

Venezuela plunged into political turmoil

Venezuela's crisis has reached a new boiling point, with embattled socialist President Nicolás Maduro facing a direct challenge from Juan Guaidó, the head of the opposition-controlled National Assembly



■ **Mar 2013:** Venezuelan President **Hugo Chávez** (right) dies from cancer aged 58. **Nicolás Maduro** (above) – Chavez's hand-picked successor – takes office after narrowly winning election



■ **Aug 2017:** Maduro swears in new pro-government **Constituent Assembly** – legislative body takes over key functions of National Assembly, leading to accusations that Maduro is undermining democracy

■ **May 2018:** Maduro re-elected amid allegations of vote tampering. Result declared illegitimate by domestic opposition, U.S. and **Lima Group** of Latin American governments

■ **Jan 2019:** Rejecting Maduro's swearing-in for second term, **Juan Guaidó** (below) declares himself interim president – move recognised by U.S. and many of Venezuela's neighbours



■ **Feb 2014**
Opposition leader **Leopoldo López** arrested and charged with inciting violence after anti-Maduro street protests

■ **Dec 2015:** Opposition **Democratic Unity** coalition gains majority in National Assembly elections amid mounting frustration over Maduro's handling of economy, spiralling crime and food shortages

