

Black Heritage Society – Information EPU – “Venezuela – October 2011”

Written contributions / Report prepared by the organization “Black Heritage Society” for the summary prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Universal Periodic Review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

1. The Black Heritage Society, based in Houston, Texas, was founded in 1978 by Ovide Duncantell, a local civil rights leader. Shortly after its inception and following the death of slain civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the organization was commissioned by Dr. Martin Luther King’s father, Reverend Martin Luther “Daddy King, Sr.” to create and establish the very “first” MLK Parade in America to honor legacy of Dr. King. Today, and for more than 33 consecutive years, the organization continues to honor and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King through local and national partnerships in support of social programs.
2. Among the many objectives of the Black Heritage Society, are to keep Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Dream Alive; social justice, community partnerships, provide and support community services for the needy; to make life’s basic needs more accessible to the underserved, under privileged. The organization partners and works with the Citgo-Venezuela-Citizens Energy Projects assistance programs, which ultimately benefits the Venezuelan people, and indigent communities in the United States, thus providing to tens of thousands of households assistance with essentials, such as food, health care and clothing. The Venezuelan partnership is efficient in many poor communities providing services in more than 23 U.S. States.

3. The Black Heritage Society makes this review and assessment of the Venezuelan Humanitarian efforts through social partnerships and periodic involvement to present this written contribution to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations on Venezuela. More importantly, we hope that our written contribution and findings will support and assist in the continued Venezuela Human Rights efforts, realization, betterment, and human rights practices.

Development of report:

4. Since 2008, the Black Heritage Society through community partnerships has documented, and substantiated repeated instances where humanitarian and human rights regards have been demonstrated by the Venezuelan people. The various benevolent efforts, such as, the “Citgo-Venezuela Oil subsidy program” provided to our nations most vulnerable, and the “Debt Forgiveness” to the Haiti people in light of its country disaster certainly lends credence to the Venezuelan government human rights disposition. Given our [BHS] partnerships, social and community objectives, we’ve directly witnessed what we believe to be human rights advancements within the country of Venezuela.
5. Undoubtedly, the Citgo-Venezuela-Citizens Energy Partnership, impacts the Venezuela government with offers of human kindness that must be respected and appreciated. Notwithstanding, additional needs for the betterment of the Venezuelan people human rights. Clearly, accomplishments are being made. In this [BHS] organization’s view, human rights policies are being changed by these

examples. It is our hope that these efforts continue to serve the interest, and expand better human rights for the Venezuelan people in its governmental policy.

6. This organization recommends that the Venezuelan government continue its benevolent contributions in the form of continued change and promotion of its internal human rights policies that may be seen and viewed in light of its Venezuelan Constitution.

Respectfully,

Ovide Duncantell,
Executive Director
Black Heritage Society