



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the High Commissioner on the Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela

#HRC59 • 27 June 2025



PRESENTATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

H.E. Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The High Commissioner (HC) briefs the UNHRC on his report on the situation of human rights in Venezuela encompassing one year starting from 1 May 2024. Noting with concern the deteriorating human rights situation, the HC stresses that people were subjected to **arbitrary detentions, violations of due process, and enforced disappearances** amidst continued allegations of torture and ill-treatment.

In a **run-up to parliamentary and regional elections** a month ago, the authorities announced the detention of some 70 people, including opposition figures, human rights defenders, and 17 foreigners on accusations of belonging to a terrorist group. After the parliamentary elections, the authorities said they had dismantled a terrorist network involving some of those previously detained, together with several human rights and humanitarian organisations.

The HC repeats that Venezuela's terrorism legislation and its application are contrary to international standards and law. Most people **detained under terrorism-related offences** are subjected to judicial proceedings that do not comply with international standards. Many people



also remain in detention after being arrested in connection with the presidential elections in July 2024. The HC notes that the authorities have conditionally **released at least 1,500 people**.

During the reporting period, OHCHR documented 32 people who were subjected to **torture and ill-treatment** in detention. 15 of these were **adolescents**. Some 28 people were subjected to **enforced disappearance** after the presidential elections, and their whereabouts remain unknown. At least 12 of these are foreign nationals do not have access to consular assistance. The HC is deeply concerned by **detention conditions**, including people being denied access to medical care and lacking access to food and water. Some prisoners were subjected to **incommunicado detention** after publicly calling for improvements in their detention conditions.

The HC further voices deep concern over **freedom of association**, especially the NGO law approved last November, about which the HC explained many times that there are serious issues with its tenets. Many organisations have reported problems with the registration process, including unlawful requests for fees and an insistence on requirements that are not included in the law. Several NGOs have felt compelled to end the operations in Venezuela because of legal obstacles.

The HC's report also notes violations of the right of individuals belonging to various groups to participate in public affairs. Women continue to be **underrepresented in public life**. The HC's report highlights continued challenges for victims of gender-based discrimination and violence, including **femicide** and towards access to justice. Access to abortion continues to be criminalised even in cases of rape, incest or foetal impairment. The HC further regrets the **lack of progress on the rights of LGBTIQ+** persons who are targeted by hate speech and hate crimes. When these crimes take place, LGBTIQ+ persons rarely have access to justice and may be subjected to discrimination and violence in detention.

Meanwhile, **difficult economic conditions** have been exacerbated by the termination of operations by the major oil corporation Chevron. Venezuelans are already feeling the impact, such as, for example, through **hyperinflation**. The authorities' ability to fund essential public services is severely limited. For example, almost half of all students attended school irregularly in 2024, due partly to an absence of teachers and the suspension of classes. People also continue to report a **lack of essential medications** and equipment in public health care facilities. An estimated 91% of hospitals surveyed between January and July 2024 asked patients to bring their own supplies for surgery. The monthly salary remains unchanged since March 2022 at 130 bolivars, which is under one USD and about half the price of a carton of eggs.

The drastic reduction in funding from key international donors and the imposition of sectoral sanctions are also contributing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation. While being beyond the scope of his report, the HC is aware that many Venezuelans are also suffering because of uncertainty about the fate of loved ones who have been **deported from the United States**. The HC reiterates his call on the US government to ensure compliance with due process, to implement the verdicts of its courts, to safeguard the rights of children and to stop the removal of any person to any country where there is a risk of irreparable harm.



In light of the continued challenges to human rights in Venezuela, the HC urges the **immediate and unconditional release** of all those arbitrarily detained, including human rights defenders San Miguel, Javier, Carlos, Julio Rojas and Eduardo Torres. The HC calls for an immediate end to enforced disappearances and incommunicado detentions and for foreign citizens in detention to be granted consular assistance. The HC further urges the repeal of legislation that contributes to restricting civic and democratic space. Once more, he repeats his call for the **lifting of broad sectoral sanctions** that restrict key health services, access to food and have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable. Firmly believing in and is committed to engagement, the HC hopes the authorities will fulfil the necessary conditions to ensure the full return of all OHCHR's staff and the implementation of its mandate.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Matthias BEHNKE, Acting Chief, Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, OHCHR

With regard to OHCHR's presence in Venezuela, the Office has continued its engagement with the Venezuelan authorities and remains committed to pursuing a sincere, respectful, and professional dialogue and cooperation on the basis of a clear framework to discharge its full mandate. **Lack of full access** to the country prevents OHCHR from assessing the challenges faced by Venezuela and providing tailored technical assistance to the authorities and other partners. While physical presence allows OHCHR for more direct engagement and rapid verification, remote monitoring has required us to adapt and innovate in order to maintain meaningful contact with civil society actors, victims, and affected communities.

An important lesson from this contact is the value of building strong, trust-based relationships with a wide range of actors in the country. OHCHR's role always goes beyond monitoring. The Office has served as a vital bridge between the Venezuelan people and state institutions, contributing to efforts to reestablish trust and foster dialogue. Since the **government agreed to resume its cooperation** with the Office in December 24, only one international staff member of the team has been allowed to return. Regrettably, despite repeated verbal assurances and formal requests, no additional visas have been granted for the remainder of OHCHR's staff since December 2024. The remaining colleagues continue to carry out their functions remotely. At the same time, negotiations on a new Memorandum of Understanding have not progressed. OHCHR remains committed to supporting Venezuela to advance human rights. However, OHCHR urgently needs clear and concrete steps demonstrating commitment to renewed cooperation.

In relation to the **civic space for journalists and NGOs**, OHCHR continues to implement its overall mandate and maintains its cooperation with civil society, victims, victims' organisations and their families both inside the country and outside. **Arbitrary detention acts of persecution** continue to affect journalists, human rights defenders and members of the opposition. While civil society organisations have stated their fear regarding ongoing surveillance of their work, it should be important to maintain and expand the civic space and update the NGO law to bring it into line with international standards on human rights. It would also be essential to refrain from unduly applying counter-terrorist legislation towards persons for the legitimate expression of their work in human rights.



With regard to **detention conditions**, OHCHR has not had access to detention since February 2024 and we do continue to receive information with concern relating to the conditions of detention in Venezuela. Inmates have staged protests raising serious concerns about the access to adequate food, water, hygiene and the ability to maintain contact with relatives. These developments highlight the urgent need for systemic reform. OHCHR reiterates its long-standing recommendations to ensure that conditions of detention are brought into line with international human rights standards including the Nelson Mandela rules.

