

Bolivarian Government of Venezuela

Ministry of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, New York

DM No. 000847

Caracas, 21 June 2020

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of a fresh violation of the rules of international law perpetrated against us on 19 June 2020, when individuals not authorized by our Government seized the premises of our diplomatic mission in La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia.

This illegal seizure not only violates the rules set out in articles 22 and 25 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations in that the illegal occupation of our Embassy has been permitted by action or omission, but it also sets a precedent of disrespect and disregard for international law.

Given this lack of respect, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela draws attention to article 45 of the Vienna Convention, which states: "If diplomatic relations are broken off between two States, or if a mission is permanently or temporarily recalled: (a) The receiving State must, even in case of armed conflict, respect and protect the premises of the mission, together with its property and archives."

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

In this regard, it is unacceptable that, at a time when all our efforts should be focused on addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency, our attention is distracted by this improper conduct.

Our country has raised a strong protest with the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and, in compliance with the Vienna Convention, international law and the principle of reciprocity between the two nations, hopes that the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia will resume efforts to protect the premises, property, archives, items of value and other assets belonging to our country in its territory.

We trust, Sir, that we can count on your valuable support to preserve and ensure respect for the principles of international law that should prevail among all Members of the United Nations.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Jorge Arreaza
Minister
