



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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## PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

### Ms. Marta VALIÑAS, Chair, Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

In accordance with UNHRC resolution 57/36, the Chair of the FFM introduces its sixth [report](#) which, jointly with the accompanying conference room paper, covers the period from September 2024 to August 2025. A year ago, when the FFM submitted its previous report, Venezuela had just experienced days of intense institutional violence in response to popular protests over the results of the presidential elections, which were never published as required by Venezuelan law. The government deployed the harshest methods of its repressive machinery. The FFM then presented partial conclusions from an investigation that had to be carried out in just over a month.

Today, despite the limitations of available resources, the [FFM complements and confirms those initial conclusions](#) based on a 12-month investigation. As part of the session document that is being presented, an annex with 19 illustrative cases is also being presented. In addition, in the coming weeks, the FFM will be publishing a report with detailed conclusions on the responsibility of the Bolivarian National Guard in human rights violations and international crimes documented by the FFM in recent years.



The FFM has determined that the number of persons **arbitrarily deprived of their lives** between 28 and 30 July 2024 amounts to 25, as documented in its last report. The Public Prosecutor's Office has put the death toll at 28, of whom 22 persons coincide with the FFM. The six additional persons presented by the authorities are not part of the same electoral context, according to the FFM's investigations. The state has attributed the deaths to the opposition through its activists, hired criminals or criminal gangs, while at the same time exonerating the security forces from these deaths.

However, the FFM's investigation has found no evidence that **the opposition** was involved in the deaths of the demonstrators. On the contrary, the FFM has found reasonable grounds to believe that the security forces were involved in several of the incidents that resulted in these deaths. Of the 25 deaths, the FFM has investigated 14, concluding that members of the security forces were involved in 12 of them. For example, security forces and the military participated in the repression of the protest in Maracay, Aragua state, on 29 July 2024, and the FFM found reasonable grounds to believe that they were involved in the arbitrary deprivation of life of six protesters.

With regard to **other incidents** investigated by the FFM during protests held on 29 and 30 July 2024 in the capital district and in the states of Carabobo, Miranda and Zulia, the FFM has evidence that six persons lost their lives as a result of gunshots fired by state security forces. In the protest on 30 July 2024 in front of the headquarters of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela in the city of Carora, Lara state, the FFM has reasonable grounds to believe that the victim was fatally shot from inside that political headquarters. At the time of the incident, the headquarters was occupied by party militants and supporters, some of whom were armed. More than a year after these events, the state has not reported on the progress or conclusions of the criminal investigations it said it had initiated. All these acts **remain unpunished**.

In addition to the 25 deaths mentioned above, five other persons who had been detained in the context of the 2024 electoral crisis **lost their lives while in state custody**. The FFM investigated three cases in which the victims died due to a lack of timely and effective access to healthcare, which constitutes an arbitrary deprivation of life for which the state is responsible. In both cases, the individuals had suffered cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The officials responsible for the detention centres, as well as the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ombudsman's Office and the Public Defence Office, had been informed in a timely and repeated manner of these individuals' medical conditions and histories, but did not respond with due diligence to safeguard their lives.

According to the authorities, the remaining two **individuals died by hanging** in the Tocarón and Tocuyito prisons. One of these individuals died the day after serving 15 days in solitary confinement in an isolation cell. In addition to the above, the FFM has identified three individuals, including one woman, who were also detained after the post-election protests of 2024 and died after being released from prison due to the deterioration of their health while in detention. The authorities have not provided the victims' families with the respective autopsy reports and have prohibited them from referring to the cases publicly, preventing them from holding public wakes and funerals.

As mentioned during the oral update in March 2025, the **intensified state repression** during the 2024 electoral crisis continued in 2025, combining repressive methods and politically motivated



persecution. The state once again increased repression during moments and events of heightened political tension, such as the presidential inauguration in January and the regional and parliamentary elections in May, through mass arrests, many of them under the well-known argument of dismantling national and international conspiracies against the government.