Turning to the **justice system**, strengthening the justice system in Venezuela requires addressing delays in investigations, ensuring transparency and accountability for human rights violations, strict respect for fair trial and judicial guarantees, eliminating gender bias and discrimination in judicial rulings, and adopting protocols for cases involving sexual orientation or gender identity. It also requires increasing the number of tenured judges and prosecutors through a transparent public process.

On the issue of **food security**, OHCHR remains concerned about the impact of the food security situation in Venezuela, particularly in light of the continued rise in the cost of living. Additionally, the recent suspension of humanitarian funding by certain international donors has further limited access to its essential services including food, health care and education.

Finally, OHCHR maintains its commitment to support all Venezuelans, men and women, in promotion and protection of human rights. We need to make meaningful progress in the near future. Without a clear framework, OHCHR cannot implement in-situ operations or provide technical support. Until having signals of renewed cooperation from the state, OHCHR cannot fully deliver on its mandate.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY VENEZUELA AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** recalls that this mandate was imposed following a political resolution that was commissioned by the United States and its satellites so as to exert maximum pressure to bring about a change in Venezuela's form of government. This resolution lays bare the politicisation and selectivity of the UNHCR. It was inspired neither by principles nor by a sense of justice, but rather by geopolitical expedience. The HC's report does not once mention the violent policies unleashed by fascist groups from the extremist opposition of Venezuela following the elections on 28 July, thereby revealing the biased selectivity and partiality of the report.

The delegation of Venezuela brought to the UNHRC relatives of the 253 Venezuelan migrants who have been under arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in a prison for 105 days now. These migrants were arrested in the United States and deceitfully led to El Salvador without due process, without there being an offence having been committed, without any defence, without a sentence, all this under the aegis of an anachronistic law on foreign aliens of 1798. Neither the United States nor El Salvador have provided a list of the people who have been forcibly disappeared despite multiple requests. Those who are affected have not even been allowed to have a phone call with their relatives, who today would like proof of the fact that they are alive. Venezuelan migrants are persecuted, discriminated against, and subjected to xenophobia in



several countries of the region, and particularly so in an inhuman way in the United States. Migrating is not a crime.

Venezuela has received plenty of evidence and victims' testimony, including video evidence of the cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment to which they are subjected, including videos from US authorities and those of El Salvador. President Nicolás Maduro phoned the HC to ask him to take up this abominable case. Venezuela is concerned that after all these efforts, 56 days had to elapse before your office finally took a stance in the face of such a scale of human rights violations, and bearing in mind those who are committing them, the relatives were hoping for a robust statement of position, one that was proportional to the suffering of the mothers.

But that was not to be. Waiting 56 days to take a stance stands in stark contrast with the speed with which OHCHR spoke out against the Venezuelan state. Venezuela would like to invite the HC to consider whether in his Office the speed of the response does not depend on the expedience and the convenience of cases. It seems to Venezuela that such a methodology, if it indeed does exist, would not only discredit the HC's Office, but it would also reaffirm the double standards that are prevalent in this system. Venezuela recalls the neutrality and impartiality that are the underpinning principles of OHCHR's mandate.

Human rights today are in great danger. The failure of the demised Human Rights Commission ought to have been a call to greater attention against the use of human rights as a weapon of aggression and intervention against certain countries. The UNHRC risks going the same way as the Commission, and Western powers do not want to realise that they continue to undermine the UNHRC's credibility to the detriment of peoples and human rights. Wrongs do not become right just because a majority is taking part in them. Double standards, which are obvious in the UNHRC in the face of serious human rights violations, is indescribable. In Venezuela, there are multiple allegations made against it, and almost \$9 million are being spent on a completely spurious and imposed mandate. The genocide in Gaza at the hands of Israel is an issue which people try to hush up and even remove from discussions.

Thousands of African migrants are dying in the Mediterranean or are subjected to cruel and degrading treatment in Europe, and yet the UNHRC says nothing about it and does even less. Recently, we have seen protests of migrants in US cities in response to the brutal persecution that they are being subjected to. Has the UNHRC said anything about the notorious human rights violations taking place in the United States against human rights? Silence is not an option. Once again, Venezuela evokes the wisdom of Simon Bolivar, the great freedom-bearer - *'A man of honour has no other homeland than that which protects the rights of its citizens and which respects the sacred, sancte nature of humanity.'*

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Albania expresses concern over the escalating violation of fundamental human rights in the country. The Venezuelan authorities are continuing their strategy of criminalising the political opposition, repressing human rights defenders and crushing civic space. According to the latest data, over 900 political prisoners are detained including journalists, minors, and human rights



defenders. Arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and acts of torture and ill-treatment in detention have multiplied, in particular since the presidential elections of July 2024. Albania calls for an end to the use of torture, enforced disappearance, and incommunicado detention. The NGO law has strengthened the control and limited civic space and activities, civic activities in the country, including arbitrary arrests against journalists and others. This is a daily reality. Albania continues to support the Venezuelan people in their fight to recover freedom and democracy, and calls upon the authorities to respect their obligations incumbent upon them under international human rights law.

Algeria reiterates its commitment to the universality, non-selectivity, objectivity, and non-politicisation in human rights matters. Affirming anew its principled position regarding the mandates that do not have the consent of the state concerned, Algeria believes that cooperation and dialogue are key elements when it comes to making progress in the effective promotion and protection of human rights. Algeria reiterates its commitment to genuine and constructive dialogue between and among states based on mutual respect, sovereignty, and the national specificities of a country. There is no single model to be applied to all countries. Respect for diversity is essential when it comes to obtaining lasting and credible results.

Argentina speaks about another year of tragedy, a whole litany of violations of human rights in Venezuela. In the HC's report there is everything happening except light, because all that one can see is blinding darkness. The same darkness that for 13 months Argentinians underwent in their embassy in Caracas and were then rescued. The same darkness that suffered by the Argentinian citizen Nahuel Gallo, who since last December has been missing without access to a lawyer, to a justice, without contact with his family, without his whereabouts known. It is a bleak picture of arbitrary detention, of enforced disappearance. The only ray of hope for many millions of Venezuelans were the national elections last year, where Edmundo González Urrutia was elected president. Nevertheless, the willingness of the people and their hope were also extinguished overnight. One of the former detainees in the Argentinian embassy, Mr. Pedro Urrutia, is present at the UNHRC and has become a symbol, which indicates that even in the hardest of situations, you can always, with firmness and with willingness, valour and determination, one can always apply a therapeutic strategy to counter the pain with justice and frustration with hope.

