

Letter of support for Ricardo Hausmann

We the undersigned write to express our dismay at Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro's repeated targeting of our colleague Ricardo Hausmann and to express our support for Professor Hausmann.

Two years ago, President Maduro [ordered](#) Venezuela's Attorney General to proceed against Professor Hausmann following [an article](#) in which Hausmann argued that the government consider defaulting on its external debt to spare the Venezuelan people further economic hardship. Last year, he [aired](#) the tape of a private conversation between Professor Hausmann and a Venezuelan businessman and ordered that Hausmann be prosecuted. And most recently, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, he [called](#) Professor Hausmann a "traitor" in a televised address and accused him of conspiring with ratings agencies and the International Monetary Fund in order to deny Venezuela access to capital markets.

Professor Hausmann is a distinguished [scholar](#) and practitioner who has worked with governments around the world. He is a leading voice on economic policy and a [frequent contributor](#) to the world's financial media. In his writings and policy advocacy on Venezuela, Professor Hausmann has exercised his right of free speech, essential to any open society. President Maduro's response to these activities speaks volumes about his regime's respect for free speech and the rule of law.

We find President's Maduro's attacks on Professor Hausmann appalling and shameful. We stand in solidarity with Professor Ricardo Hausmann against these attacks.

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