

Venezuela's Hugo Chavez dies at 58

7th March, 2013



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez has died from respiratory problems, aged 58. He had been seriously ill with cancer for over a year. There had been much speculation over whether or not he

would regain his health to resume his presidential duties. Venezuelan vice-president Nicolas Maduro informed the nation on Tuesday evening, telling Venezuelans that Mr Chavez had died, "after battling a tough illness for nearly two years." Maduro speculated that Chavez's cancer was started by foul play. He said: "We have no doubt that Commandant Chavez was attacked with this illness. We don't have a single doubt. The established enemies of our land specifically tried to harm the health of our leader."

Hugo Chavez was a highly popular leader in his country who continually championed the causes and rights of the poor. He redirected significant sums from the country's considerable oil revenues into social welfare programmes. He became famous for his fiery speeches, especially those attacking the USA. He made several controversial attacks on then president George W. Bush, whom he labelled a devil. Mr Maduro led a call for Venezuelans to celebrate Chavez, saying: "We're going to grow, we're going to get past this. Have a lot of courage. Stay strong, be strong. Let his name rise up. Let's praise Hugo Chavez." He added: "Those who die for life, can't be called dead."

Sources: BBC / Venezuelanalysis / Latino Fox News

Writing

All governments should channel revenues from the country's natural resources into social welfare programmes. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

respiratory problems / seriously ill / speculation / tough illness / foul play / doubt / championed causes / oil revenues / fiery speeches / controversial / devil / courage

True / False

- Hugo Chavez died from problems connected to his stomach. T / F
- There was very little talk about his future role as president. T / F
- Venezuela's vice-president believes Chavez's death wasn't so simple. T / F
- The VP said Venezuela's enemies contributed to Chavez's death. T / F
- Chavez used revenues from Venezuelan oil to help the poor. T / F
- He was continually attacked in fiery speeches from the USA. T / F
- Hugo Chavez said a former U.S. president was the devil. T / F
- The vice-president said it was time to forget Chavez and move on. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. respiratory | a. serious |
| 2. speculation | b. uncertainty |
| 3. resume | c. pay tribute to |
| 4. foul play | d. guessing |
| 5. doubt | e. promoted |
| 6. championed | f. breathing |
| 7. significant | g. dirty work |
| 8. fiery | h. bravery |
| 9. courage | i. carry on with |
| 10. praise | j. passionate |

Discussion – Student A

- Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- What do you know about Hugo Chavez?
- How popular is the leader of your country?
- Why don't all leaders champion the causes and rights of the poor?
- What do you think of leaders who make fiery speeches?
- What do you think of a world leader calling another leader a devil?
- How will Hugo Chavez be remembered decades from now?
- What questions would you like to ask a Hugo Chavez expert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. died from | a. popular leader |
| 2. regain | b. play |
| 3. battling a | c. a devil |
| 4. started by foul | d. of courage |
| 5. a single | e. respiratory problems |
| 6. a highly | f. his health |
| 7. championed the causes | g. speeches |
| 8. fiery | h. doubt |
| 9. ...whom he labelled | i. and rights of the poor |
| 10. a lot | j. tough illness |

Discussion – Student B

- What did you think when you read the headline?
- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'leader'?
- What did you think about Hugo Chavez?
- What would you like to know about Hugo Chavez?
- What will Venezuela's future be like without Hugo Chavez?
- Which three adjectives would you use to describe Hugo Chavez?
- Do you think it's possible other countries had a hand in Chavez's death?
- Why might other countries want Hugo Chavez dead?

Spelling

- rysparoiert problems
- much utnepislaoc
- iesenatlirpd duties
- a utgoh illness
- a single utobd
- lecyifaipscl tried to harm the health...
- ndmopchaei the causes and rights
- insnciafgt sums
- riyef speeches
- croralsonivet attacks
- a lot of gaeruoc
- apisre Hugo Chavez

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. g	5. b
6. e	7. a	8. j	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Chavez fan - You are a huge fan of Hugo Chavez. Tell the others three reasons why. If you hear anything bad against Chavez, tell the person who said it they are totally wrong, and give two reasons why they are wrong.

Chavez critic - You are a huge critic of Hugo Chavez. Tell the others three reasons why. If you hear anyone say good things about Chavez, tell the person who said it they are totally wrong, and give two reasons why they are wrong.

Poor Venezuelan - You are very, very sad that Hugo Chavez died. Tell the others three reasons why. You love Chavez and think he was one of the best world leaders ever. He helped the poor like no other world leader. You think all world leaders should be like him.

Jo Nobody - You don't really know much about Hugo Chavez. Do two things: 1. Find out facts about him from the others. 2. Talk about those facts and compare them with the actions of other world leaders.

Speaking – World Leaders

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Barack Obama | • Wen Jiaobao |
| • Angela Merkel | • Mahmoud Ahmadinejad |
| • Vladimir Putin | • Jacob Zuma |
| • Hamid Karzai | • Raul Castro |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.