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In This Special Edition

CITGO Refutes False and Defamatory Statements

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Our company and its directors and officers are the subject of a recent article containing false and defamatory statements. The writer, who is a contributor to the publication, relies on previously published articles and inaccurate statements about recent court rulings and proceedings. Neither the author nor the publisher reached out to CITGO or its legal counsel to provide the opportunity to comment or offer any insight.

We strongly refute the false statements included in the article and have sent a letter to the publication explaining the falsity of the statements and why it should have known that they were false, and demanding a retraction and the opportunity to respond with the truth. As of now, it appears the publisher has removed the article from its website in response to our letter.

To be clear: the article's implication that the company or its directors and officers violated a law, order, or policy is completely false. CITGO's funds have not been transferred to the "Venezuelan Opposition" or to the Ad Hoc Board of Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A., nor have they otherwise been used to finance the Opposition.

As employees and ambassadors of CITGO, we should help spread the truth. We urge you to use the contents of the available fact sheet in your conversations with family and friends. You can download it **here**.

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Fiction	Fact
CITGO is indistinguishable from PDVSA.	**CITGO and PDVSA are separate and distinct legal entities, separated by two Delaware companies that follow principles of corporate separateness. PDVSA does not, and cannot, directly control and oversee CITGO.** • **CITGO is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Houston, Texas.** • **CITGO Holding, Inc., a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Houston, Texas, is CITGO's direct parent company.** • **PDVH (PDV Holding, Inc.), a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Houston, Texas, is CITGO's indirect parent company.** • **PDVSA (Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.), the state-owned oil and gas company of Venezuela, is the ultimate indirect parent company of CITGO.** • **Each of these entities is directed by its own Board of Directors—none of the U.S. entities (PDVH, CITGO Holding, or CITGO Petroleum) share any directors in common with PDVSA.**
Recent court opinions have found CITGO to be the alter ego of Venezuela and held CITGO liable for PDVSA's debts.	**No court has found CITGO to be the alter ego of Venezuela. Certain courts have concluded that PDVSA (CITGO's ultimate indirect parent company) has been the alter ego of the Venezuelan Government at certain times. Based on that finding, these courts have found that creditors of PDVSA and Venezuela may be repaid through a sale of PDVH's stock.[1] These alter ego conclusions do not extend to CITGO or its operations, nor does it make CITGO liable to any creditor of Venezuela or PDVSA.**
The Venezuelan Opposition has "plundered" CITGO.	**No CITGO resources have been transferred or diverted to the Venezuelan Opposition. Since January of 2019, when the U.S. Government recognized the Guaidó Government, CITGO has not provided any dividends or payments to PDVSA or the Venezuelan Government. The U.S. sanctions regime has prohibited such payments.**

[1] *OI Eur. Grp. B.V. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*, 663 F. Supp. 3d 406 (D. Del. 2023), *aff'd*, 73 F.4th 157 (3d Cir. 2023), *cert. denied sub nom. Venezuela v. OI Eur. Grp. B.V.*, No. 23-140, 2024 WL 71917 (Jan. 8, 2024).

	It is true that the PDVSA Ad Hoc Board of Directors (appointed by the Venezuelan National Assembly) has been granted access to certain funds that had previously been frozen by the U.S. sanctions regime. Those funds, however, did not belong to CITGO—they were blocked property owed to PDVSA by its U.S. subsidiaries. The funds returned to PDVSA were expressly authorized by transactional licenses issued by the U.S. Government's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC").
CITGO's funds have been used by the Venezuelan Opposition for personal or political gain.	**CITGO's funds have not been transferred to PDVSA or the Venezuelan Opposition, as explained above, and therefore CITGO's funds could not have been used for the personal or political gain of the Opposition. The only funds that have been returned to PDVSA (with CITGO's involvement) were funds owed to PDVSA by its U.S. subsidiaries and approved for release to PDVSA by the U.S. Government. CITGO's funds have not been used to finance the Venezuelan Opposition.**
Citgo's resources have been diverted to pay for the Venezuelan Opposition's legal expenses.	**No CITGO funds have been transferred to pay the Venezuelan Opposition's legal expenses. Again, the only funds that have been made available to PDVSA for legal services, with any CITGO involvement, are funds frozen by the U.S. sanctions regime that were owed to PDVSA by its U.S. subsidiaries and were approved by the U.S. Government for release to PDVSA for payment of legal services.**