Austria remains deeply concerned about the ongoing violations of human rights and democratic principles in Venezuela. Since last year's election, human rights defenders, journalists and others perceived as dissident voices have been subjected to intimidation and persecution, limiting the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Austria is concerned about ongoing reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment and of overcrowding, both in penitentiary and pretrial detention centres. Austria calls on the Venezuelan government to release immediately all those arbitrarily detained and to ensure due process and fair trial standards are met. Targeted detentions are meant to silence opposition figures or those perceived as such and to instil fear among the population. Austria calls on Venezuela to cease holding its opponents or those perceived as such in conditions of isolation and incommunicado detention, which often amounts to enforced disappearances and widespread lack of effective judicial protection. In closing, Austria further calls on Venezuela to take all necessary measures to facilitate the full functioning of the local OHCHR' Office.



Belarus notes the significant efforts of Venezuela in the context of interaction with the treaty bodies and with thematic special procedures, as well as participation in the UPR. Belarus urges OHCHR not to overlook the significant damage done to the Venezuelan people by sectoral economic sanctions and other UCMs. The electoral campaign in Venezuela is an internal matter for that country. The choice of the people should be respected. Constructive dialogue should be conducted with the authorities in strict compliance with the UNHRC working principles without pressure or coercion. It is necessary also to encourage the path chosen by the country to strengthening the national human rights system and provide the relevant authorities with expert and technical assistance.

Belgium on behalf of the Benelux countries urges authorities to facilitate a full OHCHR presence and to guarantee unhindered access to the country and all relevant institutions. The Benelux countries are deeply worried about the ever-increasing pressure on civil society and the near-complete closure of civic space. Authorities must fulfil their international human rights obligations. Seeing the detention of human rights defender Eduardo Torres as particularly worrisome, the Benelux countries call for his immediate and unconditional release. The Venezuelan authorities continue to repress dissenting voices, political opponents and members of the opposition. Alarmed by the amount of enforced disappearances, including in foreign citizens and dual nationals, the Benelux countries call on the authorities to respect due process and fundamental rights of detainees, such as access to medical care, private legal assistance and contact with family members.

Bolivia is in favour of cultural dialogue and supports constructive and sincere approaches toward countries concerned when addressing human rights issues, leaving aside politicisation, selectivity, and double standards. Bolivia supports the genuine cooperation that takes into account the concerns of the country concerned and reflect the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of states established in the UN Charter. Bolivia rejects the imposition of interventionist mandates, manipulation, and use of human rights mechanisms to bolster negative campaigns which seek to isolate, pressure, and suffocate certain states. Venezuela has shown its will to work with OHCHR, and urges the country to continue building respectful relationships with the Office. Bolivia also stresses that Venezuela has successfully completed its UPRs in all cycles, as well as assuming everyone's commitments to the treaty bodies, including agreeing to receive various special procedure visits to the country. Venezuela has suffered years of negative campaigns against its government, such as through the use of UCMs, and as various experts have said, these in no way contribute to the goals they supposedly seek. On the contrary, they constitute reprisals. They have a negative impact and restrict the exercise of human rights, especially the human rights of those populations in situations of vulnerability. Bolivia reiterates the importance of dialogue.

Brazil urges the authorities to move with impartiality in addressing the human rights violation allegations, strengthening international cooperation between Venezuela and OHCHR's Office. Brazil calls for the release of individuals detained in protests following presidential elections. The HC's report notes restrictions in civic space, including arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances. Brazil urged the authorities of Venezuela to meet international standards for human rights, and it remains available for support in dialogue between the political forces in Venezuela as the only means of overcoming political, economic and social strife that continues



to affect the country. Sharing concerns over the UCMs imposed on Venezuela and their strong impact on human rights, Brazil stresses that the HC's report shows that sanctions and other factors had a direct impact on the living conditions of Venezuelan people.

Burkina Faso hails the efforts of Venezuela as reflected in their national report submitted in the fourth UPR cycle. This shows the commitment of Venezuelan authorities to the improvement of health care systems and education systems, as well as the implementation of social policies that are inclusive in a difficult context marked by the devastating effects of UCMs. Burkina Faso commends their ongoing openness to constructive dialogue and technical cooperation with a full respect for their sovereignty. Burkina Faso expresses deep concern over the politicisation, the increasing politicisation of the UNHRC, which calls into question its credibility and which distorts its mechanisms from their initial objectives, which is the promotion of dialogue and cooperation that is constructive in the area of human rights. In closing, the delegation recalls it is up to the states to respect, promote, and protect human rights in their territories, while calling for the UNHRC to remain a venue for equitable, non-politicised, and respectable process of dialogue within the UN Charter.

Burundi remains convinced that improving the human rights situation is something that all nations hold to heart and should therefore be based on constructive cooperation and inclusive dialogue between states. Country-specific mandates without the consent of the country concerned violate the universal principles enshrined in the UN Charter and sadly lead to politicisation of the UNHRC's work. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of states must always be fully respected given the primary responsibility of states when it comes to promoting and protecting human rights, which must always be taken fully into account. Burundi welcomes Venezuela's commitment to cooperate with the UNHRC and its mechanisms, particularly with the UPR, which has already proven its worth and which remains the sole exercise that all states can subject themselves voluntarily to be evaluated by their peers, but also for the cooperation with other UN treaty bodies.

Canada jointly with Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay are concerned by the lack of progress in the OHCHR's return to Venezuela and once again urge Venezuela to allow OHCHR's full presence and ensure it can effectively carry out its mandate. The countries remain alarmed by the sustained pattern of repression in Venezuela, particularly targeting opposition leaders, human rights defenders, journalists and ordinary citizens who face intimidation and persecution. Civic space also continues to shrink through restrictive legislation and harassment. These acts reflect a deliberate and systematic policy to instil fear and suppress dissent. They are particularly concerned by the lack of judicial independence and the misuse of judicial mechanisms to legitimise persecution in contravention of due process related rights and the right to an effective remedy. Arbitrary detentions remain significantly high alongside forced disappearances, denial of legal assistance and torture. They urge Venezuela to immediately and unconditionally release all individuals arbitrarily detained including minors and to uphold their rights to life, integrity, family, contact and fair trial. The countries also affirm people's right to vote and choose their leaders and the importance of safeguarding electoral integrity.

