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Please make cheques payable to "Hands Off Venezuela".  
Return form to  
HOV  
100 Armadale Close,  
London, N17 9PL



[www.handsoffvenezuela.org](http://www.handsoffvenezuela.org)

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"With the re-election of George Bush, the dangers facing the people of Venezuela are even greater. They need our urgent solidarity."

"The HOV Campaign is playing a vital role in explaining what is happening in Venezuela. The labour movement should give its whole-hearted support to this Campaign."

Jeremy Dear, General Secretary NUJ



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The people of Venezuela need our urgent help. Sickened by decades of corrupt government and IMF-sponsored austerity, millions turned out in 1998 to elect Hugo Chavez as President, which began a popular social transformation.

The aims of Chavez's "revolution of the poor" were land reform, control over the country's oil, education and health care for all, and genuine democracy in the hands of ordinary people.

**Thanks to the programmes initiated by the government -**

- One million additional children have been brought into the educational system, 657 new schools were built and 36,000 additional teachers hired (the education budget has more than doubled in just two years). Four universities have been created since 1998 and three million people enrolled in literacy and education programs.
- 2.2 million hectares (5.5 million acres) of land have been distributed to 116,000 families organised in cooperatives.
- Health programmes have targeted 17 million Venezuelans. With over 13,000 Cuban doctors now in Venezuela, some 1.2 million people who had originally been denied health care have been treated in health centres.
- A new Bolivarian Constitution guarantees the public ownership of Venezuela's oil and the distribution of wealth to all citizens. These and other popular measures have brought overwhelming support for Chavez, who has won popular elections on no less than nine occasions in the last six years.



At the same time, such policies have brought down the wrath of Venezuela's rich elite and the Bush administration. Venezuela's substantial oil reserves have not gone unnoticed in Washington. These interests have sought to destabilise and overthrow the government of Chavez.

Denouncing President Chavez as a "dictator", they supported and organised the far-right coup of April 2002. For them, it was to be a replica of the overthrow of the Allende government in Chile in 1973 by the CIA sponsored coup of General Pinochet.

This April coup saw the kidnapping of Chavez and the imposition of US-backed "President" Carmona - which was swiftly recognised by the United States and shamefully Britain. Carmona quickly dissolved the National Assembly "as a step towards restoring democracy"! However, the coup was foiled by the movement of the Venezuelan people.

Throughout his term, Chavez was faced with economic sabotage by the Venezuelan bosses, with a flight of capital, factory closures and cuts in production. Between December 2002 and February 2003, the government was faced with a serious bosses' lockout to destabilise the country and prepare another coup. The far-right Colombian government, supported by the US, were also being lined up against Venezuela.

However, when this failed due to the resistance of the workers, especially in the oil industry, the US-backed Opposition attempted to use a referendum campaign, and electoral fraud, to bring down Chavez. These plans were foiled as Chavez once again won an overwhelming mandate with 60% of the popular vote.

The re-election of George Bush has brought new dangers for Venezuela and Cuba -regarded as public enemy number one and two by Washington.

The Hands Off Venezuela Campaign, which is a broad-based campaign, was established to generate awareness about Venezuela within the labour and trade union movement and young people. Our main task is to promote the social gains of the Bolivarian Revolution and mobilise against US aggression towards Venezuela. HOV organises public events, trade union and youth delegations to Venezuela, provides information about the situation within the country, and promotes solidarity and links between Venezuela and the labour movements of other countries.



## What can you do?

- ① **Affiliate your branch, committee or union**
- ② **Invite a speaker from the HOV Campaign**
- ③ **Organise a film show on Venezuela**
- ④ **Help distribute our literature**
- ⑤ **Give a donation to help our work**
- ⑥ **Visit our website and sign our petition**
- ⑦ **Sponsor a trade union delegation to Venezuela**