According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, of the more than **2,220 people detained** in the context of the post-election protests and Operation Tumtum, a total of 2,006 were released from prison by March this year. These individuals continue to be prosecuted on charges of terrorism and incitement to hatred, among others, based on judicial files prepared hastily when temporary detention centres were overwhelmed by the number of detainees. Some of the patterns observed are alarming. In more than 30 cases, the FFM has found reasonable grounds to believe that the authorities have held individuals incommunicado because they are opponents or perceived as such. **Prolonged incommunicado detention**, according to international human rights standards, can qualify as torture or cruel and inhuman treatment. The FFM documented at least 200 detentions as of 31 August 2025.

In the first half of September, after the FFM's report was finalised, at least 14 more people were arrested. During the investigation period, according to the government, between **120 and 150 foreign nationals were arrested** on charges of being mercenaries and participating in conspiracies against the government. The FFM has documented 84 cases of nationals from 29 states, 12 of whom are participating in this Council's session. Since the report was finalised, the FFM has verified 10 additional arrests involving at least two new nationalities. All of these individuals were held and most continue to be held in strict incommunicado detention.

The FFM has documented the **release of 19 foreign nationals**, mainly of American nationality, the vast majority of whom were released as part of negotiations between Venezuela and the United States, with the participation of El Salvador on one occasion. The MMF is aware, from information obtained from the released persons from diplomatic and other sources, that the detainees did not have access to consular assistance. In one case, the FFM has confirmed that a person was never brought before a court during their detention, and in other cases they were brought before a court three months after their arrest. After the report was finalised, the FFM verified that five other people were brought before a court more than two and a half months after their arrest.

The FFM has confirmed that at least **220 children and adolescents were detained** in the context of electoral protests, two of them in the context of the presidential inauguration in January 2025. These detentions did not take into account their age or their best interests. At the time of this presentation, four adolescents remain in detention. The children and adolescents were victims of arbitrary detention as well as serious violations of due process, enforced disappearance for several days, torture, ill-treatment and serious acts of gender-based sexual violence. Two of the fatalities in the 2024 protests were under the age of 18. After completing its report, the FFM recorded the arrest of another 17-year-old in September, whose case is currently being verified simply because the authorities did not find the person they were looking for.

The FFM also continued to document **detentions of relatives of political opponents** or those perceived as such as a form of reprisal or pressure on the person who was the state's real political



target. The FFM has investigated at least seven cases of this nature. In 12 cases, or 13 according to a broad interpretation, the FFM has reached reasonable grounds to believe that the victims have suffered enforced disappearance. In two cases, the disappearance lasted several months, and in the other ten, it lasted days or hours. Since completing its report, the FFM has verified the enforced disappearance of another five people, lasting several months. The FFM has documented **cases of extortionate arrests** in which security forces demanded sums of money in exchange for not arresting or releasing individuals. In one case, a detainee who had only collaborated with the opposition in logistical support tasks on the day of the presidential elections was coerced into paying 3,500 dollars to military counterintelligence officials in order to be released.

The FFM has continued to document **cases of torture** and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment through threats, beatings with blunt objects, electric shocks to different parts of the body, including the genitals, and suffocation with plastic bags, among others. These methods have been used against detainees during interrogations or as punishment for their real or perceived political affiliation with the opposition. The FFM has also documented **other forms of punishment** in detention centres that constitute torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, such as confinement in isolation cells, in some cases as small as one square metre. In other cases, detainees were suspended by their wrists while being beaten. **Detention conditions** in centres such as Tocarón, Tocoyito, Rodeo 1 and La Crisálida may reach the threshold of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. In particular, the FFM expresses concern about the health conditions of detainees in light of the deaths in state custody referred to above.

In these same detention centres, the FFM has documented cases of **sexual and gender-based violence** against detainees or their relatives during prison visits. Most of the victims have been young women or adolescent girls, although men and members of the LGBT community have also been affected. The documented acts include coercive transactional sex, invasive searches involving forced nudity, and acts that could constitute forced prostitution. In a temporary detention centre, **adolescent girls** were victims of continuous acts of sexual violence in exchange for cleaning products to maintain minimum hygiene in the place of detention. Access to food brought by their families or to telephone calls was also subject to coercive sexual acts. The victims continue to suffer the consequences of these acts after their release from prison, while the perpetrators remain in their posts with total impunity.

