

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

NBCI Salutes the Late Hugo Chavez

Late Venezuelan President was a Man of Faith who served the Poor

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans salutes the late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. He was a great leader of the people and he had a big heart for the poor. We reject how the Western government treated him and salute the fact that he ran his country as he saw fit, for what was best for his people.

We do not condone any violence nor did torture that he may have used during his presidency but, as the black church, we must admire someone who gave his all to bring about what Martin Luther King, Jr. say, a beloved community that treated the poor with dignity and respect. He did not forget the poor; he was a man of the poor. He fought against those forces that would undermine the poor, both in Venezuela and in the West. We reject any sanctions against the Venezuelan people. Hugo Chavez will go down as one of the great leaders of humanity and who refused to cater to the rich and the privileged. *¡Viva Venezuela!*

The Rev. Anthony Evans said, “I would have loved to meet Hugo Chavez because I considered him a brother in Christ. He fought the forces of the rich and the privileged to serve the poor and I, like many millions around the world, did not buy the labels that Western governments tried to impose on him. We know that this is a life that you must choose either to serve Christ’s children or to serve the rich and the corporate interests. The Black Church will never serve the rich, corporate interests, or any government that perpetuates this type of brutal classism that rejects the poor and only gives to those that already have too much.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.