



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects the manipulation of the Department of State of the United States of America regarding the case of US citizen Joshua Holt, who faces serious accusations against the security of the Venezuelan State, and who is currently under trial. The aforementioned citizen has been assisted by his lawyer and has exercised his legitimate right to defense, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In this sense, it is up to the judge of the case to determine whether the defendant is guilty or not, without any obstructions or political interference whatsoever.

It is false that Mr. Holt's life is in danger due to lack of, or insufficient, medical attention. Proof of this statement is that on December 12th, the judge of the case was able to verify his health conditions; thus, there are no grounds for granting a humanitarian measure.

We regret that the United States government intends to turn a case of a judicial nature into a political issue with unspeakable intentions. It is worth highlighting that, similar cases have been duly handled in the past, within the consular sphere, by the authorities of both countries, according to the respective legal procedures and without any type of conflict.

We reiterate that Venezuela complies with its international commitments, including consular access to foreign citizens in detention, as well as due process, which is a constitutional guarantee.

For this reason, we demand respect for Venezuelan institutions and legal processes, as well as the immediate end of the campaign of distortion that attacks our justice system.

Caracas, December 15th, 2017