

Misleading new resolution against Venezuela: Stop H. Con. Res. 328 January 24, 2006

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns is involved in the planning of a [national conference in solidarity with Venezuela](#) on March 4-5. The goal of the conference is to build a network of local Venezuelan solidarity groups around the country. We feel these solidarity groups are important to try to influence the U.S. government to respect Venezuelan sovereignty and to let the democratically-elected Chavez government function without outside interference.

The message below shows how necessary these groups are. Please consider contacting your member of Congress about this important matter.

Just before Christmas, Rep. Connie Mack (FL-R) introduced a resolution to condemn the Venezuelan government and encourage financing of opposition political parties in Venezuela. H. Con. Res. 328 is filled with distortions and misleading statements that add up to paint an inaccurate picture of Venezuela's government.

What the resolution says: The resolution iterates a number of talking points from Venezuelan opposition parties, many of which are simply not supported by the public record. The "whereas" clauses of the resolution claim:

- President Chavez single-handedly rewrote the Venezuelan Constitution
- Chavez is attempting to "rid the political landscape of any official opposition," by winning at the ballot box
- Chavez has taken steps to eliminate traditional labor unions
- The Venezuelan government supports "radical forces in Colombia, Bolivia, and Ecuador" in an effort to "destabilize the already fragile democratic governments," and
- President Chavez stifles media outlets through punitive legislation.

For a complete listing of Rep. Mack's myths, as well as documentation to counter them, please visit: <http://www.rethinkvenezuela.com/downloads/hcr328.htm>

What the resolution would do: Resolution 328 encourages the U.S. government to fund political parties in opposition to the Chavez administration, a policy which would violate Venezuelan law, not to mention subvert the very principles of democracy in Venezuela.

What you can do: Please contact your member of Congress today! Visit http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizations/VIO//campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=2167 to view a sample letter to Congress. By inputting your name and address, you can personalize your letter and it will be immediately faxed to your Congressional representative. If you have the time PLEASE WRITE YOUR OWN LETTER. It's always better for your representative to know why you care and how this affects you rather than receiving the same letter from many of their constituents. Go to www.house.gov to find your representative's contact information.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.rethinkvenezuela.com/downloads/hcr328.htm>

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