

'Venezuela Vote'

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"**This is a Constituent Assembly to bring order, do justice and defend the peace,**" Maduro said after the vote.

Some 364 members were chosen through a territorial vote, one member for each of Venezuela's municipality, two for each one that is a state capital, and seven for Libertador municipality of central Caracas.

Eight were elected from the vote being conducted by Indigenous communities, **according to their customs and traditions**, while the remaining 173 will be divided into different sectors.

Eight will be from campesinos and fishermen, five for business people, five for those with a disability, 24 for students, 28 for pensioners, 24 for Communal Councils, and 79 for workers in public administration, services, social areas, commerce, self-employed, industry, construction, transportation, and the oil industry.

The constituents will have at least three months to draft the new text and are expected to focus their work on justice and economic issues.

Venezuelans must approve new constitution

Article 349 of the country's constitution says no other state power can "in any way impede the decisions of the National Constituent Assembly" and that the President of the Republic can not object to the new Constitution.

The final text of the new Constitution will go to an open and free referendum where all citizens will decide whether to approve it.

Depending on what the constituents include in the final text, the country could face general elections for President of the Republic, mayors, governors and other publicly elected officials.

Popular sectors hope to win a majority in the assembly along with the government in order to strengthen the economic and judicial system and protect the social missions initiated by the Bolivarian Revolution to provide free or low-cost health care, education and food.

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The U.S. response to the ANC vote:

"Anyone who participates in this illegitimate ANC could be exposed to future U.S. sanctions for their role in undermining democratic processes and institutions in Venezuela," said Secretary of the Treasury **Steven T. Mnuchin**.

"By sanctioning Maduro, the United States makes clear our opposition to the policies of his regime and our support for the people of Venezuela who seek to return their country to a full and prosperous democracy," he added.

"Maduro is not just a bad leader. He is now a dictator," national security adviser **H.R. McMaster** said. "Recent actions culminating in yesterday's seizure of absolute power through the sham election of the National Constituent Assembly represent a very serious blow to democracy in our hemisphere."

As with its sanctions against 13 high-level government officials last week, all of Maduro's assets subject to U.S. jurisdiction are now frozen and people from the U.S. are prohibited from dealing with them. as the U.S. boldly declares:

"The U.S. government and democratic governments worldwide continue to call on the Venezuelan government to halt the ANC process ... We urge those who were elected to the Constituent Assembly to decline to take office"

But the revolutionary legacy of Hugo Chavez endures- While a thousand valid criticisms can be made of Chavez, he chose sides in the class fault lines and took bold action at critical junctures.

Posters of Chavez remain in the homes of Venezuela's poorest barrios because he proved in action that he was a champion for the poor, while fighting and winning many pitched battles against the oligarchy who wildly celebrated his death.

While it's necessary to deeply critique the Maduro government, the situation requires the political clarity to take a bold, unqualified stance against the U.S.-backed opposition, rather than a "nonpartisan" analysis that pretends a life or death struggle, and threat of civil war isn't taking place.

Yes, a growing number of Venezuelans are incredibly frustrated by Maduro, and yes, his policies have exacerbated the current crisis, but



'If Simón Bolívar were alive He would cry blood'

while an active counter-revolutionary offensive continues- the political priority needs to be aimed squarely against the oligarchy, not Maduro. There remains a mass movement of revolutionaries in Venezuela dedicated to **Chavismo** and to defending Maduro's government against the violent anti-regime tactics, but it's these labor and community groups that the U.S. left and media never mentions, as it would pollute their analysis.

The U.S. left seems blissfully unaware of the consequences of the oligarchy stepping into the power vacuum if Maduro was successfully ousted. Too often analysis focuses on the problems of Maduro's government, and the violence in the streets, while ignoring the honest reality of the terror the oligarchy, sanctioned by U.S. interests, would unleash if it returned to power.

assembled from reporting
& analysis by
telesurtv.net & counterpunch.org

HARMONYUS ON PURPOSE

Saturday, September 9th: 12:pm-12:am
Casper Community Center- Mendocino County

Held within the innermost depth of every human being, is the vision of a completely harmonious world - a world where we are all free to be exactly as we truly are. We are all here to reveal the nature of our unique genius, to give openly of our gifts, and to be valued for the unique expression that we each bring to the world.

This universal vision is the inspiration behind ~The Harmonyus On Purpose Festival~

Celebrating the art of harmonious living with a full lineup of musicians, DJs, conscious speakers and somatic workshops, not to mention food, local artisans, a kids zone with bouncy houses, and more!

Explore the realms of somatic expression through workshops including; Experiential Astrology, Nidra Yoga, Shamanic Journeying, Sound Therapy, and Sacred Movement, just to name a few! We'll also be featuring ecstatic dance with DJ Sacred and Co-Nectar, along with several other musicians such as Pura Vida, Danny Barca, and the sultry and soulful Alyra Rose and Gina Rene! We'll also be featuring a number of talks by several conscious speakers, with talks such as "How to Fulfill the Living Soul Within." "The Physics of Harmony in the Cosmos." "Relationship in Harmony" and "Your Emotions are Your Guides!" The award-winning comedian Sherry Glaser will also be taking the stage with her stand-up performance called "Laughter is the Best Medicine."

All performances, talks, and workshops are brought together in celebration of the freedom, sovereignty, and authenticity of every human being- In essence;

~THE BLOSSOMING OF A TRUELY HARMONIOUS WORLD. ~

Father-daughter duo, Peter and Sally Wells of Mendocino, are the brainchildren of this gathering. They are both performers and cultural creatives, specializing in what they call *evolutionary entertainment*. The Harmonyus On Purpose Festival is their most recent project, stemming from long-standing visions they've held of creating outlets of entertainment that assist humanity through its spiritual evolution.

Tickets: \$40 (\$30 advance) Childrens Tickets: \$20 (\$15 advance.)
Tickets and info at: www.HarmonyusOnPurposeEvents.com

CALTRANS UNHOLY OBSESSION

Caltrans is exhibiting an unholy obsession with its Richardson Grove Highway Expansion project. When Caltrans first proposed the Project, they argued it was needed on safety grounds. Of course, they ignored lowering the speed as an alternative, a sound idea obvious to anyone who has traveled through Richardson Grove.

Caltrans' only justification this time around is to allow over-sized big rig trucks known as "STAA trucks". But this justification is flawed because these larger trucks already travel through this stretch of highway 101 through exemptions given by the state.

The huge, old trees towering over this stretch of highway 101 are already heavily impacted by the pavement of the road coming right up to their massive trunks, covering a good portion of their root system, so any further impact would have even more serious repercussions. Impact from pavement, compaction and digging around the roots of redwoods is made especially severe because redwoods, unlike other large trees, do not have tap roots to stabilize them, but rather have a lateral, spreading root system close to the surface to take advantage of moisture that the tall branches capture and drip down to the root zone.

CalTrans is definitely unwilling to submit to an EIR. Then it can hopefully ignore impacts to Coho Salmon as well. The watershed of the South Fork of the Eel River, including its tributaries, is legally designated critical habitat for the Coho. All of the work Caltrans is proposing to do is upslope for the South Fork of the Eel River.

CalTrans is looking to spend millions on the Grove while 101 itself is hardly operable once you get passed Leggett. Not to turn CalTrans loose in other domains, but billions are needed to repair the damages of last winter. There are so many other projects that have some shreds of legitimacy, the question remains – why this one? It was born with its head up its ass and there is no amount of mitigation or legal concessions that could make it right.

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Thanks to Barbara Kennedy

for continuing to bring info on the Grove to our attention