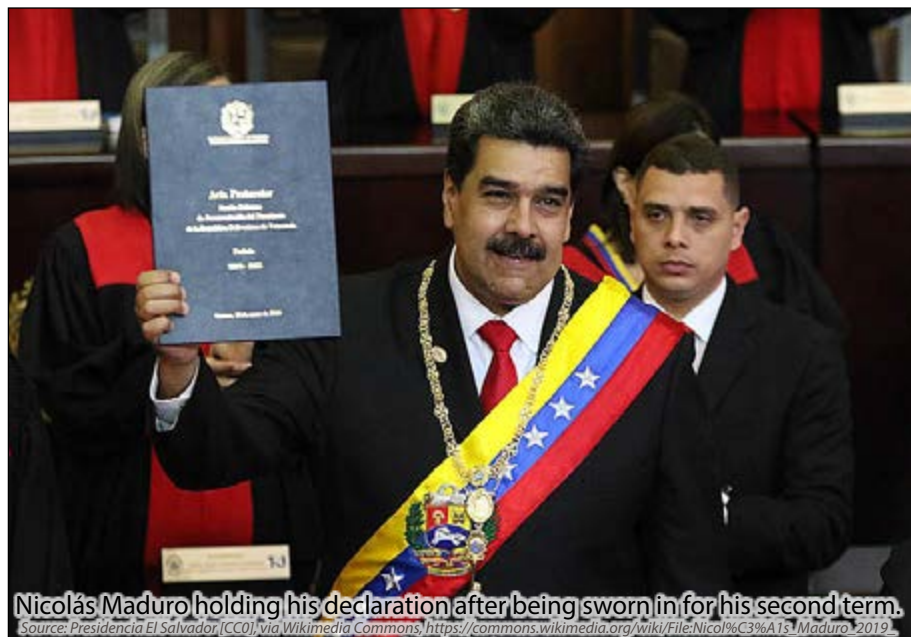


Who's Who at Maduro's Inauguration

OE Watch Commentary: 10 January was inauguration day for what is Nicolás Maduro's new period as the head of the Bolivarian government in Caracas. The event provided an opportunity for a snapshot measure of the regime's foreign support. As reported in the first accompanying reference, from *RCN Radio*, a number of Latin American governments calling themselves the Lima Group had already announced they would not recognize Maduro as president, stating that the electoral exercise held in Venezuela last May lacked democratic guarantees and free participation. Maduro's inauguration went off without a hitch, nevertheless, with at least five foreign chief executives in attendance: Evo Morales of Bolivia, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Timothy Harris of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Miguel Díaz-Canel of Cuba, and Salvador Sánchez Cerén of El Salvador. According to Maduro in his inaugural speech, 94 foreign countries were represented. Russia, China and Turkey sent delegations, according to the accompanying reference from *El País*. Brazil, the most important of Venezuela's neighbors, did not send a delegation, and during his speech, Maduro took a stab at new Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, calling the latter a "fascist." Paraguay's President Mario Abdo Benítez, meanwhile, took the opportunity to announce that he was cutting diplomatic ties with the Maduro regime and closing the Paraguayan embassy in Caracas, as reported by the excerpted article from *Infobae*. More significant among absent government delegations was that of Ecuador. Ecuador's government under former president Rafael Correa had been a central member of the Bolivarian alliance. The accompanying reference from *El Español* notes the presence of a Turkish representative, representation from OPEC, and the presence of a few foreign communist party leaders. During his speech, Maduro characterized himself as the leader of a vanguard in a world war [against] North American imperialism. All in all, it is hard to say if it was a good or a bad day for the Bolivarian regime. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**



“...Venezuela is the center of a world war...”

Source: “El Grupo de Lima no reconoce a Maduro como presidente de Venezuela (The Lima Group does not recognize Maduro as president of Venezuela),” *RCN Radio*, 4 January 2019. <https://www.rcnradio.com/internacional/grupo-de-lima-no-reconoce-nicolas-maduro-como-presidente-de-venezuela>

“...the Group of Lima does not recognize Nicolás Maduro as president of Venezuela. This determination is taken after the meeting that was carried out this Friday in the capital of Peru...they exhort Maduro to not take possession for the new presidential period this coming January 10...”

Source: “Nicolás Maduro desafía a Occidente aferrado a China y Rusia y busca el apoyo de México (Nicolas Maduro defies the West, hanging onto China and Russia and seeking the support of Mexico),” *El País*, 10 January 2019. https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/01/10/america/1547150403_382340.html

“Listening to him were, among others, the Vice President of Turkey, Fuat Oktay; the Chinese Minister of Agriculture, Han Changfu and the Vice President of the Russian high Chamber, Ilyas Umakhanov....Maduro inaugurated the new period without the presence of any representative from the United States, the European Union and the neighboring countries... He [Maduro]...launched a “long live Mexico...even though the Mexican government only sent the chargé d’affaires from the embassy.”

Source: “Minuto a minuto: ante el repudio mundial, Nicolás Maduro juró como presidente ante el Tribunal Supremo de Justicia (Minute by minute: in the face of worldwide repudiation, Nicolás Maduro swore in in front of the Supreme Court),” *Infobae*, 10 January 2019, <https://www.infobae.com/america/venezuela/2019/01/10/en-vivo-el-dictador-nicolas-maduro-asume-su-segundo-mandato-en-venezuela/>

“Minute by minute: facing world repudiation, Nicolás Maduro swore in as president in front of the Supreme Court...The Chavista leader began another period of six years, considered illegitimate by a great part of the international community, with a country in ruins and increasingly isolated...[during his speech] He left a strong message against the European Union: ‘Enough aggression against Venezuela, old oligarchic Europe.’...The Venezuelan right has infected the Latin American right with its fascism. We see the case of Brazil with the ascendance of a fascist like Jair Bolsonaro...There is a world on its feet, Venezuela is in the front line of the battle, we are in a position of vanguard. The world is much bigger than the North American threats...It is clear, public, notorious and known that Venezuela is the center of a world war of North American imperialism, and of its satellites...”

...the president of Paraguay, Mario Abdo Benítez, announced the rupture of diplomatic relations with Venezuela. He will close their embassy and retire their diplomats.”

Source: “Cuba, Bolivia y Osetia del Sur, los principales presidentes que irán a la jura de Maduro (Cuba, Bolivia and South Ossetia, the principle presidents that went to the inauguration of Maduro),” *El Español*, 10 January 2019. https://www.elespanol.com/mundo/20190110/cuba-bolivia-osetia-sur-principales-acompanaran-maduro/367464154_0.html

“The list of high-level International representatives also includes the Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)...AVN informed of the arrival of representative from Antigua and Barbuda, The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique, as well as communist leaders from South Africa and Lebanon...”