

## **The Declining Life Quality in Venezuela**

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Venezuela has always had political, social and economic problems, but those problems have developed and become worse during the past four years (i.e., since 1998). After the new president, Hugo Chavez Frias, was elected, all the problems increased through the years. At present, the country has so many problems that it has become one of the worst countries to live in. The insecurity is increasing, the people are complaining about the government, the economy is deteriorating, and the wealthy people are leaving the country.

The first cause of the declining life quality in Venezuela is the political problems, some of which are related to the president, the corrupted government, and the lack of international relations. The people of Venezuela are displeased with Hugo Chavez's presidency because his government has not improved Venezuela but has made it worse. President Chavez is not using the taxes primary for the interest of the country or the public. He is just taking most of the money for himself and using only a minor percentage for the country. Also, he is always traveling out of the country, suggesting that he is not interested in the country. Lastly, he is closing Venezuela's relations with some foreign countries, such as the United States, which will cause future problems.

The second cause is social problems. The insecurity has increased. In the past three years the percentage of casualties resulting from crimes has increased by almost 150%, and robberies have doubled. Moreover, poverty is rising, contributing to the increase of casualties and robberies. Another social problem is the increase of emigration. More people are leaving the country and settling in new countries such as the United States, Canada, England, and other European countries. In addition, the rise of unemployment is increasing the poverty, which in turns worsens insecurity.

The deterioration of the economy is a third cause. With all the problems mentioned above, many businesses are in bankruptcy or going bankrupt. Furthermore, fewer international companies are investing in Venezuela. This lowers the revenue and quality of stores and industries. In addition, trades with foreign countries are decreasing, so the importation and exportation ratio is very low.

The controversy over the president and his future government is a problem. People think that in the future Chavez will have a communist government, so they are even more disappointed. They even want a referendum to vote for the end of his presidency, but the government tries to avoid it. That causes more civic problems such as marches and strikes.

Problems will always be in any country, but how the people and the government deal with them is what makes the difference. Since the government is not helping with the present problems in Venezuela, the quality of life is decreasing every day, and citizens are just leaving the country. If more people keep leaving and the problems are not solved, then the country will become useless and worthless.