

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

January 22, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

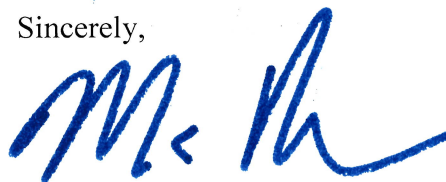
Dear Mr. President:

The European Union today imposed sanctions against seven officials in the Maduro regime, including former National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello Rondón (born April 15, 1963), for human rights abuses and undermining democracy in Venezuela. While the United States has imposed its own sanctions against almost all of these senior officials in the Venezuelan government, it has not yet designated Cabello. I therefore respectfully urge your Administration to join the European Union in imposing sanctions against Diosdado Cabello.

As you know, Diosdado Cabello—the right-hand man of dictator Nicolás Maduro who was also a longtime confidant to the late Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chávez—is currently a member of the Maduro regime’s illegitimate Constituent Assembly, and also serves as the first vice president of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). In designating Cabello for sanctions, the European Union cited his involvement “in undermining democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, including by using the media to publicly attack and threaten political opposition, other media and civil society.” Cabello also has a long, extensive, and publicly-available record of being involved in other activities sanctionable under U.S. law, including government corruption, international narco-trafficking, money laundering, and human rights abuses against the Venezuelan people.

I commend you for taking swift actions to hold the Maduro regime accountable after its illegitimate Constituent Assembly elections in July 2017. Yet I believe your Administration can—and should—take stronger actions to support the Venezuelan people’s struggle to reclaim their democracy from the Maduro regime’s dictatorship and restore their country’s constitutional order. An important next step would be for your Administration to impose sanctions against Diosdado Cabello for human rights abuses and undermining democracy in Venezuela, just as the European Union did today.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
United States Senator