Venezuela: A Time for Opposition Reflection and Renovation

By Ryan C. Berg and Alexandra Winkler

Venezuela’s return to democracy, once envisaged with a cessation of Maduro’s usurpation of power, the installment of an interim government, and a path to free and fair elections led by interim president Juan Guaidó, is now anything but clear. The Venezuelan opposition, guided by the strategy that international and domestic pressure, combined with an internationally recognized government replete with a supporting bureaucracy of designated ambassadors and representatives, could force the Maduro regime to either step down or make major concessions on the electoral field, underestimated the extent to which the regime could survive by enmeshing itself in the support structure of fellow dictatorial and autocratic governments.

Meanwhile, the country’s humanitarian crisis continues unabated. Studies of multidimensional poverty show Venezuela is the poorest country in Latin America, with over 90 percent of the country living in poverty. The Organization of American States predicts that 2022 could witness the current 6 million figure jump to over 7 million. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees there is still a need for nearly $2 billion in humanitarian assistance to address this crisis.

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**Haiti’s Problematic Electoral Dynamics**, Georges Fauriol analyzes Haiti’s dysfunctional electoral dynamics as an additional factor in the country’s deepening crisis going into 2022.

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