

Venezuelan Government Fuels Incendiary Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic Environment

As the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, there has been intense hostility towards Israel – and increasingly towards Jews – in Venezuela.

On July 29, graffiti was spray painted on the Metro del Parque del Este subway station in Caracas that said “Do good to the country, kill a Jew” and swastikas have appeared in different parts of the city.



This increasingly hostile environment has been fueled by the government and government-aligned media which continue to use the situation in the Middle East to promote and disseminate blatantly anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and has called on the Jewish community to condemn Israel’s military operation in Gaza.

- **Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro** has called on the Venezuelan Jewish community to publicly support the government’s hostile line toward Israel, and has urged them to condemn the Jewish state’s military action in Gaza. Such comments legitimize anti-Jewish stereotypes of Jewish disloyalty and reinforce prejudiced beliefs about Jews.

According to news reports, on July 23, President Maduro, while speaking at a press conference in Caracas regarding the situation in Gaza and the humanitarian aid, declared: “I call on all the communities of our country, above all the Arab and Jewish community, to contribute with their solidarity, to extend a hand to the Palestinian people and show rejection to the brutal attack that today are victims.”

“Llamo a todas la comunidades de nuestro país, sobre todo a la comunidad árabe y judía, aportar con su solidaridad, a extender una mano al pueblo palestino y demostrar el rechazo al ataque brutal del que hoy son víctimas”.

- On July 21, 2014, the **Venezuelan Minister of Communication and Information, Delcy Rodriguez**, repeatedly tweeted from her personal Twitter account @DrodriguezMinci We call on the Jewish people to stop the massacre of the Israeli government against the Palestinian people!



- On July 11, **President Maduro** said during a government act broadcasted on TV: “The Jewish people should raise their voice to repudiate this massacre against the Palestinian people in Gaza.”
“Que se alce la voz del pueblo judío a repudiar esta masacre contra el pueblo palestino de Gaza.”, pidió Maduro en un acto de Gobierno en el occidente venezolano transmitido por television.
- A website of the Venezuelan Jewish community has been recently hacked. An attack that responds to political reasons. The perpetrator posted a message on the defaced newsletter website from the Jewish community stating, “FUCK ISRAEL I LOVE GAZA :)#OpSaveGaza #GazaUnderAttack”

In addition, there have been numerous public statements comparing Israel to the Nazis. Among the most prevalent expressions of anti-Semitic hate speech is equating Israel with the Nazi regime. The widespread Holocaust and Nazi analogies employed at demonstrations and social media go well beyond legitimate criticism of Israel. Particularly dangerous and disturbing is the use of Nazi imagery to depict Israelis and comparisons of Israel's actions to the absolute evil perpetrated by the Nazis in the Holocaust. These comparisons and the imagery feed the age-old myths of Jews as a satanic and conniving force which endeavors to take over the world.

- Images from a pro-Palestinian rally held in Caracas on August 2



Credit: AVN.info.ve



Credit: AVN.info.ve

Banner in the back reads: “Stop the Holocaust to the Palestinian People”

- On August 2, **Diosdano Cabello**, **first Vice-President of the government party**, Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV), at a pro-Palestinian rally in Anzoátegui said: “In Israel, there is a smell of sulfur, the demon is there, the imperialism is sown there to finish with the people of the world.”

“En Israel huele a azufre, ahí está el demonio, está el imperialismo sembrado para acabar con los pueblos del mundo”.

- On July 23, **President Maduro** said during a press conference in Caracas that, “the Gaza Strip has been turned by the government of Israel into a huge Auschwitz, into a huge concentration camp.”

“La franja de Gaza la ha convertido el Gobierno de Israel en un gran Auschwitz, en un gran campo de concentración”, afirmó Maduro durante una rueda de prensa en Caracas”.

- Two days prior, on July 21, **President Maduro** said to reporters: “Horrible, horrible massacre. World leaders are right when they compare it with the massacre that the Jewish people lived through under the hands of the intolerant right, who had as their top leader Hitler.” “The intolerant European right persecuted during a century or more the Jewish people and they applauded the crimes against the Jewish people in Poland, in Hungary, when they conquered part of Russia (...) and they said it was for the legitimate defense of Hitler.” “They say the same today, the killing of boys and girls, there are more than 600 Palestinians assassinated in their homes, in their dwelling places.”

“Masacre horrorosa, horrorosa. Tienen razón líderes del mundo que la comparan con la masacre que vivió el propio pueblo judío de manos de la derecha intolerante que tuvo su máximo líder en Hitler”, afirmó Maduro a periodistas tras despedir en el aeropuerto de Caracas al presidente chino, Xi Jinping. “La derecha intolerante europea persiguió durante un siglo o más a los judíos y aplaudieron los crímenes contra el pueblo judío en Polonia, en Hungría, cuando conquistaron parte de Rusia (...) y decían que era legítima defensa de Hitler”, sostuvo Maduro. “Lo mismo dicen hoy, el asesinato de niños y niñas, van más de 600 palestinos asesinados en sus casas, en sus lugares de habitación”, aseguró.

