



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically rejects the denial of Canada regarding the Venezuela's participation in the Military World Championship of Volleyball to be held in the city of Edmonton. Throughout history, there have been many opportunities in which the sport has served as a bridge that transcends cultural and political barriers in order to bring peoples together and promote human harmony and coexistence.

The government of Canada, in its most recent attempt for undermining the sovereignty and self determination of the Venezuelan people, makes use of the sport –one of the noblest expressions of humanity- as a new point of stress and distancing between our countries, by preventing the participation of the Bolivarian National Armed Force delegation, which was intended to proudly represent Venezuela.

It is unacceptable that a country that is meant to be the standard-bearer of human rights had been devoted to violate inalienable rights of the Venezuelan citizens within less than one week: First, denying them to exercise their right to vote democratically in the last presidential elections on May 20th, and today preventing the exercise of an essential right of our athletes, as enshrined in the International Charter on Physical Education and Sports by UNESCO. All this, in addition to the permanent effects against the Venezuelan people derived from the unilateral coercive measures that Canada intends to impose on Venezuela, as a clear subordination to the U.S. regime.

The Bolivarian Government of Venezuela calls the Canadian authorities to respect the principles of International Law and resume the dialogue and diplomacy paths. Their recent behaviour is unworthy of a civilized nation. Venezuela is free and independent and it will never give in to pro-imperialist pressures and the arrogance of those who today, intend to besiege it.



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Caracas, May 25th, 2018