The law on the financing of NGOs and the so-called Simón Bolívar Law were passed during this period of investigation. The law against fascism is still pending approval, and together with the limitations on financial resources, this legal framework restricting rights and freedoms increases **repression, criminalisation and the dismantling of the associative fabric**. Numerous civil society organisations have had to limit or even close their operations. Others have been forced to continue operating outside Venezuela. The effects of this oppressive environment affect both the beneficiaries of the work of human rights organisations and the defenders themselves.

In view of the lack of action by national institutions, the FFM once again urges **international accountability initiatives** to move forward more quickly within the framework of their own procedures. For its part, the FFM reiterates its willingness to continue cooperating with these efforts.





## REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

In closing, **Ms. Patricia TAPPATÁ VALDEZ** states that the visible **intensification of the detention of foreigners**, as well as the release of some and immediate imprisonment of others, is a new mechanism for harassing and extorting individuals and, by extension, the states to which they belong. She also emphasises that the mission has been operating throughout this year with a very small number of staff, which makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to carry out its task. The FFM therefore calls on the UNHRC to ensure that the FFM has the team and resources it needs to fulfil the mandate entrusted to them. All these violations and serious international crimes constitute and continue to constitute the **crime of persecution**, a crime against humanity.

## VIEWS EXPRESSED BY VENEZUELA AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** laments that, in such a context marked by the United Nations financial crisis, the Council discusses, unusually, one of 10 activities that this Council has imposed on Venezuela, at a cost of almost \$10 million. If the Council were examining Israel, the number of activities and the investment would be more than justified. Venezuela has not attacked anyone, it has not killed children, women and men - let alone with smart missiles. It has not deliberately demolished buildings or bombed hospitals with families, doctors and UN personnel inside. Nor has it launched missiles at negotiating tables.

However, it is Venezuela that the UNHRC intends to single out, and clearly under the influence of the United States and its European allies. The very serious human rights crisis facing the world today demands consistency. The Council cannot send contradictory messages on human rights, as it is doing, much less for geopolitical reasons. Venezuela wonders what the UNHRC has said about the barbaric violation of the human rights of **Venezuelan migrants** - little or nothing. Likewise, the **inaction and silence in Gaza** have led the peoples of the world, who are now outraged, to ask themselves what is the purpose of the United Nations, and what is the purpose of the Human Rights Council.

The genocide in Palestine has shown that there is an attempt to **impose the irrelevance of international law**, the cowardice of those who have a responsibility to act and do not do so is rewarded. Weapons and funding are shamelessly accepted in exchange for complicity. The hypocrisy and audacity of those who claim to defend freedom, democracy and human rights but veto resolutions for peace is normalised. Double standards and politicisation in favour of the aggressors are becoming more entrenched. If we continue down this path, not only will the United Nations suffer the same fate as the failed League of Nations, but the intended and resulting hegemonic international order will be 100 times more violent and catastrophic than that sought by the Nazis.

For more than 20 years, there has been a hybrid aggression against the people of Venezuela by global hegemony, which has tirelessly sought regime change in the country. The attempts at destabilisation and false narratives against President **Hugo Chávez** are well known - the coup d'état in April 2002, the oil strike in December of the same year. He was accused of violating human rights. He was accused of supporting the Colombian guerrillas. He was accused of engaging in an arms race and destabilising the region. He was accused of drug trafficking and



even of supporting international terrorist movements. None of this could be proven, nor will it ever be.

The same script has been deployed with even greater virulence against President **Nicolás Maduro**. In 2015, the Barack Obama administration designated Venezuela as an unusual and extraordinary threat, and in 2017, the failed Lima Group was created to attack Venezuela from within the region. In 2019, there was an attempt to impose a parallel government as a basis for another attempt to change the political regime. It is within this framework of foreign interference that this irritating FFM was created.