Chile regrets that despite the announcement of renewing cooperation with OHCHR, this has not been reflected in effective acts as enabling the office to fully implement its mandate. The



absence of an operational presence and hurdles when it comes to issuance of visas makes it difficult to see a genuine will for cooperation. The HC's report documents with concern widespread human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearance, undue use of anti-terrorist legislation, gender-based violence, repression of protests, and detention conditions in violation of international standards. These practises especially affect those who exercise freedom of expression, who protect human rights, or participate in public life. Chile is alarmed by criminalisation of civil society organisations through restrictive legal frameworks and arbitrary administrative measures, as well as repression against dissenting voices, including in the context of the elections. Chile reiterates its call to the Venezuelan government to fully restore cooperation with OHCHR, guarantee access to justice, and ensure conditions conducive for accountability and provision of effective protection of the human rights of all the population.

China regrets that the HC's report does not adopt the official information provided by Venezuelan government, is fuelled with groundless accusations, and fails to reflect the actual human rights situation in the country. China's position on the issue of Venezuela is consistent and unequivocal. China firmly upholds the UN Charter and the basic norms of international relations and oppose any use of UCMs and intervention into Venezuela's internal affairs. China commends Venezuela for its efforts and progress in promotion and protection of human rights, including its constructive cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms. The UCMs imposed by certain countries seriously affect Venezuelan people's right to life, right to development, and other basic human rights, and should be lifted immediately. China will continue to support the Venezuelan government and people defending their national sovereignty and dignity and improving livelihood, according to the human rights development path that corresponds to its national situation so as to better promote and protect its people's human rights.

Colombia calls upon Venezuelan authorities to cooperate with Special Procedures and OHCHR, including facilitating its presence and work in the country. The difficulties Colombia faces has shown it the importance of civic space and the crucial role of those defending it. For this reason, Colombia urges Venezuela to adopt concrete measures to fully ensure the work of human rights defenders and democratic space. Colombia joins other countries in their call on Venezuela to ensure the human rights of their citizens abroad, including Colombians abroad and those held in Venezuela.

Cuba on behalf of a group of friends in defence of the UN Charter reiterates the group's categorical rejection of the double standards and politicisation of human rights. These actions annul genuine dialogue and cooperation. The group expresses grave concern at the ongoing, growing proliferation of reports on Venezuela without the consent of the state concerned. In full liquidity crisis, the UNHRC has imposed activities on Venezuela with an almost \$9 million budget wasted on politicised actions that have no positive impact on human rights. The group reaffirms its robust condemnation of the sustained increasing use of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) for political purposes, which negatively impact on the human rights of the Venezuelan population. The group of friends expresses its confidence in the robust, participative, protagonist model of democracy which prevails in Venezuela, which has been demonstrated in the recent elections to national elections and the mayoral elections in July 2025. The group of friends expresses its solidarity with the 253 Venezuelan migrants who have been victims of forced



transfer from the USA to El Salvador. The group calls for energetic condemnation and action to be taken by the UN Human Rights system with respect to this atrocity against Venezuelan migrants.

Cuba repudiates any interventionist exercise against Venezuela. The practise has shown that all mechanisms imposed arbitrarily without consent of the country concerned are in line with the political agenda, which sadly uses human rights as a pretext for intervention in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. The UNHRC cannot become yet another instrument of blackmail and pressure against the countries of the south, continuing to approve measures that undermine institutionality and sovereignty of Venezuela, compromise the integrity and credibility of this council. Cuba calls for immediate cessation to UCMs imposed against the Venezuelan people which seek to, through economic and political ways, to crush them in the most cruel fashion. It is crucial for the UNHRC to promote respectful dialogue and genuine cooperation as per the principles of impartiality, non-politicisation, and non-interference. Cuba urges OHCHR to continue exploring mechanisms, respecting respectful cooperation mechanisms with the Venezuelan government with terms agreed to by both parties. Cuba recognises the notable results achieved by Venezuela in protection of human rights of the people and reiterates its firm support to the legitimate government of Nicolás Maduro.

Czechia notes the deterioration of the situation, especially the ongoing shrinking of civic space and the lack of cooperation with UN mechanisms. Since last year's presidential elections, Czechia is alarmed by the increased cases of enforced disappearances, torture as well as arbitrary detentions often based on alleged crimes such as involvement in destabilisation of the government. Czechia calls on Venezuela to unconditionally release all those unlawfully and arbitrarily detained, including Czech citizen Jan Darmovzal, and to respect diplomatic and consular obligations of states. Czechia further reiterates its call on Venezuela to fully restore the OHCHR's Office in the country and to engage constructively with the FFM.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** its deep concern over the ongoing politically motivated and biased practises directed at sovereign states under the pretext of human rights. The HC's report lacks objectivity and impartiality and fails to reflect the reality on the ground, thereby undermining the universal principles of respect for human rights and for national integrity, sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of the states as enshrined in the UN Charter. The DPRK commends the Venezuelan government for its strenuous efforts and the progress made in the field of human rights and firmly reject the imposition of UCMs against Venezuela. Recognising Venezuela's continued commitment to transparent and constructive engagement with UN human rights mechanism, the DPRK affirms the urgent need for the UNHRC to uphold its mandate through genuine dialogue and cooperation in line with the UN Charter and without resulting to selectivity, politicisation, and double standards.

Egypt reaffirms its long-standing and principled rejection the imposition of mechanisms on states to monitor their human rights without the consent of the concerned country. Countries need to be engaged in any action undertaken in order to promote the human rights of their citizens, while also adhering to the principles of non-selectivity and objectivity.

Eritrea is concerned at the report's deeply flawed, biased, and politically motivated approach. The report lacks objectivity, disregards the reality on the ground, and perpetuates a narrative



shaped by external agendas rather than the aspiration and sovereignty of the Venezuelan people. The report further fails to fully capture the adverse impact of UCMs, which are not only illegal under international law but have also exasperated the socio-economic challenges, impeded development, and directly undermine the enjoyment of fundamental rights by the Venezuelan people. These measures imposed and maintained by certain powerful member states are the principal drivers of the majority of the issues the report seeks to attribute solely and incorrectly to the government action. Eritrea stands in solidarity with Venezuela and reaffirms the inalienable right of every nation to determine its political, economic, and social system free from external interference. Eritrea calls for the immediate end to all politically driven, country-specific mandates imposed on Venezuela and urges the UNHRC to redirect its efforts towards respecting dialogue, cooperation, and multilateralism.

