The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) expresses deep concern about the ongoing situation in Venezuela. The decision of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice to deprive the National Assembly of its legislative functions represented a decisive step towards authoritarian rule. The attempt to dissolve the National Assembly suppressed the constitutional tenet of separation of powers and the will of the Venezuelan people, expressed in the legislative elections of December 2015. With almost half of its members in Latin America, LASA is an international organization that affirms in the strongest terms possible the principles of academic freedom and the protection of human rights. LASA calls upon the Venezuelan government to respect the Bolivarian Constitution, respect the legislative functions of the National Assembly, and release all political prisoners.

Joanne Rappaport, LASA President, Georgetown University
Gil Joseph, LASA Immediate Past President, Yale University
Aldo Panfichi, Vice President / President Elect, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
Patricia Tovar, Treasurer, John Jay College
Evelina Dagnino, Executive Council Member, Universidade Estadual de Campinas
Robin Derby, Executive Council Member, University of California, Los Angeles
Maria Helena Machado, Executive Council Member, Universidade de São Paulo
Claudia Ferman, Executive Council Member, University of Richmond
Daniela Spenser, Executive Council Member, CIESAS / Mexico City
Catalina Romero, Ex Officio Member, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
Timothy Power, Ex Officio Member, University of Oxford
Florence Garramuño, Ex Officio Member, Universidad de San Andrés
Philip Oxhorn, Ex Officio Member, McGill University
Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Ex Officio Member, University of Pittsburgh