There is no doubt that the FFM has nothing to do with human rights, but rather with regime change in Venezuela. Not only does the context delegitimise the existence of a null and impractical FFM, but its novel performance discredits it on its own. It cites dubious sources. It uses fabricated or unverified testimonies. It employs statistics without methodological rigour. It has proven political motivation and has never set foot on Venezuelan territory, nor will it ever do so.

As a country, Venezuela believes deeply in human rights and practise them in accordance with the constitutional mandate and national laws, but Venezuela will not lend itself to validating such a parody. Venezuela once again denounces before the UNHRC the attempt to implement the old plan to change the Venezuelan political regime. To threaten the Venezuelan people with the use of force in flagrant violation of international law. To intimidate with a war in the region in contravention of the **2014 Declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace**, as stated in a communiqué issued on 4 September.

Venezuela has deployed all its diplomatic capabilities, Bolivarian diplomacy for peace, to prevent armed conflict in the Latin American and Caribbean region. At the same time, the people of Venezuela, faithful to their historical tradition, will defend their territory and their oil wealth with all available means if an unjustified aggression is imposed on Venezuela, which the government does not desire and does not promote, but which Venezuela is prepared to face with the dignity of a people who liberated America.

## INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

### Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

**Argentina on behalf the Core Group on the Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela<sup>1</sup>** reiterates its concern over the ongoing repression in Venezuela against real or perceived opposition. Since the 2024 presidential elections, members of the opposition, human rights defenders, journalists, and others who express dissent have faced persecution and arbitrary detentions that often constitute enforced disappearances. This practice, designed to silence dissent through fear, must end. The Core Group urges the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained persons, and condemn Venezuela's efforts to restrict civic space. Several NGOs have been forced to cease operations or move abroad due to harassment and unworkable requirements. The Core Group urges Venezuela to cooperate fully with OHCHR and the FFM by granting them immediate and unrestricted access throughout the country. Finally, the Core Group strongly condemns the practice of arbitrarily detaining foreign nationals and

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<sup>1</sup> Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Paraguay.



holding them in prolonged incommunicado detention, which often constitutes enforced disappearance. In this regard, the FFM should explain how the detention of foreign nationals fits into the broader patterns of repression it has documented and what avenues of accountability exist in such cases.

**Belgium on behalf of the Benelux countries<sup>2</sup>** is profoundly concerned by the ongoing repression by the Venezuelan authorities. Currently, more than 820 political prisoners remain arbitrarily detained including minors, human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and members of the opposition. These practices often amount to enforced disappearances and there is a widespread lack of effective judicial protection. Venezuelan authorities must fulfill their obligations under international human rights law and uphold the rights of all Venezuelans. The Benelux countries call on them to unconditionally release those arbitrarily detained including dual and foreign citizens. The Benelux countries are deeply concerned about the detentions of Juan Pablo Guanipa, Fredo Superlano, Ronald Carreño, Perkins Rocha, Nakari Menah-Ramos, Rocio San Miguel and many other cases. They also urge the authorities to guarantee prompt access to private legal and medical assistance for those detained. Lastly, they seek for the FFM's assessment of the revolving door effect where political prisoners are released but new detentions occur simultaneously as a tactic to intimidate civil society and human rights defenders.

The **European Union** reiterates its support for the FFM's mandate and, viewing all human rights mechanisms on Venezuela as essential, it urges the Venezuelan authorities to engage with them constructively. This includes the restoration of OHCHR's full capacity. The EU is deeply concerned about the acts of oppression mentioned in the FFM's report including excessive use of force and harassment against dissenting voices, opposition members, civil society, human rights defenders, lawyers as well as journalists. The EU urges the authorities to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights, to investigate human rights violations and abuses, to hold those responsible accountable and to restore the independence of the judiciary. Calling for the severe restrictions on NGOs to be lifted, the EU expresses deep concern about reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment against detainees, including sexual and gender-based violence and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained including dual and foreign citizens and the end of enforced disappearances. Together with partners, the EU aims to foster Venezuelan-led dialogue towards a peaceful and democratic solution. In closing, the EU asks to Ms. Marta VALIÑAS what should be the top priority of the international community to find a solution to the protected crisis in Venezuela.

