



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

# Communiqué

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela celebrates the Nelson Mandela International Day, a symbol of dignity and unyielding dedication to the revolutionary struggle for freedom and justice, this special occasion is also the celebration of the centenary of his birth.

For the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, Nelson Mandela is an icon of the battles for freedom and civil and political rights in South Africa and the world, and as well as it was the Commander Hugo Chavez Frias, he was until his last breath a true defender of the oppressed peoples.

His ideals of democracy, sovereignty, self-determination and peace with social justice remain more valid than ever before. Today, the best way to remember Mandela is working as he did, and always defending the cause of the humble. We take on us the phrase that was pronounced in Cuba on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1991, on the occasion of the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks:

*“We will always be on the side of the poor and without rights in the African National Congress. We will not only be with them. We are going to make sure that sooner rather than later the poor and without rights govern the land in which they were born and that (...) it is the people who govern. ”*

We take advantage of this day to embrace each other with our South Africans brothers and to cordially express that we are the same people, with the same struggle, and it is only united with the peoples of the South that we will achieve the path of development and the definite independence.

Long live Mandela!

Long live the brotherhood between South Africa and Venezuela!

**Caracas, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**