

February 8, 2019
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about Venezuela. People are starving, medicine is scarce, the tide of people streaming out is growing and the political stand-off between Messrs Maduro and Guaido remains tense. In such a crisis a steady hand with a reputation for humanitarian concern and reliability is essential. Unfortunately you have routinely broken both your own word and that of the US government with a series of broken treaties and sudden refusals to sign such agreements as the G7 resolution and the US budget bill. The shut-down disaster showed you unconcerned with strategic planning or the human costs of your actions and you have consistently backed the interests of President Putin. If Mr Maduro does not step down soon (as for instance Mr Assad has yet to do) I fear that you have no back up plan to sanctions and will press on even as Venezuelans starve while allowing Russia to soften the blow for Mr Maduro and his cronies. The token aid shipment theater along with trying to tie US politicians to President Maduro also point to more interest in a show than commitment to an outcome.

Please assure me that you will remain focused on human outcomes in Venezuela.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our support for human rights.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson