

VENEZUELAN IN NEW YORK PROTEST NOMURA'S FINANCING OF MADURO DICTATORSHIP

ON THE HEELS OF ITS \$100 MILLION PURCHASE OF VENEZUELA BONDS, THE JAPANESE BANK CONSIDERING THROWING A NEW FINANCIAL LIFELINE TO THE CASH-DEPRIVED MADURO DICTATORSHIP

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New York City-- Venezuelans from the New York area protested on Friday afternoon at the US headquarters of Nomura Bank on Manhattan's 49th Street against the decision by the firm to purchase \$ 710 million of so-called "hunger bonds" from the dictatorial regime of Nicolas Maduro. Nomura purchased \$100 million worth of the bonds in May and recent media reports indicate the bank is in the process of purchasing millions of dollars more in bonds from the socialist regime.

"Nomura's leadership has blood in its hands; its immoral financing of the repression of Venezuela's dictatorship is directly resulting in the deaths and injuries of peaceful, unarmed and hungry protesters" said Erick Rozo, one of the organizers of the protest. "Just in the past few days the Maduro-commanded National Guard has murdered two young men, ages 17 and 22. Video evidence of the murders clearly show how the protesters were shot at point blank by the regime's guns" he concluded.

Eduardo Lugo, a 23-year-old student from Venezuela and one of the leaders of the demonstration added "To Nomura and the markets; remember these words: SEC, FCPA and DOJ. Maduro's dictatorship is mortgaging Venezuela's future and killing, torturing and imprisoning civilians in a desperate attempt to remain in power. In a future, democratic Venezuela will not forget who stood with us in our hour of need, Nomura must stop aiding and abetting the dictatorship and must know that federal investigations in the United States are very likely to be conducted after these transactions."

In early June, after reports of Nomura's purchase of \$100 million in Venezuelan bonds at the fire sale price of \$30 million, the President of Venezuela's National Assembly, Julio Borges asked Nomura CEO Koji Nagai to stop financing the Venezuelan dictatorship and warned the bank the regime was using the funds to purchase weapons of war to repress protesters. Borges warned the National Assembly would launch an investigation into the transactions and asserted what seems to coincide with the main points that brought Venezuelans to Nomura's headquarters.

The demonstrators expressed their commitment to avoid any form of transaction that would benefit the Maduro regime and promised to continue its actions to denounce Nomura's complicity with Venezuelan authorities and any other financial institutions that throws the regime a financial lifeline.

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