



SPECPOL proposal calls for end of US-sanctions against Venezuela

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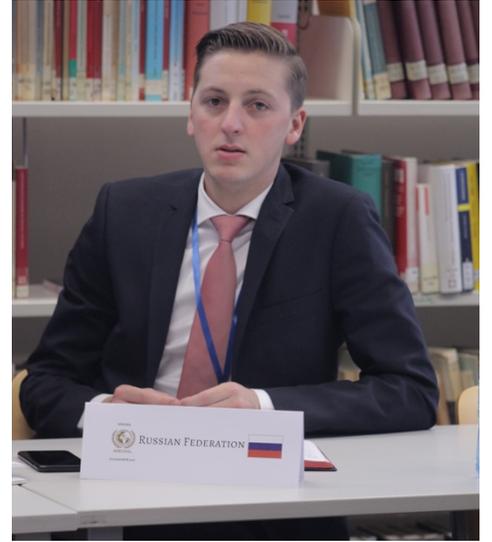
Hunger, lack of medical care and a divided political landscape: The Venezuelan crisis is still ongoing. To end the suffering of the population some countries are calling for an end of sanctions against Venezuela. Yesterday at SPECPOL, delegates of China, Russia and other countries who support the regime President Nicolas Maduro pushed for the proposal. Their aim is to end the humanitarian crisis in the South American country with not only humanitarian aid but also a stop of the sanctions which are put on the country by the US and the European Union. The US delegate was enraged: "I feel offended that you propose such thing", he told the Committee.

Four years ago, the Obama administration started sanctions against the South American country. Human rights issues are the reason. Venezuela is considered an "extraordinary threat to the national security". Since in office, Trump has tightened the measures. Part of them are sanctions against government and military officials such as freezing their accounts. There are also economic sanctions.

The proposal at hand seems to lead in the opposite of its aim: "We will not move backwards, but we will enlarge our sanctions", the US official said, "We will fight corruption and stand for freedom". Venezuelan ally China opposes this: "We need to end the sanctions. Trade forms the strongest bounds between countries".

More humanitarian aid is needed - who can help is decided by the Venezuelan government: "We will allow nongovernmental aid only as we fear to be overthrown", the delegate explained. One issue discussed was whether the aid should be linked to political demands. With exception of the US all other countries present at the Committee favoured unconditional help. The US made clear that without changes in the country it wouldn't contribute: "We will not support a corrupt government". Russia, one of the biggest allies Venezuela had in this meeting, said: "We have to protect the sovereignty of the country". Therefore, there should not be any interference in its politics. Right now, Russia has security personal stationed in Venezuela.

Read more soon: Venezuelan official calls US "economic terrorist".



photos by: Miriam Arimond