Georgia remains deeply concerned with the grave human rights situation in the country, which was worsened by another wave of repression in the context of electoral campaigns for parliamentary and regional elections. At least seven individuals, including Member of Parliament Juan Pablo Guanipa, were arbitrarily detained. It voices alarm at OHCHR's impossibility to fulfil its mandated activities as well as the criminalisation of social organisations, persecution of human rights defenders, and the enactment of legislation aimed at financial suffocation of civil society. Georgia reaffirms its support for the peaceful democratic aspirations of Venezuelan people.

Germany condemns violations of international human rights law in Venezuela in the strongest terms, including enforced disappearances, excessive use of force, and arbitrary detentions, which also affect many foreign nationals, including German citizens. Germany further condemns the widespread lack of effective judicial protection and remains deeply concerned about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Millions of people continue to lack adequate access to food, clean water, education, and health care. Germany urges the Venezuelan government to respect and protect the human rights of all its citizens, including ethnic minorities. Germany remains committed to support the Venezuelan people in their struggle for democracy and human rights. It calls on Venezuela to cease repressions and intimidations of human rights defenders, journalists, and individuals associated with opposition parties, and to grant consular access to detainees. Those responsible for human rights violations must be held accountable.

Iran reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and political independence of Venezuela. Iran remains deeply concerned about the continued imposition of UCMs and the increasingly politicised pressure against Venezuela, which seriously undermines the human rights and well-being of its people. Iran regrets that in many instances human rights mechanisms are applied selectively and exploited to pursue political agendas. The UNHRC must uphold the principles of objectivity, impartiality, and non-selectivity in all its work. Iran stresses that constructive dialogue and genuine cooperation, rather than stigmatisation and external interference, constitute the only effective path toward promoting human rights. Iran stands in full solidarity with the people and government of Venezuela and calls for an immediate end to all forms of foreign pressure that violate the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Japan remains concerned about the human rights situation in Venezuela. Welcoming the resumption of OHCHR's activities in Venezuela, Japan expects to see the prompt return of further



OHCHR's personnel to the country and the expeditious conclusion of the new Memorandum of Understanding between OHCHR and the Venezuelan government. Japan has repeatedly expressed its concern over arbitrary detention by the Venezuelan authorities. In this respect, Japan positively evaluates the decision of the Venezuelan authorities to release some of the detainees, while noting the continuation of arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances. Japan continues to call for the release of all other arbitrary detained individuals, including foreign nationals. Japan further calls on the Venezuelan government to preserve space for civil society and to address the human rights situation in the country in a manner that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

The **Lao PDR** notes with appreciation Venezuela's constructive engagement with the OHCHR and other UN human rights mechanisms in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The imposition of country-specific initiatives and UCMs is counterproductive and do not improve the human rights situation on the ground. Human rights issues shall be addressed through genuine dialogue and cooperation in line with national priorities, guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity. The Lao PDR calls on the international community to promote and respect the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs in addressing human rights as fundamental pillars of the UNHRC's work.

New Zealand notes that the deterioration of the human rights crisis in the country, with ongoing and widespread repression and violence, over 20 million Venezuelans living in poverty and over 14 million facing severe humanitarian needs. New Zealand is deeply concerned that restrictions on basic human rights appear to have increased and that arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances continue. Reiterating its calls for a peaceful and democratic solution to the human rights crisis in Venezuela, New Zealand urges the Venezuelan authorities to cease their ongoing repression, including regarding the arrest of human rights defenders, political leaders and their families. It is also deeply troubling that amid the worsening human rights situation, only one of OHCHR's staff members remain present in-country. On this, New Zealand echoes calls for the restoration of OHCHR's presence in Venezuela to enable meaningful and unfettered access.

Paraguay expresses its profound concern at the increasing number of arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, cases of torture, and protracted periods of lack of communication with detainees. Paraguay demands a swift, unconditional release of political prisoners such as Eduardo Torres, Rafael Tudares, Javier Tarasona, Rocio San Miguel, Carlos Julio Rojas, and Kenny Tejera, who are currently incommunicado in situations of high vulnerability and face possible human rights violations. Paraguay regrets the criminalisation of social organisations that have taken place and the persecution of human rights defenders and the implementation of norms which undermine financial resources of civil society and restrict the civic space. It reiterates its call to the Venezuelan authorities to put an end to their practises that violate human rights, to follow up on their obligations under international law and international human rights law, and to ensure full respect for democracy and the will of the people, the will of the Venezuelan people.

Peru expresses its profound concern at the increasing number of cases registered of arbitrary detention, the absence of guarantees to due process, due violations of civic democratic space, as well as stigmatisation and criminalisation of representatives of civil society, journalists, and dissenting voices. Peru reiterates its rejection of the arbitrary detention of three Peruvian citizens



by the Venezuelan authorities at the end of 2024, and demands that the authorities respect the human rights of those citizens and provide information as to their health and legal status as per their international commitments in human rights. While positively noting the return of the OHCHR's Office to Venezuela, Peru urges the authorities to properly cooperate with international mechanisms for human rights protection. Peru will support all efforts aimed towards a solution where democracy and justice, peace, security, and respect for human rights prevail, and the fundamental freedoms of all Venezuelans.

Poland remains committed to supporting all human rights mechanisms aimed at protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in t Venezuela. Since last year's election, human rights defenders, journalists, and other perceived as dissident voices have faced intimidation and prosecution, limiting the exercise of rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Poland calls on the authorities to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of the citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association, as well as to take immediate measures to halt, remedy, and prevent human rights violations. Moreover, it calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including third-party nationals who are deprived of consular assistance.

Portugal values OHCHR's presence in Caracas and supports the urgent restoration of the full operational capacity to carry out its mandate with unrestricted access across the country. Urging Venezuela to engage constructively with OHCHR, the FFM, and relevant regional mechanisms, Portugal remains deeply concerned by continued reports of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and harassment against opposition members, journalists, and human rights defenders. Particularly alarming are reports of torture, ill-treatment in detention, including the use of isolation and incommunicado, detention against political opponents. Portugal also notes with concern the lack of due process guarantees, including violations of the right to a fair trial, and the ineffectiveness of the habeas corpus procedure. Portugal calls on Venezuela to release all the individuals arbitrarily detained, including dual and foreign citizens, and to put an end to enforced disappearances. It also expresses concern over the continued application of the NGO law, which severely restricts civil society, leading to significant curtailment of civic space.