**Norway jointly with the Nordic-Baltic states** reiterate their full support for the FFM's important work and remain deeply concerned with the human rights situation in Venezuela. The state continues the repression against political opponents. Norway echoes the FFM's concern about continued detentions on political grounds. Furthermore, the Nordic-Baltic states are worried about the complicity of the judiciary and the Ombudsman's Office with the political authorities and the commission of human rights violations. The Nordic-Baltic countries call on Venezuela to comply with its international obligations to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and prevent irreparable harm to victims. Political violence must cease immediately. The Venezuelan people's right to freedom of expression and peaceful political participation must

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<sup>2</sup> Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg.



be respected. Venezuelan authorities must take decisive action towards ending impunity for committed crimes. The Nordic-Baltic states urge the government of Venezuela to collaborate effectively with the United Nations mechanisms and with the international criminal court. Lastly, the Nordic-Baltic states inquire about the level of cooperation between the FFM and the Venezuelan government, and request recommendations on how to proceed to ensure future cooperation between the Venezuelan government and the UN.

The **Organization of American States (OAS)** takes the floor through its Rapporteur on Venezuela of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. More than a year has passed since the presidential elections, yet the Electoral Council has not released the tally sheets needed to verify the results declared in favour of Nicolas Maduro. This undermines the credibility of the process. Meanwhile, state repression has escalated. Reliable reports confirm that 808 people remain arbitrarily detained, including four children. Many families have received no information about the whereabouts of their loved ones. Circumstances that may constitute enforced disappearances. Furthermore, no one has been held accountable for the 25 killings acknowledged by the state itself of men who protested electoral opacity. The Venezuelan crisis is rooted in the lack of legitimacy of Maduro's regime. Lacking independence, state institutions operate primarily as instruments designed to secure the regime in power.

**Zimbabwe on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter<sup>3</sup>** reiterates the Group's categorical rejection of double standards and the politicization of human rights. The Group expresses its serious concern about the continued and increasing proliferation of reports on Venezuela without the consent of the concerned state. Reaffirming its strong condemnation of the sustained and increasing application of unilateral coercive measures for political purposes which dramatically impact the human rights of the Venezuelan population, the Group echoes the deep concern of a large number of states from the Latin America and Caribbean regarding the recent deployment of US military forces to that region including assets with nuclear capability in a direct escalation of hostile actions and threats against Venezuela. The Group of Friends reiterates its condemnation and categorical rejection of the threat of use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity and political independence of Venezuela. The Group reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the people and government of Venezuela and urges the government of the United States of America to de-escalate its actions and rhetoric in Latin America and the Caribbean region including against Venezuela and to respect its obligations under international law scrupulously.

### **State Delegations**

**Argentina's** voice rises again to denounce the systematic violation of human rights in Venezuela, which has become a habit and a very painful practice, almost the raw material of its politics. It is not even necessary to fight the past to observe it, since this situation is part of Argentina's own present, and the present does not need memory like a capricious time machine. In Venezuela, uncertainty has been created not only about the future but also about the past. The Argentine gendarme Nahuel Gallo, who has been held captive and invisible since he was taken to Venezuela

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<sup>3</sup> Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, State of Palestine, Uganda, Venezuela.





on 24 December, is a victim of enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention, but present not only in the FFM's report, but also in the hearts of all Argentines. His life and freedom are now part of the complete and permanent catalogue of Argentina's most precious desires. This is the high season of complaints about human rights violations in Venezuela. The scene has changed, but nothing moves Venezuela. The situation seems doomed to perpetuity. Nevertheless, Argentina perhaps naively hopes that Venezuela will listen, that it will show a little more humanity, that it will think about its people, a people that all of Latin America cares for more than it does within its own territory. Argentina also hopes that Venezuela will soon be infected by a wonderful virus - the virus of democracy, respect for life and freedom.

