

## Venezuela Is Not Alone - No Esta Sola

By [Lauren Smith](#)

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*United States activists stand with President Maduro and the people of Venezuela in resistance to Washington's attempts at regime change. Departing Venezuelan diplomats, ordered out of the country on April 15th by the Trump administration, gave the keys to its Washington DC embassy to activists, now called the Embassy Protection Collective (EPC), along with permission to remain until a permanent protectorate can be found. President Nicolas Maduro has extended his support to the lawful occupants which consist of veterans, senior citizens and students, and are members of [CODEPINK](#), [Popular Resistance.org](#), [People's Dispatch](#) and the [ANSWER Coalition](#).*

The EPC stands guard against the infiltration and capture of the embassy by supporters of the self-proclaimed interim president, right-wing US puppet, Juan Guaido. In February, Guaido's supporters [seized the Venezuelan embassy](#) in Costa Rica and blocked its lawful delegation from entry. According to [Article 22 of the Vienna Convention](#), host countries are required by international law to protect foreign embassies.

The US Secret Service and DC Police continue to block the Venezuelan embassy's egress with barricades, while Guaido's supporters surround the building's perimeter. Both actions taken together render freedom of entry and exit impossible.



Guido's supporters assault and verbally abuse defenders of the EPC. Defenders are routinely pushed, punched, sexually assaulted, and tortured by the use of painfully blinding high intensity laser, strobe and flash lights, as well as deafeningly loud noises generated by bullhorns, air-horns, and the clanging of pot and pans at close range. Despite law enforcements' extensive presence, this violence continues with little censure. Their taunts are misogynistic, homophobic and racist.

Guido's supporters have attempted multiple break-ins and were successful once. The entire time law enforcement stood idly by, despite the embassy and its security cameras sustaining damage. The EPC's lawyer made calls and sent a [letter](#) to the Secret Service demanding action against these illegal activities. To date, they have received no response. On Friday, May 3rd, activists reached out to the DC police commissioner and elected officials to make these same demands. As of Saturday, these illegal activities have stopped.

However, Guido's supporters repeatedly block food and medical supplies from reaching the EPC, including those raised up in baskets. An attempt to throw food to those legally inside resulted in arrest for the charge of "[throwing missiles](#)". Nonetheless, EPC and their defenders say they will persevere until their mission is accomplished.

While Guaido's supporters are unimpeded as they assemble tents around the embassy to seize control over the building's perimeter, activists face different treatment.

On May 4th, Guaido's supporters swarmed EPC defenders when they tried to erect a tent. Tighe Barry, a CODEPINK member of the Embassy Protection Collective [says](#) he was pushed so hard that he backed into a secret service agent. However, instead of arresting the perpetrators, police arrested the victim. He remains in custody at this time. CODEPINK has asked that its supporters [contact the DC US Attorney](#) to demand that the charges against him be dropped and that he be immediately released.

US activists recognize that Venezuela's fight against Yankee Imperialism places it at the epicenter of their fight against fascism. Venezuela's struggle to remain autonomous, like Cuba and Nicaragua, protects all countries and people from Washington's tyranny, both abroad and domestic.

While activists worldwide support different struggles, all share the same imperialist enemy and its police state, military industrial complex and intelligence community. So come to DC to lend your support or be active where you are and be a part of liberation history!

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