

## United States Senate

July 29, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President  
The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
Vice President  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

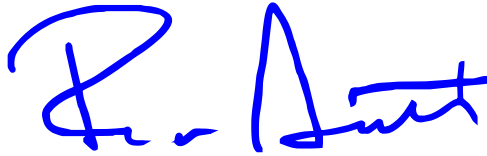
Today is a dark day for democracy in Latin America. Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro has stolen another election from the Venezuelan people, again rejecting their calls for freedom and democracy. We know that Edmundo González won this election and if the United States is going to lead the world in supporting democracy in Venezuela, he must be immediately recognized as president-elect by your administration. I urge you both to call him and María Corina Machado today to express your support for their cause and the fight for freedom they represent. I also urge you to make clear that they must not be unjustly targeted or imprisoned by the Maduro regime in the aftermath of Maduro's corrupt attempt to maintain power.

For too long, Nicolás Maduro and his thugs have deprived the Venezuelan people of the choice for new leadership by attacking his political opponents, using violence and threats in a desperate attempt to hold onto power over a people that hate him. I believe your administration helped strengthen his power when you foolishly provided him the exact thing he needed, sanctions relief in exchange for a promise of a fair election—something we all knew he would never deliver. It is time to acknowledge that your deal with a dictator was a disaster and immediately reimpose sanctions on Maduro and his thugs.

The United States must show strength and unquestionable resolve for democracy in Venezuela in the face of yet another assault on its peoples' freedom. I urge you to take action today to demonstrate that and set an example for the freedom-loving nations of the world.

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
July 29, 2024  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a prominent "S".

Rick Scott  
United States Senator