

## **PWS&D statement on Venezuela**

*The following statement was issued by the ACT Latin America and the Caribbean Forum.*

### **ALERT FOR REGIONAL PEACE:**

#### **An Urgent Call to Protect Life, Sovereignty, and International Law**

January 3, 2026

***“For God is a God not of disorder but of peace.” — 1 Corinthians 14:33***

The new year begins with the persistence of colonial decisions.

We from the ACT Alliance in Latin America and the Caribbean – a regional expression of a global alliance of communities of faith in action, churches, and ecumenical organizations committed to justice and human dignity – raise a clear and prophetic voice in response to the extremely grave events that occurred yesterday in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as a result of military actions and the illegitimate use of force.

Our faith calls us to proclaim and build peace grounded in justice. Yet today we are witnessing a global order increasingly shaped by the militarization of conflict, the use of force as a political instrument, and the resurgence of colonial logics that reduce the peoples of the Global South to objects of geopolitical and economic dispute.

In this deeply alarming context, we affirm that any unilateral military action represents:

- A serious violation of the fundamental principles of International Law and the obligation to protect the civilian population.
- An infringement of the Venezuelan people’s sovereign right to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
- A disregard for regional commitments established in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, thereby placing regional stability at risk.
- A profoundly troubling international precedent, undermining the multilateral order and respect for shared legal norms, as expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- A historical regression toward colonial practices, seeking to subjugate a sovereign nation through violence and to plunder its strategic resources.

These developments are unfolding in a region already burdened by coercive economic measures, the advance of fundamentalist movements, and the weakening of democratic systems— conditions that deepen inequality, exclusion, and social conflict, with particularly devastating impacts on the lives and rights of women, girls, boys, and adolescents.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has stated that the military action by the United States in Venezuela sets a “dangerous precedent” and has expressed deep concern over the failure to respect international legal norms.

As faith-based organizations, we affirm that peace and justice are not abstract ideals but concrete ethical imperatives. We reiterate that military aggression can never be a solution, and that the defense of life, the self-determination of people, and regional peace must prevail over any geopolitical, economic, or strategic interests.

We express our solidarity and hope with the Venezuelan people, both within and beyond Venezuela, including a commitment to the protection of migrant populations, as well as our commitment to democratic autonomy and peace with justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The prophets of the Old Testament teach us not to remain silent in the face of injustice (Amos 5:24, Micah 6:8). In the words of Bishop Luis Andrés Caicedo of the Colombian Methodist Church: *“In a world wounded by violence, we cannot remain silent; we are called to proclaim with courage that peace is possible, that justice is inevitable, and that human dignity is inviolable.”*

***“Blessed are the peacemakers.” — Matthew 5:9***

**For peace with justice**

**For the life and dignity of peoples**

**ACT Alliance – Latin America and the Caribbean**

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