

# María Corina Machado

Venezuela

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel**  
**Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany**  
**Willy-Brandt-Straße 1**  
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**Germany**

**Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker**  
**President of the European Commission**  
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**1049 Brussels**  
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Venezuela greatly appreciates the expressions of solidarity from the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union, regarding the profound crisis we are currently living. I personally welcome the support for the preliminary examinations by the International Criminal Court regarding Venezuelan case. The Court will surely find that Venezuela's criminal regime submits the people to a generalized and systematic attack on their Human Rights.

I would also like to acknowledge the hospitality given by many European Union countries, including Germany, to fellow Venezuelans fleeing from the Venezuelan tyranny and the current humanitarian crisis.

Today I have another request. I would like to ask Germany and the European Union to use their influence and ask the United Nations Security Council to adopt effective measures to promote regime change in Venezuela, according to the Responsibility to Protect doctrine endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 16 September 2005.

After the change of regime, the support of Europe to Venezuela's comprehensive recovery, shall be an essential contribution to global coexistence. It shall entail dismantling an outlaw state that currently promotes worldwide drug traffic and terrorism. We are not facing a political crisis, but rather a transnational criminal conflict with a constantly rising number of victims.

Therefore, Venezuelans are counting on the disposition and capability of Germany and the European Union to help in the modernization of our nation. Among the many things required, promotion of knowledge and entrepreneurship are paramount. Many Venezuelan citizens now living, studying or working in Europe will surely heed the call of Venezuelan leaders to return and use the skills acquired to promote the reconstruction and prosperity of the homeland. The European economic model, expressed in the Treaty of Lisbon, which combines free market and social responsibility of the State shall be a main reference for the rebirth of Venezuela after the current catastrophe is overcome.

I can assure you that today Venezuela is a country refusing to perish. I ascertain this in my daily walks among the people, where I feel their strength and fierce determination to be free. There is an enormous creative force ready to turn Venezuela into a safe and productive nation. But for this, we need the support of the international democratic community.

I am deeply convinced that the support we now ask to reach the free and democratic Venezuela of the future, shall result in a strengthened friendship with Europe, based on the values of freedom and democracy, historically shared by both sides of the ocean.

Please receive my cordial greetings from Venezuela, which I have been prevented from leaving for the last four years by an arbitrary and illegal decision of the tyranny.

Most respectfully,

**María Corina Machado**