

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of: the signing members and friends of the Venezuelan Community in Australia.

Draws to the attention of the House:

The political crisis threatening democracy in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela after the presidential election held on April 14, where more than three thousand irregularities and violations of the country's Electoral Act were reported during and after Election Day. This has caused reasonable doubts about a result favoring Nicolas Maduro with a narrow margin of 1.49% above the opposition candidate Henrique Capriles. Consequently, and in correspondence with the principles contained within the Venezuelan Constitution, the opposition officially requested the National Electoral Council (CNE) to accept an in-depth audit of the election's results, which was not accepted. Measures like the one rejected would have ensured the principle of fairness and Venezuela's international obligation to uphold its democratic Constitution.

We therefore ask the House to:

Internationally favor the constitutional measures that should be taken to counteract this political crisis, by supporting those proposals which in fact safeguard the democratic rights of the Venezuelan people; and to remain vigilant of any violations of human rights or crimes against humanity which could be occurring in Venezuela. The Commonwealth of Australia can express and maintain its solidarity with initiatives taken to protect democracies, acting in accordance to the stipulations contained within international treaties for preventing or resolving serious damages to democratic states.