

Venezuela Crisis Prompts Plans for Dueling Concerts on Border

The New York Times, Feb. 19, 2019

Workers in Cúcuta, Colombia, assembling the platform on Monday for a concert organized by the British billionaire Richard Branson to raise money for the Venezuelan relief effort. Luis Robayo/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



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Call it a humanitarian battle of the bands.

First, the British billionaire Richard Branson [said last week](#) that he would organize an aid concert for Venezuela this Friday night — on the Colombian side of a border bridge where urgently needed supplies are being blocked by shipping containers on the orders of Venezuela's embattled president, Nicolás Maduro.

Then Mr. Maduro's government said on Monday that it would stage rival concerts over the weekend on the Venezuelan side of a different border bridge, where [thousands of desperate Venezuelans have recently crossed into Colombia](#) to escape the economic and political crisis at home. Venezuelan officials also promised to deliver 20,000 boxes of government-subsidized food to Cúcuta, the Colombian city that for most of the migrants is the start of a long and uncertain journey by foot.

Correction: Feb. 19, 2019

An earlier version of this article misspelled the surname of a journalist. She is Patricia Garip, not Garipa.

A version of this article appears in print on Feb. 20, 2019, on Page A6 of the New York edition with the headline: Venezuela Crisis Prompts Plans for Rival Concerts, Complicating Tension at Border. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)