**Austria** fully supports the FFM's important work in documenting human rights violations in Venezuela and voices deep concern over the repression and harassment against dissenting voices, members of the opposition, civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and other media workers as well as the lawyers. Continued reports of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and deaths in detention are alarming and unacceptable. Austria calls on the Venezuelan government to seize all forms of pressure of the civic and democratic space including the censorship of independent media as well as to immediately release all political prisoners and arbitrarily detained including dual and foreign citizens. Austria further reiterates its call to take immediate steps to effectively end and prevent acts of torture and ill-treatment during detention and to ensure access to adequate medical care for everyone in detention. It also reiterates its call on the Venezuelan government to restore the cooperation OHCHR and to grant access to international human rights mechanisms. Lastly, Austria asks to the Chair of the FFM to elaborate on the state of civic space in Venezuela and to provide recommendations in this respect.

**Belarus** stresses that the FFM on Venezuela, established without the consent of the government, continues to demonstrate a biased approach in its work, clearly using unilateral and arbitrarily selected sources. Such mechanisms cannot be objective a priori and do not contribute to international cooperation on human rights. At present, the international situation in the Caribbean basin and in the Latin American region as a whole is characterised by extreme tension. Belarus condemns any aggressive actions motivated by unsubstantiated and politically motivated accusations against sovereign states, in particular Venezuela and its leadership. In international relations, it is necessary to strictly adhere to the provisions of the UN Charter, above all the principles of the prohibition of the threat or use of force. Any disputes must be resolved exclusively by peaceful means through dialogue, without the use of military force or political sanctions. Belarus reaffirms its solidarity with the Venezuelan people and its support for the country's legitimately elected leadership in their efforts to protect the sovereignty and independence of Venezuela and to ensure the stability necessary for the realisation of all human rights. Lastly, Belarus calls on the human rights system to refrain from pressure and information speculation regarding the internal political situation in Venezuela in order to make a real contribution to the protection of the rights of Venezuelans.

**Bolivia** does not support the imposition of mandates that do not have the support of the state concerned, given that they do not contribute to establishing constructive dialogue, do not have tangible results, nor do they promote genuine cooperation in addressing human rights. Furthermore, as these mandates do not work with the state, they are not present on the ground and receive impartial information that allows for greater objectivity, reflecting the diverse realities



of the actors involved. In fact, the imposition of these mandates promotes division and confrontation and intensifies polarization, as it happens in many cases. Furthermore, Bolivia rejects their use as a tool for political pressure and the reinforcement of negative campaigns that seek to isolate, pressure, and suffocate certain states. On this point, Bolivia reiterates its deep concern and rejection of the recent deployment of US military forces in the region and express our rejection of the threat of the use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Venezuela. The Plurinational State of Bolivia reiterates its support and solidarity with the Venezuelan people, who have been resisting various negative actions against them, such as the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that have negative effects on the human rights of Venezuelans. Bolivia calls once again on the UNHRC to promote genuine constructive dialogue and cooperation with Venezuela.

**Brazil** continues to monitor the situation in Venezuela and urges the country's authorities to impartially investigate the alleged human rights violations. Brazil encourages the strengthening of cooperation between Venezuela and OHCHR and other Council's mechanisms, as well as the resumption of collaboration with the Inter-American human rights system. The report notes an increase in restrictions on civic space, including arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances. Expressing concern over the reported politically motivated detentions, Brazil urges the Venezuelan authorities to comply with international human rights standards in this field. Brazil is further concerned by the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Venezuela, which have a strong impact on human rights, and also urges respect for the human rights of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Finally, Brazil expresses its deep concern over reports of extrajudicial executions in international waters near Venezuela, which, if confirmed, constitute serious violations of international law and human rights.

**Burkina Faso** takes note of the FFM's report and welcomes the holding of presidential and legislative elections, which have enabled the establishment and strengthening of Venezuela's republican institutions. Progress is being made in the promotion and protection of human rights through, among other things, the ongoing implementation of a national plan for human rights and active cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, as well as treaty bodies. Burkina Faso hopes that Venezuela's efforts in the area of human rights will be supported and recognised with full respect for Venezuela's sovereignty and priorities. Finally, Burkina Faso reiterates here the urgent need to act in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, without resorting to coercion, selectivity and the politicisation of human rights.

