

1 [Supporting and Urging the Immediate Release of Venezuelan Opposition Leader Leopoldo  
2 López]

3 **Resolution supporting and urging the immediate release of Venezuelan opposition**  
4 **Leader Leopoldo López, who was illegally imprisoned in an attempt to silence dissent**  
5 **and free speech in February 2014.**

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7 WHEREAS, Venezuelans of all backgrounds denounced the failed State and marched  
8 for a constitutional change of the current regime; and

9 WHEREAS, Leopoldo López and many Venezuelans who spoke out publicly against  
10 the government’s corruption and inefficiency had been imprisoned in violation of international  
11 law; and

12 WHEREAS, Leopoldo López, the former mayor of Caracas and the leader of the  
13 Venezuelan opposition party Popular Will, has been in prison since February 2014 and is  
14 being held in the Ramo Verde military prison outside of Caracas; and

15 WHEREAS, The President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, has authorized the use of  
16 deadly force against protesters; and

17 WHEREAS, Venezuela is supposed to have parliamentary elections this year (2015),  
18 but it is almost halfway through the year, and no date has been set for the vote; and

19 WHEREAS, To restore democracy, Venezuela will need the support of the international  
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, Countries such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Spain, the United States  
22 and others have called for the respect of democracy in Venezuela and for the release of its  
23 political prisoners; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Friends of a Free Venezuela urge the City and County of San  
2 Francisco to help aid them in demanding the universal values of free speech and human  
3 rights in Venezuela; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins in solidarity and  
5 recognizes and supports the immediate release of Venezuelan opposition Leader Leopoldo  
6 López and other political prisoners, who were illegally imprisoned in an attempt to silence  
7 dissent and free speech; and, be it

8           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors demands a date  
9 for parliamentary elections with international observers from the EU and OAS and also calls  
10 for an end to censorship, repression and persecution in Venezuela.

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