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Subject: Venezuela election update

As you know, incumbent Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro declared himself the winner of Sunday's 2024 Presidential Election, which would mark the beginning of his third term in office. His purported win came despite pre-election and exit polls indicating a 20-30 point lead for opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez. González, backed by leaders across the globe, has challenged the results of this election, claiming that Maduro's electoral council's vote tally is fraudulent and in violation of the Barbados Agreements.

So far, a few South American powers—Colombia, Chile, Argentina, and Peru—as well as the U.S. and the EU, have voiced skepticism at the outcome of the election. On the other hand, Russia, China, and Iran, three allies of the Maduro regime, have accepted the results as legitimate.

The election is not over; no official results have been published and the results announced yesterday by the CNE are now subject to legal challenges. To add to the likely tumultuous aftermath of this election, the Special Master's recommendation for the forced sale of CITGO is set to take place tomorrow, July 31. This could give Maduro a leg up in dismissing any disputes about the election results by continuing to blame the loss of Venezuela's most prized asset on the opposition. As the Department of Justice stated in its July 1 letter to the Special Master, "Encouraging inclusive and competitive elections in Venezuela is a top U.S. foreign policy priority" and that "moving the sale hearing would help avoid the possibility that this proceeding increases tension during this critical and sensitive juncture."

We therefore ask you to continue pressing DOJ for a five-month stay using the Sri Lanka precedent (*Hamilton Reserve Bank, Ltd. v. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*). This will buy the critical time needed to investigate the voting tallies and give González the best shot in his fight for fairness and transparency in the elections that he clearly won.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Nathan

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