- In **Aporrea**, a government affiliated website, an article published on July 19 titled “It’s Not War, It’s Genocide,” author Homar Garcés writes that “despite the almost unanimous condemnation from the planet, Israel pursues its work of ethnic cleansing without any shame. Their propaganda and powerful lobby has neutralized practically all humanitarian action in favor of the Palestinian people. However, we still believe that the Holocaust of Palestine will have to cease some day and allow Arab families to live in peace finally.”

“A pesar de la condena casi unánime del planeta, Israel prosigue su labor de limpieza étnica sin rubor alguno. Su propaganda y su poderoso lobby han neutralizado prácticamente toda acción humanitaria a favor del pueblo palestino. No obstante, aún debemos creer que el holocausto de Palestina tendrá que cesar algún día y se le permitirá a las familias árabes vivir en paz finalmente”.

- In another **Aporrea** article published on July 16, titled “The Israeli Cause: The Extermination of the Palestinian People,” author Richard Canán wrote, “In the 21st Century, the Israeli Zionist leadership treats the Palestinians like their own private colony, with shape close to slavery, applying the same logistics of the Nazi extermination,” “...Hitler is a baby compared to the Zionist leadership,” and “The greatest achievement of Zionism is the reproduction of the Nazi genocide. The same logic, the same result: to achieve the extermination of the Palestinian people.”

“En pleno Siglo XXI, la cúpula sionista Israelí trata a los palestinos como su colonia privada, con formas cercanas al esclavismo, aplicando las lógicas del exterminio Nazi.” “Hitler es un niño de pecho delante de la cúpula sionista.” “El mayor logro del sionismo es la reproducción del genocidio Nazi. Misma lógica, mismo resultado: lograr el exterminio del pueblo palestino”.

- Basem Tajeldine, a Maduro Supporter, host of the program “Voices against the empire” in radio del Sur and son of former Venezuelan Ambassador to Libya Afif Tajeldine:

@BasemTajeldine: Victims of the Nazi Holocaust are doing the same against an innocent people (+Audio)



@BasemTajeldine: Zio-Nazi murderers!!



@BasemTajeldine @24_ Sons of B***!!! They didn't learn anything from the Nazi horror...they are equally cruel and sons of b**



- Cartoon in *Correo del Orinoco*, July 31.

Translation: Until when? Terror and impunity Auschwitz Gaza Guernica Libya the same crime



Accusations of Israel committing genocide or “war of extermination”

- On August 2, multiple rallies were held across the country, to respond a call from President Maduro to express the country’s support to Palestine. Government officials and governors rushed to issue extreme condemnations and proclamations against Israel.

Tarek El Aissami, Governor of Arauca, said at a rally: How many deaths, how much destruction will the Jewish world charge for its holocaust to the innocent people of Palestine ...You are doing a Doctorate in slaughter, in genocide”

“¿Cuántas muertes, cuanta destrucción le va a cobrar el mundo judío por su holocausto al pueblo inocente de Palestina (...) ustedes están haciendo un doctorado en masacre, en genocidio”.

Erika Farias, Governor of Cojedes, stated during the rally: “The mobilization of the Venezuelan people across the country, not only expresses solidarity with the people of Palestine, massacred by the State of Israel, it is a sign of commitment to the libertarian cause they represent...because the enemy is the same: the U.S. empire and its allies, such as the State of Israel, which wants to bomb the people of the world who are fighting for freedom”

“La movilización del pueblo venezolano en todo el territorio nacional no sólo expresa la solidaridad con el pueblo de Palestina, masacrado por el Estado de Israel, sino que es una muestra de compromiso con la causa libertaria que representan... porque el enemigo es el mismo: el imperio norteamericano y sus aliados, como es el Estado de Israel, que quiere bombardear a los pueblos del mundo que luchan por su libertad”.

- **President Maduro** stated on July 11: during an assembly with the Popular Power of Yaracuy in the city of San Felipe: “What pain, that a massacre is repeated against the innocent and suffered people of Palestine. What there is in development, compatriots, is a war of extermination; this is a war of financial, military and media power of global capitalism to take control of the land of Palestine and to exterminate the people.”

“Qué dolor que se repita una masacre contra el pueblo inocente y sufrido de Palestina. Lo que hay en desarrollo compatriotas es una guerra de exterminio; ésta es una guerra del poder financiero, militar y mediático del capitalismo mundial por apoderarse de la tierra de Palestina y exterminar al pueblo”.

- At a Caracas pro-Palestinian demonstration on July 17, **Yul Jabour**, the President of the National Assembly’s Permanent Commission of Foreign Affairs, Sovereignty and Integration said, “we know that these genocidal actions form part of the North American imperialist plan to reset, recover and re-strengthen their hegemony in this part of the world.” “...We know that Israel seeks to assassinate and demolish everything with the end being to establish new settlements of the Zionist state of Israel and take over Palestinian territory.”

“Sabemos que estas acciones genocidas forman parte del plan imperialista norteamericano para recomponer, recobrar y refortalecer su hegemonía en esa parte del mundo”, expresó el presidente de la Comisión Permanente de Política Exterior, Soberanía e Integración de la Asamblea Nacional (AN), Yul Jabour, presente en la actividad.

Sabemos que lo que busca Israel es asesinar y derrumbar todo con el fin de levantar nuevos colonos del Estado sionista de Israel y apoderarse del territorio palestino”.

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