Romania calls on Venezuela to allow the restoration of OHCHR's full presence in the country. The systematic legal, financial and political measures undertaken by the authorities with regard to the activity of the civil society organisations, human rights defenders, and journalists show a level of repression meant to dismantle the civic space in Venezuela. Romania condemns such actions and all related violations of human rights and call on the authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression. Calling on the authorities to put an end to all cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions, all political prisoners should be unconditionally released. Romania remains seriously concerned about the lack of effective judicial protection, but also about the difficult economic and health situation in the country.

Saudi Arabia hails the Venezuelan government's efforts and cooperation with OHCHR. Saudi Arabia has not ceased to underscore the importance of a system that has no politicisation or selectivity when it comes to human rights. Bearing in mind all the challenges that the countries face, Saudi Arabia commends the Venezuelan government's efforts to implement UPR



recommendations. Saudi Arabia urges the international community to support Venezuela's efforts to promote human rights, and reaffirms that to further human rights, there must be a constructive dialogue with the concerned country to consolidate its abilities and capacity with a respect for objectivity and universality in human rights.

South Sudan reiterates its consistent position that constructive dialogue and genuine cooperation represent the ideal way of promoting and protecting human rights around the globe. Politicisation, selectivity, and confrontation create unhealthy environment which is counterproductive. South Sudan commends Venezuela for making positive strides in addressing human rights concerns with renewed efforts aimed at institutional reform and dialogue. The establishment of mechanism for cooperation with international bodies including OHCHR demonstrates a constructive step towards greater transparency and accountability. South Sudan further applauds Venezuela for continuing to prioritise advancement of economic and social rights for segments of its population, including access to education and health care. While challenges remain, these developments indicate willingness of Venezuela to engage with international community, and they deserve to be recognised and welcomed by the UNHRC.

Spain urges the Venezuelan authorities to allow the functioning of the OHCHR's Office without any obstacles and calls for the end of arbitrary detention and forced disappearance including of foreigners and dual nationals, release of political prisoners, and a cessation of repression and harassment of civil society as well as the persecution of democratic opposition. Spain recalls the detention of persons who are denied access to communications or in violation of the Vene Convention 1963 to consular services and whose fate and whereabouts is hidden by the authorities denying them the protection of the law constitutes an enforced disappearance as is the case with Spanish prisoners, José María Basoa and Andrés Martínez Andás. All human rights violations that have been reported should be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

Sri Lanka appreciates Venezuela's continued and active engagement with OHCHR and human rights mechanisms, particularly at a time when dialogue and cooperation are in a state of decline. Despite the challenges it faces, Venezuela has facilitated visits by Special Procedures, complied with its international obligations of treaty body reporting and UPR engagement the most recently in 2022. Sri Lanka holds the position that any initiative by the UNHRC without the consent of the country concerned is unproductive and does not contribute to any substantive outcome for the promotion and protection of human rights in any country. Cooperation with OHCHR should always be governed by respect for the sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of the country concerned. Sri Lanka encourages the UNHRC to engage constructively with the government of Venezuela in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation to safeguard the human rights of Venezuelan people and including their right to development.

Sudan welcomes progress achieved in Venezuela when it comes to promotion of human rights, including economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as political rights. It also commends the holding of parliamentary and regional elections with a high turnout, and praises the resumption of the work of OHCHR in Venezuela. Sudan encourages Venezuela to continue its efforts in the field of human rights, especially when it comes to improving the situation of women, of workers, safeguarding the right to food. There is also a need to continue establishing or determining the needs of that country in such a way as to meet those needs.



Switzerland shares the HC's concerns over the ongoing reduction of civic space and firmly condemns the repression of political opposition members, human rights defenders, journalists, and humanitarian actors. Switzerland calls upon the authorities to immediately free all those that have been arbitrarily detained and to ensure respect for fair trial. Human dignified conditions must be guaranteed, including access to medicine and communication with family members. Switzerland recognises that legislative elections and those for governors of 25 May were undertaken without violence or clashes, although paying conditions that are adverse for political opposition. Looking ahead at the municipal elections on 27 July, Switzerland calls upon the authorities to organise an electoral process that allows for fair and competitive circumstances with participation of all political forces. It further requests OHCHR's Office to be able to fully operate in Venezuela by formalizing this cooperation. Switzerland is available to work to build bridges to this effect.

Türkiye's embassy in Caracas is working closely with OHCHR in Venezuela, whose full presence in Venezuela will enhance the collaboration in the field of human rights and will increase the extensive cooperation between the Venezuelan government and OHCHR, keeping in mind that this cooperation should always be governed by respect for sovereignty and non-interference with internal affairs. Türkiye will remain engaged with all the relevant actors, both in Venezuela and the UN system, to help Venezuelan people reach higher living standards and fully enjoy their fundamental human rights. Türkiye categorically rejects all UCMs. They have a direct negative impact on the daily life of each and every Venezuelan, being a cause of concern to all of them, as well as to the companies and citizens of other states. Venezuela's problems, including those in the field of human rights, can only be solved through a comprehensive dialogue and cooperation among the Venezuelans themselves.

Ukraine notes the alarming deterioration of human rights and the 2024 presidential elections tainted by irregularities, intimidation, and exclusion, deprived millions of their democratic voice. The post-electoral period witnesses intensified repression, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, censorship, and due process violations. The systematic targeting of civil society, journalists, and opposition figures under the pretext of counter-terrorism is deeply concerning. Ukraine is particularly alarmed by credible reports of torture, gender-based violence, and detention, and the persecution of religious leaders and human rights defenders. The continuing shrinkage of civic space and misuse of ambiguous equalisation to suppress a dissent point to a pattern of entrenched authoritarianism. Ukraine also declares Venezuela's repeated justification of Russia's war against Ukraine, including attempts to excuse deliberate attacks on Ukrainian civilians. Such positions are morally indefensible and reflect a broader contempt for international law and human rights. Standing in firm solidarity with the Venezuelan people in their pursuit of justice and democracy, Ukraine urges the authorities to immediately release all arbitrary detained individuals and fully cooperate with the international human rights mechanisms.

The **United Kingdom** notes with concern the alarming cycle of human rights violations with over 900 Venezuelans remaining arbitrarily detained, reports of enforced disappearances targeting opposition members, human rights defenders and the independent media. Many detainees are held incommunicado, denied access to legal counsel and subjected to due process violations. The justice system, far from protecting victims, has become a tool of repression. Civil society has been stifled, worsened by the 'anti-NGO law', which undermines the ability of organisations to



operate freely. The UK strongly condemns the continued erosion of human rights and calls for an immediate end to repression. Commending the OHCHR's vital work, the UK remains deeply concerned by the limited return of its office in Venezuela. Now more than ever, its presence in Caracas is essential to monitor the worsening human rights situation, ensure accountability and uphold fundamental freedoms.

