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Notable & Quotable: Yon Goicoechea

‘The poverty that plagues Latin America cannot be solved by a dictator.’

Venezuelan opposition leader Yon Goicoechea, who was arrested in Caracas on Monday, in an essay published in the Cato Institute’s summer newsletter in 2008:

Much like the student movement itself, a new Venezuela is emerging. A new Venezuela that believes that the only way forward is through liberty. Liberty unleashes the human capacity to innovate. It unleashes human creativity. The poverty that plagues Latin America cannot be solved by a dictator. It cannot be solved by a messiah. It cannot be solved by the state. The only way to get rid of this scourge and move forward is for millions of people to work and fight for their families without the interference of the state. We will not reach our goal in a month or a year, so we have to prepare ourselves for a long struggle. The true revolution in Venezuela will have happened the day we have strong and liberal institutions that defend the rights of every Venezuelan.