



**FREE
LEOPOLDO**



**“WE ARE LIVING IN A DARK
TIME WHEN CRIMINALS
ARE REWARDED AND THEY
WANT TO IMPRISON THE
VENEZUELAN WHO
WANT PEACEFUL,
DEMOCRATIC CHANGE.”**

– Leopoldo López, February 19, 2014

HELD PRISONER TO SILENCE DISSENT

On the evening of Leopoldo López's arrest, February 18, 2014, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro remarked in a televised address: "I said, 'Send him to jail,' and that's what happened and that's what will happen with all of the fascists."

On September 10, 2015, Leopoldo López, the most prominent leader of the Venezuelan opposition movement, was wrongly convicted and sentenced to 13 years and 9 months in prison for the charges of conspiracy, incitement to commit crimes, arson, and damage to public property.

After his sentencing, one of the lead government prosecutors publicly admitted that the trial was a sham and that "false evidence" was used against Leopoldo.

In the wake of the ruling, Amnesty International said Leopoldo “should have never been arbitrarily arrested or tried in the first place” and called for his immediate release.

The New York Times editorial board wrote that “the persecution of Mr. López shows Mr. Maduro’s desperation.”

López is currently serving his sentence in Ramo Verde, a military prison outside of Caracas. He is forced to spend much of his time in solitary confinement and is regularly denied the right to visit his wife and children.

ABOUT LEOPOLDO LÓPEZ

Kenyon College '93 Cum Laude

Kennedy School of Government Harvard University, '96

Mayor of Chacao, Venezuela 2000-2008

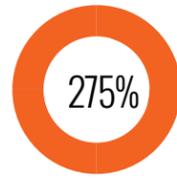
Founder of Voluntad Popular 2009

Leader of the Venezuelan Opposition

Political prisoner



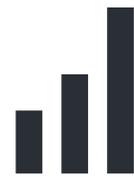
VENEZUELA IN CRISIS



275% INFLATION RATE
THE HIGHEST IN
THE WORLD



VENEZUELA'S ECONOMY
CONTRACTED 10%
IN 2015



27,875 MURDERS IN 2015
ONE OF THE HIGHEST
IN THE WORLD



70% OF MEDICINES
IN SHORT SUPPLY

WHAT WE CAN DO

- 01** THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT MUST OBEY ITS LAWS AND RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS BY RELEASING LÓPEZ IMMEDIATELY.
- 02** NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SPEAK OUT - PARTICULARLY THOSE IN LATIN AMERICA.
- 03** THE MEDIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON THIS ABUSE AND MANY OTHERS THAT ARE BEING PERPETRATED AGAINST THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ACTIONS AFFECT US ALL.

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

**“LÓPEZ IS THE HOPE OF THE
BELEAGUERED OPPOSITION”**

– Bloomberg Businessweek

**“...THE INTERNATIONAL
RAMIFICATIONS ARE BIG.”**

– Reuters

**“I’M FINE. I ASK YOU NOT TO
GIVE UP. I WON’T.”**

– Leopoldo Lopez in a handwritten note passed to his wife at Caracas’s Ramo Verde prison.

“We stand in solidarity with those who are detained at this very moment. In Venezuela, Leopoldo Lopez...and so many others. They deserve to be free. They ought to be released.”

– U.S. President Barack Obama

“Leopoldo López and the political prisoners in Venezuela should be released without delay.”

– Former U.S. President Bill Clinton

“Mr. López’s trial...is a travesty.”

– The New York Times Editorial Board

“The detention of Mr. Leopoldo López is an arbitrary detention . . . [we] recommend to the Government of Venezuela that [it] immediately frees [him], and grants comprehensive reparation, including the compensation of his moral and compensatory character, as well as measures of satisfaction, which could be a public statement of apology in his favor.”

– U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

“I call on the Venezuelan authorities to act on the opinions of the Working Group and immediately release Mr López and Mr Ceballos, as well as all those detained for exercising their legitimate right to express themselves and protest peacefully.”

– U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein

“The State party should...release immediately Leopoldo López and Daniel Ceballos, and all those who have been arbitrarily detained for exercising their right to speak out and protest peacefully.”

– U.N. Committee Against Torture

“[Lopez is] the most prominent face of the opposition, driving thousands of Venezuelans into the streets to protest against food shortages, a stagnant economy, widespread crime and an increasingly encroaching socialist government.”

– Newsweek

“The charges against Leopoldo López were never adequately substantiated and the prison sentence against him is clearly politically motivated. His only ‘crime’ was being leader of an opposition party in Venezuela”

– Amnesty International

“Mr. López recently completed his 16th month in jail for his role in helping organize the protests. This is not a criminal offense, and he should be a free man. He has advocated peaceful responses to injustice; he has urged the people of Venezuela to resolve their problems in accordance with the country’s constitution. Much as with other practitioners of nonviolence—Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.—Mr. López is paying a high price for his pursuit of justice.”

– Desmond Tutu, recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize

“The international community should demand Lopez’s immediate release...The arrest is an egregious violation of one of the basic principles of due process, that you can’t jail someone without evidence.”

– Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas chief of Human Rights Watch

“Mr. Maduro and government media are trying to portray Mr. López as an extremist, calling him “the face of fascism” and alleging he was plotting a coup. In fact, the 42-year-old former mayor is a left-leaning, Harvard-educated moderate who has proven over a decade that he is committed to peaceful and democratic change.”

– Washington Post Editorial