Uruguay expresses concern over the lack of progress in the return of the OHCHR's Office to Venezuela and the deterioration of the human rights situation and that of fundamental freedoms, including the reduction of civic space, a sustained pattern of repression, enforced disappearances, and a widespread lack of effective police protection. Uruguay calls upon Venezuela to immediately and unconditionally release all those under arbitrary detention, including minors, and that there be a respect for human rights and commitments under international law. It further urges the authorities to rapidly provide details on the whereabouts of detainees to their family members.

Yemen acknowledges efforts made by Venezuela in terms of promoting and protecting human rights through effective cooperation with human rights mechanisms and implementation of a certain number of legislative and institutional reforms, significant reforms. This reflects a genuine willingness to improve the human rights situation. Yemen expresses concerns at the politicisation of the work of the UNHRC, in particular the double standards that have impacted its effectiveness and credibility. This hinders the realisation of justice and equality between states. Therefore, Yemen calls for respect for the sovereignty of states and their right to take national measures that they see fit, and encourages further international cooperation based on mutual respect and objectivity to achieve the noble goals of the UNHRC.

Zimbabwe commends Venezuela for its commitment towards fulfilling its international human rights obligations and continued cooperation with the UNHRC and its mechanisms. It is regrettable that some of these positive efforts continue to be severely affected by UCMs. Zimbabwe condemns the imposition of UCMs and reiterates its call for their lifting on Venezuela and other targeted countries as a critical step towards improvement of the lives and well-being of the ordinary citizens. Zimbabwe deplores the imposition of country-specific mandates as these lead to duplicity, politicisation and selectivity within the UNHCR, a move that is counterproductive in terms of encouraging and supporting the country to meet more effectively its human rights obligations. Zimbabwe urges the UNHRC to engage with Venezuela through genuine and constructive dialogue and cooperation that upholds the principles of sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** reiterates its support for OHCHR's Office and the importance of all human rights mechanisms, including the FFM. Strongly supporting the restoration of OHCHR's Office in Caracas, including the return of all staff members and their unfettered access to all regions and detention centres, the EU urges the authorities to engage with constructively. The uncertainty surrounding the renewal of the Letter of Understanding is of particular concern. The EU is further concerned about repression, including excessive use of force and harassment against dissenting voices. Thus, it urges the authorities to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights, investigate



violations and abuses, hold those responsible accountable and lift the restrictions on civil society and NGOs. Despite conditional releases, new individuals have been arrested arbitrarily and hundreds of political prisoners remain behind bars, often in dire conditions. The EU calls for their immediate and unconditional release, including dual and foreign citizens, and the end of enforced disappearances. Together with regional and international partners, the EU aims to foster a Venezuelan-led dialogue towards a peaceful and democratic solution that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people and restores democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

Aula Abierta states that during the elections of July 2024 and May 25, 86 students and teachers were victims of forced disappearance, arbitrary detention, annihilation of identity documents, and expulsion from academic programmes, among others. These reprisals were a punishment for calling the elections into question based on academic arguments and civic destruction of the irregularities and violations of guarantees of electoral transparency, especially before and during the July 28 elections and, in some cases, during the announcement of the election results. Aula Abierta stresses and highlights the cases of Professors Rocio San Miguel and Javier Tarasona, who were imprisoned and criminally prosecuted in disdain for their procedural rights and undermining and harming their physical and mental health. Aula Abierta condemns the recent wave of arbitrary arrests of university professors, activists, and economists who have contributed to analysing the economic and social situation in the face of a state-lacking transparency. In Venezuela, the university and student communities have been persecuted systematically through arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearance, and criminal prosecutions without the right access to trusted legal counsels and in conditions of isolation.

Ingénieurs du Monde gives the floor to Pedro Rocio, who was deprived of liberty for more than 400 days for political reasons. Two months ago, he was rescued together with four companions from the Argentine embassy in Caracas, which became a prison by the repressive apparatus of Maduro. Five months without light, three minutes of water every 10 days, rifles pointing at them, dogs ready to bite them just because the people in power considered it to be a crime to lead the campaigns of Maria Carolina Machado, the successful campaign. The Venezuelan state has assassinated diplomatic asylum, and he can speak at the UNHRC today not thanks to the state, but because if it was for the state, he would be dead or missing. State terrorism. More than 1,000 people are detained in Venezuela for political reasons. Dozens of foreigners remain deprived of liberty as part of a policy of coercion incompatible with international law. Forced exile is part and parcel, and those who turn their eyes to this approve a model that denies the rights of the whole society. Silence is another sell. The Venezuelans express their courage on the part of the international community. Demanding respect for popular sovereignty expressed on 28 July, condemning violation of human rights and working for justice is a moral obligation. His freedom is a reminder that the walls have cracks, and those cracks can become the path for those to liberate those who resist.

The **Lutheran World Federation** draws the Council's attention to the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, which continues to be one of the most serious and protracted in the region. Nevertheless, it is receiving increasingly less international attention. Despite certain progress, social economic rights continue to deteriorate, basic services are collapsing, and the civic space



is shrinking, increasing the vulnerability of millions of people. As a humanitarian organisation based on faith present on the ground, the Federation notes the grave level of needs, need for food, sanitary, access to water, hygiene. Indigenous peoples suffer displacement, pollution of their rivers, and a lack of essential services, which provokes a high level of child mortality and malnutrition. The Federation urges the international community and the Venezuelan government to redouble their efforts towards humanitarian cooperation and prioritise the well-being of the most vulnerable. It is crucial to provide a human rights-based response, justice, and dignity. Hunger and malnutrition are human rights questions. In closing, the Federation reaffirms its commitment to neutrality, impartiality, independence, focus solely on protecting lives and rights.

Lawyers for Lawyers laments that the repression of dissent in Venezuela alarmingly continues alarming. At least 932 individuals were indicted for political reasons. Following the 2024 elections, increasing hostile environment for the legal profession has taken hold. Lawyers are denied access to clients and case files and face threats and arrests for carrying out their work. Promoting cases include the detentions of Rocio San Miguel, Kennedy Tejeda and Eduardo Torres. Like other political prisoners, they have been subjected to enforced disappearance, torture, prolonged and communicative detention, denied the right to legal representation of their choice. In many cases, criminalisation is the most evident expression of a broader pattern of stigmatisation of lawyers and human rights defenders as enemies of the state in a context of escalating repression against civil society. These practises create a climate of fear among those practising law, severely hindering access to justice. Lawyers for Lawyers calls for the immediate unconditional release of San Miguel Tejeda Torres and all those detained for political reasons. It also urges the UNHRC to maintain a firm response to the deterioration of the rule of law in Venezuela and to ensure that lawyers can carry out their professional duties freely and safely.

