

## Statement on the Situation in Venezuela

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.

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