



# GNSI DECISION BRIEF

# Free Venezuela!

The Opportunity for a Return to Democracy

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## Introduction

Nicolás Maduro remains a weak and unpopular dictator, only retaining power in Venezuela through internal violent repression, nefarious international support, and paramilitary assistance from violent transnational criminal organizations. Limited, targeted sanctions designed to discourage political repression and criminal cooperation remain ineffective as they have been evaded and ignored. The Venezuelan regime has effectively countered multinational diplomatic efforts by using approximately [\\$28](#)

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## Decision Points

1. Should the United States and OAS recognize opposition leader Edmundo Gonzales as the Venezuelan President?
2. Should the United States and OAS coordinate international support for Edmundo Gonzales?
3. Should the United States and partners provide support across a full-spectrum of Venezuelan resistance?
4. Should the United States and partners provide support to an armed Venezuelan resistance?

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