

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations

ENAUN No. /2024

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations has the honour to address the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations concerning its note LA/COD/4, dated 8 August 2024, whereby it sent to all Permanent Representatives of Member States and Permanent Observers of non-Member States a note from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (ref. No. 00449), dated 29 July 2024, in which the Government of Venezuela stated that the Argentine Republic had violated its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations with regard to the security and protection of its premises and diplomatic and local staff in Buenos Aires on election day, 28 July 2024.

The Argentine Republic categorically refutes the baseless allegations made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and emphasizes that the Government of Argentina at all times respected and complied with its obligations under the aforementioned Conventions in relation to the protection of the premises and staff of the Embassy and provided the necessary guarantees for the electoral process to take place peacefully and without any interference whatsoever, through the deployment of an extensive security operation by the Ministry of Security of Argentina.

In that regard, prior to the holding of the election, a meeting was organized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic with the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Stella Marina Lugo Betancourt, with the participation of the international relations division of the Ministry of Security. On that occasion, information was provided about the security arrangements made for 28 July and relevant contact information was provided and exchanged, for the Ministry of Security and also for the division of the Federal Argentine Police responsible for diplomatic security, with which the Ambassador was already in communication. At the end of election day, there had been no reports in the press or formal complaint by the Government of Venezuela to the Government of Argentina indicating that the premises or staff of the Embassy of Venezuela in Argentina had been harmed or threatened in any way.

The Permanent Mission wishes to add that, in contrast to the continued protection provided by the Argentine authorities to Venezuelan premises and staff in Buenos Aires, including after the voluntary withdrawal of Venezuelan diplomatic staff accredited in the country, the Argentine Republic has been affected by the constant breaching by the Government of Venezuela of the

security of the premises of its diplomatic mission in Caracas, including through targeted cuts in the electricity supply, which have affected its normal functioning, in violation of obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations regarding the inviolability of the premises of the mission and the facilities that must be afforded by the receiving State for the functioning of the mission.

These violations are compounded by the fact that all Argentine diplomatic and consular staff were unilaterally expelled from Caracas by the Venezuelan authorities and given a mere 72 hours to leave the country with their families, which clearly made the continued performance of the functions of the mission impossible. In addition, Venezuela has committed a flagrant violation of the Convention on Diplomatic Asylum, which was concluded in Caracas in 1954, by having denied and continuing to deny the necessary safe conducts that would enable the Venezuelan nationals who have sought asylum at the official residence of the Argentine Republic in Caracas to leave Venezuelan territory, even preventing them from leaving alongside the expelled Argentine diplomats on their departure from Caracas. Indeed, up to the present time, the Government of Venezuela has refused to provide the relevant safe conducts so that those seeking asylum can leave the country safely, despite the repeated official requests made by the Government of Argentina since March 2024.

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note be included in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 77/108 on consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Lastly, in accordance with paragraph 12 (b) of General Assembly resolution 77/108, the Permanent Mission respectfully requests the Secretary-General to circulate the present note to the Member States of the Organization.

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 5 September 2024
