

LERC attends 199th Anniversary of Venezuela's Independence

Monday 5th July 2010, Club La Marina, Dbayeh

Reported by LERC staff

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University was invited to attend the 199th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Venezuela held at the Club La Marina on Monday 5th July 2010. LERC was represented by Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin America Liaison Officer, and by Mr. Elie Nabhan.

Dignitaries who attended the celebration included Mr. Tarek Mitri, Lebanese Minister of Information; Mr. Salim Sayegh, Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs; ambassadors, heads of diplomatic and consular missions, envoys, Lebanese personalities and staff members of the Venezuelan Embassy.

As the guests mingled over drinks at the reception, H.E Zoed Karam, the Ambassador of Venezuela, opened the proceedings with her welcoming speech in which she briefly described the history and the independence of Venezuela as a nation liberated from colonial rule after 300 years of colonization. This commemoration, she said, coincides with the historical period of liberation, the exercise of sovereignty and independence from imperialist power.

Her Excellency recalled the important personalities of the Independence Revolution, figures such as Simon Bolivar, Francisco de Miranda, Jose de San Marin, Jose Artegas, Bernardo O'Higgins, and Francisco Morazan, amongst others who exemplify the independence movement.

This, she said, is a long process that still continues to this day, with people following their destiny and working on human dignity and auto-determination.



At Venezuela's Independence celebrations; (from left-right) Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. R. Khatlab, H.E. Z. Karam (July 2010).

The Ambassador then thanked her compatriots and Lebanese friends for attending the event and introduced the folklore group *Compases de Integración*, an artistic troupe representing the different regions of Venezuela, who provided live music and entertainment.