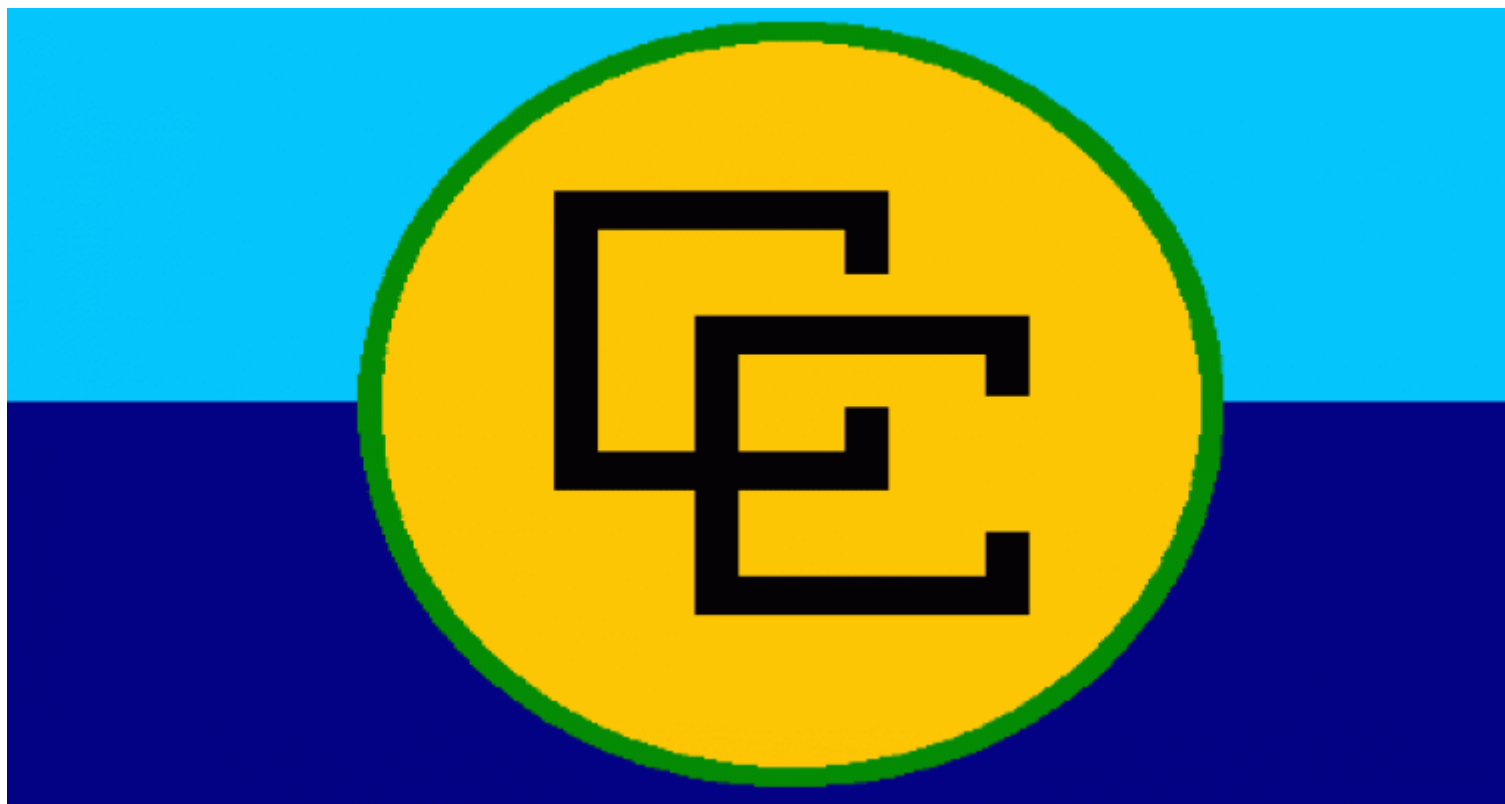


CARICOM Reaches Out To Help Venezuela Solve Crisis



Caracas, August 10 (RHC)-- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Chairman and Grenadian Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell is expected to make fresh overtures to Venezuela's political leaders as the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country is still the scene of violent protests unleashed by foreign-backed opposition groups.

The move got the blessing of regional leaders Wednesday at a special emergency meeting via a video conference convened by the CARICOM chairman.

While the regional grouping is yet to issue a formal statement on the outcome of the talks, a brief statement released by the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the heads exchanged "varied and robust views" during the three-hour discussion.

It also noted that talks "centered on promoting dialogue among stakeholders within Venezuela geared towards resolution of the political and social challenges in that country."

Following the 38th annual Heads of Government meeting in St Georges, CARICOM leaders offered to mediate dialogue between the Venezuelan government and the opposition.

In a response, President Nicolas Maduro said in a July 7th letter that he "wholeheartedly welcomes the

valuable proposal...offering the good offices of CARICOM to reactivate an agenda of constructive dialogue among the political parties of (our) country”.

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