



## General Assembly

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### Fifty-sixth session

Agenda item 35

### **Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies**

### **Letter dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to write to you to inform you of the latest developments in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela arising from the events of 11 April 2002, which brought about a disruption of the constitutional order and the suspension of Venezuelan democratic institutions when a group of soldiers and civilians attempted to overthrow the Government of President Hugo Chávez Frías, detaining him incommunicado for 47 hours, during which time he was moved from place to place at the whim of his opponents.

Thanks to the simultaneous action of the Venezuelan people, most of whom took to the streets to call for the return of the Head of State, and the armed forces, upholders of the Venezuelan Constitution, democracy was restored with the return to power of the legitimate Government, which since the early hours of 13 April has once again been headed by the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías.

The Venezuelan Government has total control of the constitutional regime and has initiated investigations and proceedings, as required by the country's legislation, to punish, as appropriate, the perpetrators of the failed plot. All of this has been done with greatest respect for the norms governing due process and the human rights of the accused, and in full compliance with the Venezuelan Constitution.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for the support received from the United Nations and its Member States.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Milos **Alcalay**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative