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**Maduro, an Extraordinary Man**

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Nicolás Maduro is very far from being the dictator he is accused of by the "western" corporate octopi, media weapon of the fourth-generation war against Venezuela.

The expression has also been coined by some presidents with no shred of morals to judge the Venezuelan leader.

I know they lie because I have seen Maduro speak several times in Venezuela, at a meeting, or within his group of collaborators or at a dinner with the Chavista political-military Staff and a group of intellectuals and artists from several countries. The man I've seen is noble, modest, intelligent and eloquent forged the persuasion since his early years as a revolutionary activist and later union leader of Caracas Metro System, where he drove buses. He listens carefully, he is fraternal with his comrades and with the people, and very warm with the militants supporting Venezuela.

I'm sure anyone can think the same if they see him and observe carefully his speeches on television. I even made a test with two friends: a psychologist and another art critic, both academic with PhDs who don't know Maduro in person and they have barely watched him in the news, politics is not among their priorities.

Of course, both are genuinely progressive and fully aware of the huge deceit the "media" throws at their audiences. I sent both the interview to Maduro on August 18<sup>th</sup> by the Venezuelan veteran journalist and revolutionary José Vicente Rangel. I asked my friends to watch it closely and with critical eye. They both agreed with few differences in the following: he is a good man and, besides his reach as a leader, it's evident he cannot be a dictator.

I have no doubt that unprejudiced people who can watch his press conference three days later can say the same. I have taken these two appearances of the leader as an example for taking place at a decisive moment of his presidency and of the Bolivarian Revolution, in the turmoil of the work of the Constituent National Assembly (ANC for its acronym in Spanish), when contrary to the media version, we saw a winning leader, in full control of the

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situation, loaded with proposals and a revolutionary process capable of overcoming big losses, like the one suffered at the legislative elections of 2015, and stand up again proudly and put into practice at the exact moment such a risky initiative as the elections to the ANC.

The serenity, patience and confidence you see in Maduro in both documents, make the man greater who has just delivered an important defeat to the unconventional war against Venezuela lead by the United States and the far-rights. Their objective is to end the dangerous example the Bolivarian revolution is to the world. Not less important, to seize their oil and natural resources. Venezuela is at present the four scenarios where a world war can start if we can't stop it on time with a great international mobilization.

Maduro intends to reestablish the dialogue with the opposition with the CELAC as background and he asks Pope Francisco that the Vatican resumes the mediation. The proposal is supported by the true spirit of Latin-Caribbean unity and integration which CELAC represents. Opposite to the servility shown by the OAS, an imperial creature. He speaks of economic, political, and moral recovery of the revolution as immediate objectives. The former baseball player and rocker and former chancellor remembers many times that Venezuela needs and wants peace but it's well armed and equipped with a magnificent Russian system of antiaircraft defense. He assures that the electoral calendar will be met as the Constitution demands and he highlights that the election of governors will be in October and that all opposition parties candidates have already nominated. No honest man can deny that he is a democrat and a man of institutions.

Maduro already deserves greater respect and admiration for the single deed of having worthy and creatively led so far the direction of the revolution and the State passed onto him by the great Hugo Chavez and the Venezuelan people.

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