wales, 2026)

History

Prior to the invasion in early 2026, the United States of America had sustained from invading a Latin nation since 1989. In December 2025, the way Donald Trump threatened the Venezuelan government not to mention the fact that the United States targeted several Venezuelan individuals between the year of 2025. In addition, 25 percent of the US Navy was stationed in borders around Venezuela so that President Maduro be pressured out of

Venezuela, so that the USA can take destructive action against the integrity of the government. (*Why Venezuela?* | *Epicenter*, 2025) Critics have also argued that the invasion of Venezuela is likely based on the idealistic representation of Trump's illustrious capabilities when it comes to the USA carrying out permanent consequences against governments. These consequences were described by civilians as mass brutality from the United States forces towards the Venezuelan government.

It must be noted that President Maduro's government was not a peaceful democratic group. For, Amnesty allegedly reports hundreds of individuals suffering arbitrary arrests and around 7,9 million Venezuelan refugees that were inclined to flee the region in response to the way that Maduro acted with civilians (Amnesty International, n.d.). Building upon that nature, Maduro's government have been accused of having 82 new political prisoners as of late 2025 showcasing the bias that goes into the elections of the president. (*Venezuela's Repressive State Apparatus 'Intact' Despite Leadership Change*, 2026) Despite the lack of international awareness that was present when the United States invaded Venezuela, it must be noted that within the Venezuelan government, there was a multitude of humanitarian rights offenses that affected the civilians that were present within the nation.

Moving on from human rights offenses, the Venezuelan government also was found to have an increased amount of drug transpiration within their borders. For example, in 2022, drug trafficking amounted to around %8.5 of the total GDP or \$5.1 dollars across the year (*Drug Trafficking in Venezuela 2024: An Expanding Business That Brings Profits to the Power Elite*, n.d.). No matter the stipulations that were present within the nation, there was no denying that the threat of illicit drug trafficking (originated in Venezuela) was bound to spread across to neighbouring nations.

Let it be remembered that these actions were present under President Maduro, an individual who was a bus driver in the 1990s to the president of a country after being appointed by 2013 President Hugo Chavez. Through the course of his election, Maduro faced large criticism for his vote by a simple majority of (%1.5). As, a result of this, civilians continuously asked for a recount only to be met with the neglect with the president that had just been appointed (Maduro). Clearly, the relationship between Maduro and his people was negative showcasing a lack of trust. (Admin, 2013)

Despite the humanitarian violations that were present by the USA towards Venezuela, the state of the Venezuelan government must be highlighted as one that is weak. From having

the presence of humanitarian violations within the country to having an amount of GDP be amounted from the drug trafficking that was present within the nation.

Analysis

In examining the case of the United States of America and Venezuela, the justification that is produced throughout the side of the USA was based, purely, on the need of regional stability within South America. In employing a vast majority of cognitive standards that Trump would attest to maintaining within the world, it is clear that his actions are can be met with American benefit (As shown in the capturing of oil in Venezuela). Furthermore, the placing of sanctions on the Venezuelan government followed by its removal has placed Trump at a place that places the capabilities of a nation on the United States of America's hands. This showcases how Trump would like the USA to be seen on the way that it can affect a nation based on the agenda that it deems it to be. In terms of the International Court of Justice, it has strongly gone against the actions that the USA have done. However, the USA's ability to not follow an advisory opinion of the ICJ. This means that its prosecution does not directly affect the USA as per Article 94 of the UN charter. (Sthoeger, 2023)

In contrast, it may be seen by the regions of South Africa that the Venezuelan government was corrupt due to the extensive enforcement by President Maduro which includes allegedly misleading the voting of an election, the continuous violation of humanitarian rights within the country, and the mass spread of drug trafficking within the country. These details build the heinous reputation that the United States of America have appointed Venezuela with, paving the way for governmental rebuilding as well as regional power within Latin America.

The United States of America's breaches of UN Charter Article 2(4) which references the international sovereignty within a country which the USA clearly breached. Furthermore, the violation of Article 51 which sees the misuse of 'self-defence' seeing the USA's claim that the Venezuelan government was seen as a harmful organization. Moreover, UN Charter Article 2(7) claims that non-intervention policies must be present even if that nation is mishandling their affairs within their government (unless it infringes upon the safety of another). (Boca, 2026) However, let this not cloud the human rights violations that the Venezuelan government have broken. For example, the ill – treatment of detainees which

goes against Article 7 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), not to mention breaching Article 6 of the ICCPR which grants the right to life which Venezuela has broken multiple times by outgoing a severe amount of death penalties. ICCPR Article 19 grants the right to free speech which Maduro also did not grant through his reign, and most significantly Article 14 of the ICCPR which calls for fair trials which Maduro breached when he allegedly miscounted the voting in his favor (as stated before). (OHCHR, n.d.)

Despite the faults of both nations, a call to action in regards the way that the United States of America acted, coupled by the continuous need to address the mistreatment of civilians within Venezuela at the time. Therefore, a form of preliminary measures must be placed on the way that these regions must act when nations influence a conflict of the same magnitude in Latin America, or within the world. In doing so, peace and stability would be ensured in South America as well as North America,

Questions to be Answered in your Final Verdict:

1. Is the invasion of the USA into Venezuela justified?
2. What measures should be placed on Venezuela by the international community to ensure safekeeping of its civilians?
3. Should the USA have the right to facilitate the governmental rebuilding of Venezuela?
4. In terms of ICJ proceedings, should a non-advisory contract be limited when regarding a nation directly?
5. Should the USA and other member states of great power sign an agreement that hinders them from intervention in other countries?
6. Should Venezuela be placed under a transition period that is focused primarily on the development of the government?
7. Should the ICJ have the jurisdiction to prosecute nations directly when they see fit?
8. How can the ICJ ensure a balanced resolution that serves both the USA and Venezuela?

Starter Resources

1. <http://www.icj-cij.org/court>
2. <https://epicenter.wcfia.harvard.edu/articles/why-venezuela>
3. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/americas/south-america/venezuela/report-venezuela/>
4. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>
5. <https://transparenciave.org/economias-ilicitas/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Drug-Trafficking-in-Venezuela-2024.-Transparencia-Venezuela-en-el-exilio.pdf>
6. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/how-do-states-react-to-advisory-opinions-rejection-implementation-and-what-lies-in-between/4AF4CED5401C7C89B2F4FB2EC327D2DA>

Country Matrix

The United States of America - The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago - Bolivian Republic of Venezuela - United Mexican States - Italy – Spain – Netherlands – Switzerland – Belgium – Austria – Portugal – Greece – Turkey – Romania – Hungary – Poland - Czech Republic – Slovakia – Bulgaria - Lebanon

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