**Burundi** takes note of the report and remains convinced that improving the human rights situation is important to all nations and must therefore be based on constructive cooperation and inclusive dialogue between states. In this regard, the specific mandate without the consent of the state concerned violates the universal principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and unfortunately leads to the politicisation of the work of its Council. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of states must be respected, given that the primary responsibility of states for the promotion and protection of human rights must be taken into consideration. In this regard, Burundi warmly welcomes the commitment already demonstrated by the Government of Venezuela to collaborate with this process and mechanism, in particular the UPR, which has already proven its worth and remains the only exercise to which all states voluntarily submit in



order to be evaluated by their peers, as well as its cooperation with other United Nations treaty bodies. Burundi welcomes this important tool for the promotion of human rights, and recommends that the UNHRC ensure that this work remains free of political influence.

**Chile** appreciates the FFM's rigorous report detailing the resurgence of state repression in Venezuela. The conclusions are alarming and confirm a deliberate state policy to silence and nullify the opposition. The report documents how, following the 2024 elections, whose results Chile and most of the international community do not recognise, more than 25 people have died and more than 2,200 arrests have been made, including at least 218 children and adolescents. These are not abstract figures, but the result of a systematic plan that includes practices such as extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, prolonged incommunicado detention, torture and enforced disappearances. Of particular concern is the pattern of detentions of foreigners and the use of a justice system with collective telematic hearings and without adequate procedural guarantees. Far from being isolated incidents, these actions demonstrate the dismantling of civic space and the consolidation of impunity, in flagrant violation of the Venezuelan state's international obligations. Chile reiterates its urgent call on the Venezuelan authorities to immediately cease these practices, restore full cooperation with international mechanisms, and adopt effective accountability measures. The victims and their families cannot continue to wait for truth, justice, and reparation.

**Cuba** categorically rejects this hostile and interventionist exercise against Venezuela. The mechanism that has been arbitrarily imposed on it without its consent responds to an agenda that uses human rights as a pretext to intervene in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. Continuing to endorse measures that undermine Venezuela's institutions and sovereignty damages the cause of human rights and the credibility of this body. It is the Council's obligation to promote respectful dialogue and constructive cooperation with Venezuela in accordance with the principles of impartiality, non-politicisation and non-interference. OHCHR must continue to explore mechanisms for cooperation with the Venezuelan government under mutually agreed terms. To contribute to the cause of human rights in Venezuela, there must be an immediate cessation of the inhumane and illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Venezuelan people. Cuba reiterates its solidarity with the Venezuelan government and people in the face of escalating actions by the United States to justify military aggression against Venezuela in violation of the human right to peace, the UN Charter and international law. In closing, Cuba urges the international community to prevent aggression and preserve Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace.

**Czechia** appreciates the FFM's efforts and insights provided in this report, and reiterates its call on Venezuela to engage meaningfully with the FFM. The current findings have little room for optimism. Human rights in Venezuela are not just under threat. They are being systematically dismantled. Czechia is deeply concerned by the widespread repression including intimidation violation, arbitrary detentions, torture, sexual violence and targeting of civil society, journalists and other dissenting voices. Restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly persist while access to justice remains limited. These practices violate fundamental rights and also undermine the prospects for meaningful dialogue. Czechia wishes to draw particular attention to the situation of unlawfully and arbitrarily detained persons including Czech citizen Jan Darmovzal, and urges the Venezuelan authorities to unconditionally release all those



deprived of liberty without due process. Czechia emphasizes the importance of Venezuela adhering to fundamental norms of international conduct notably those enshrined in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Given the systematic denial of diplomatic access to detainees, Czechia asks which mechanisms would the FFM recommend to ensure accountability and international oversight in cases of arbitrary detention.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** shares its deep concern over a large number of states from Latin America and the Caribbean regarding the recent deployment of United States military forces to the region. The DPRK rejects in the strongest terms the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, the integrity and political independence of Venezuela. In this regard, the DPRK calls upon the United States to refrain from further military escalation and hostile actions against Venezuela which only heighten tensions and threaten regional stability. Such actions are in flagrant violation of the principles of the UN Charter, including the sovereign equality of states, the prohibition of the threat or use of force and the principles of non-interference. The DPRK further expresses its concern over the continued imposition of politically motivated resolutions and measures against Venezuela, thereby extending its full solidarity with the people and the government of Venezuela. The DPRK urges all the parties to respect the sovereignty and independence of Venezuela and calls upon the United States to cease the destabilizing actions so that Latin America and the Caribbean may continue to remain a region of peace.

