



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

# Communiqué

The people and government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela join the commemoration of the 185 years of that historical and plundering day on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1833, when the United Kingdom militarily invaded the Argentinean territory, expelled the Argentinean citizens from the Malvinas Islands and unlawfully occupied the islands with English settlers.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has traditionally recognized the rights of the Argentinean people and government over the territories of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with the principle "*utis possidetis iuris*" because this territories belonged to the Kingdom of Spain, and once materialized the independence on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1816, the sovereignty over those territories was transferred to the Argentinean people. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized said independence on 1825.

The Bolivarian Government considers ignominious that still remains colonial traces in Our America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, therefore it expresses its solidarity with the Argentinean people in its legitimate and historical claim of sovereignty over the territories of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and deems such colonial occupation a violation of the principle of sovereignty and independence of the countries and their right to territorial integrity, and further represents a limitation to the economic and social development of Argentina.

The Bolivarian people and government reiterates its strongest willingness to continue struggling for the integration of the peoples, social justice and well-being of the citizens of the Grand Homeland and, at the same time, urges the relevant countries to peacefully settle this dispute.

**Caracas, January 3rd, 2018**