The **International Federation for Human Rights Leagues** explains that as the rule of law is extinguished in Venezuela, there is a growing persecution towards critical voices and anyone perceived as being a dissident. At least 932 people have been imprisoned for political reasons. Since 2005, Rocio San Miguel has dedicated herself to demanding accountability from the military. For years, Javier Terrazona covered the frontier with Colombia, documenting reports of the presence of armed groups. Eduardo Torres from the legal team from Prover defended persecuted workers and supported families of political prisoners. They did not work together, but they have something in common, defence of human dignity. Today they are being punished for their work. Javier was arrested in July 2021 after going to the prosecution to report threats. Rocio was arrested in February 24 accused of terrorism and treason. Eduardo was disappeared in May 2025. His arrest was confirmed in the security services where he remains in isolation. No one should be imprisoned for protecting rights. The Federation urges the end of arbitrary detention and violations of due process, including measures such as prolonged isolation and incommunicado detention.

The **World Organisation Against Torture** (OMCT) explains that in Venezuela, torture is part and parcel of systematic pattern of repression applied against persons detained arbitrarily for political reasons or for their work in protecting human rights. According to information from the International Human Rights Commission and civil society organisations, at least 900 people remain in detention for political reasons. These people have been victims of enforced disappearance, trials without legal guarantees, protracted periods of incommunicado detention,



isolation, lack of medical attention, and presenting grave medical suffering, inadequate nutrition, and severe restrictions on direct contact with family members and lawyers. Civil society organisations and the families of persons in detention have reported systematic practises of physical, psychological, and sexual torture in the headquarters of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Services in Caracas, known as the Helicoid, and other prisons such as Rodeo I. OMCT urges the release all persons in detention for political reasons or for their work in protecting human rights, as well as measures to put an end to those violations, guaranteeing their integrity, their defence, urgent supervision, monitoring of their state of health, and immediate contact with their family members.

The **World Peace Council** states that the US government and its allies have imposed more than a thousand illegal unilateral coercive measures on Venezuela, with the goal of strangling the country's economy, starving its people, and destabilising the government in an ongoing attempt at regime change. Oil tankers of Venezuela's state-owned oil industry, the country's main source of revenue, have been blocked from sea routes. Refineries abroad have been confiscated. Twenty-two billion USD in Venezuelan assets deposited in international banks and organisations, including the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, are blocked. Fifty-two Venezuelan children died because the life-saving surgery in Italy and Argentina could not be paid for. Venezuelan migrants in the USA have been arbitrarily detained and criminalised without any trial or evidence, with the sole reason being their national origin, in flagrant violation of basic human rights. Two hundred and thirty-eight Venezuelans have been illegally deported from the USA to detention centres in El Salvador in violation of international law. The Council calls upon the High Commissioner to denounce the US government's illegal, exteriorly imposed UCMs against Venezuela and the deportation of Venezuelan migrants without due process and their arbitrary detention in El Salvador. These are crimes against humanity, flagrant violations of human rights, of the people of Venezuela, and in violation of the UN Charter.

The **International Commission of Jurists** (ICJ) notes the importance of the HC's report on Venezuela as it serves to focus the UNHRC's attention on gross violations of human rights, including those taking place after the 2024 and 2025 elections. A wide range of human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and activists, including Eduardo Torres, Rocio Sanmiguel, and Javier Tarazona, have been subjected to short-term and forced disappearances, arbitrary and incommunicado detention, torture, and other ill-treatment or breaches of due process, pretrial, and fair trial guarantees. The ICJ also deplores the increasing attacks against CSOs, including through statements from high-ranking government officials and the use of the criminal law to suppress their work. The implementation of NGO law and strict banking regulation have severely impeded the work under the false pretext of fighting money laundering and terrorist financing. Finally, the ICJ urges the UNHRC to continue closely monitoring the degrading human rights violations by requesting periodic oral updates and reports of the High Commissioner, and Venezuela's cooperation with special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms, and paying special regard to the work of the FFM.

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) recalls that Eduardo Torres, Naomi Arnaudez, Rocio Sanmiguel, Javier Tarazona, Kennedy Tejeda, and more than 70 other people have been arbitrarily detained by the Venezuelan authorities since 2024, many of them subjected to enforced disappearance. Their stories reflect a systemic pattern of persecution and



criminalisation of those who monitor, document, and report independently on the critical human rights situation in the country. Those cases take place in the context of intensification of harassment and persecution by the state against human rights defenders to silence the work of civil society after the July 2024 elections. Any person perceived as being an opposition or who has a different narrative to the official faces political persecution. Currently, half of Venezuelan organisations say they've had difficulties in working freely. Their activities are gravely limited due to restrictive laws and stigmatising rhetoric from the highest-level authorities against NGOs who foster widespread fear with detention and ostracism. Without significant change, the total closure of civic space is imminent. Those measures run counter to a broad range of recommendation from all human rights UN treaty bodies. ISHR reminds Venezuela that the systemic use of and widespread use of enforced disappearance after detention and torture against civilians constitute crimes against humanity. As the FFM has reiterated, ISHR urges the UNHRC to call for the immediate release of all HRDs arbitrarily detained and cease persecution.

Maloca Internationale gives the floor to the mother of one of the 252 Venezuelan migrants who have been abducted in El Salvador. Family members regret the HC's presentation has not deplored the grave situation of human rights facing their loved ones to such a point that thus far OHCHR has not firmly demanded for their immediate release, nor has the US government been called on to cease implementation of the Alien Enemies Act against Venezuelan migrants, which violates international human rights treaties and is an aberration from a legal point of view. 105 days have come and gone without any information as to the fate of their loved ones, violating all norms of due process, constituting a blatant, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance. The illegal transfer of our family members was carried out in violation of their personal integrity, and they were beat and humiliated and exposed before the media, implying a violation of their human rights. Family members urge OHCHR to unambiguously condemn the illegal actions of the aforementioned governments and demand the immediate release of abducted Venezuelans in El Salvador and their return without any conditions to Venezuela. Migration is not a crime.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

43 State Delegations

1 Inter-Governmental Organization

10 Non-Governmental Organizations