

Machado's Daughter Accepts Nobel Peace Prize Amid Uncertainty



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The daughter of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado accepted the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize on her mother's behalf on Wednesday, delivering a lecture written by the laureate as uncertainty persisted over Machado's whereabouts. Ana Corina Sosa told attendees at Oslo City Hall that her mother remained committed to a "free and democratic Venezuela" and would never abandon that goal.

Machado, who has been living in hiding since Venezuela's contested 2024 presidential election, was expected to travel to Oslo but could not reach the ceremony scheduled for 12:00 GMT. The Nobel Institute said she was "safe" and en route, though director Kristian Berg Harpviken noted she was unlikely to arrive until later Wednesday or early Thursday – too late for the prize presentation.

Speculation about Machado's travel intensified after the Institute said it was unaware of her location. Her mother and two children are already in Oslo, hoping for their first reunion in over a year.

Machado went into hiding after the disputed July 2024 election, in which President Nicolás Maduro secured a third term amid widespread allegations of fraud. The vote prompted nationwide protests and a crackdown in which around 2,000 people, including members of Machado's opposition coalition, were arrested.

Despite the risks, Machado continued to communicate through interviews and online messages urging Venezuelans to persist in their push for democratic change. Her Nobel Peace Prize selection reinvigorated her movement, though her travel arrangements remain secret, and details of how she left hiding or arrived in Europe have not been disclosed.