The **Dominican Republic** appreciates the FFM's report and takes note of the efforts made by that country to meet its international commitments, while expressing concern over the conclusions of the report. In this regard, the Dominican Republic encourages the Venezuelan authorities to redouble their efforts to fully comply with their international human rights obligations, guaranteeing the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the entire population. The Dominican Republic reiterates its closeness and solidarity with the brotherly Venezuelan people and expresses its willingness to accompany and collaborate in this process, always with the conviction that respect for human rights is the basis for peace and shared prosperity.

**Eritrea** states that the people of Venezuela have endured years of hardship, economic pressure, political interference and repeated attempts to undermine their sovereignty. Yet instead of recognizing their resilience and progress, some Council members' selective and confrontational approach undermines genuine dialogue and has once again brought us to this discussion. Despite facing an unjust campaign of economic warfare, Venezuela has continued to strengthen its institutions advancing social justice and upholding human rights. Eritrea rejects any form of interference in Venezuela's internal affairs including the disregard for its institutions and attempts to undermine the sovereignty and political independence of the Venezuelan people. Eritrea is equally concerned about the treatment of Venezuelan migrants who must be guaranteed due process and full respect for human rights. Finally, Eritrea rejects the recent military escalation in the region which poses a direct threat to Venezuela's sovereignty and stability. Eritrea calls for a cease to all hostile actions and reiterates its solidarity with Venezuelans in defending their sovereignty, self-determination and fairness within the UN system.

**Ethiopia's** position is grounded in the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and the promotion of peaceful dialogue and cooperation while addressing human





rights challenges globally. Ethiopia firmly believes that any action in this regard must be based on a balanced impartial and objective approach free from double standards and politicization. Ethiopia maintains that country specific mechanisms established without the consent of the state concerned are counterproductive. Such approach undermines trust, politicizes the Council's work and hinders meaningful cooperation. Ethiopia advocates for constructive engagement based on dialogue, mutual respect and nationally driven solutions. Ethiopia also advocates for capacity-building and technical assistance that is constructive, non-coercive and respectful of state sovereignty. It also remains committed to the UPR process as a valuable platform for enhancing human rights through dialogue and cooperation. To this end, Ethiopia acknowledges and appreciates Venezuela's constructive engagement with the Universal Periodic Review process including its commitment to the implementing accepted recommendations. Lastly, Ethiopia supports and encourages its strong engagement with OHCHR and other relevant UN bodies.

**Georgia** is appalled by the reported deaths caused by repressions and continue to be alarmed over recent documented cases of the detention of family members of political leaders or activists under persecution. Georgia remains deeply concerned with the findings of the report which show that policies of silencing and quashing opponents by any means necessary continue to be implemented by those in control of the situation in the country. The report also states that there is a reasonable ground to implicate persons representing the justice system in playing a crucial role in suppression of opponents. Furthermore, it is alarming that they learned how to adopt repressive policies in accordance with the level of political tension. Since 2020, the FFM has communicated over 100 recommendations related to the bringing justice to the victims of political oppression and aimed at alleviating a dire human rights situation. Since they remained unheeded up to this day, Georgia calls on President Maduro to comply with the four set recommendations and stop the gross violations of human rights. In conclusion, Georgia reiterates its support to the Venezuelan people in their peaceful pursuit of democracy.

**Iran** states that the UNHRC is once again examining the report of a mechanism established without observing the principles set out in its founding resolutions. As highlighted by Venezuela, this mechanism has failed to respect independence and impartiality. Venezuela has consistently pursued constructive cooperation with the United Nations, particularly in the field of human rights. Yet today, it faces serious interventionist threats from the United States. Iran reaffirms its solidarity with the government and people of Venezuela. Despite years under unilateral coercive measures, Venezuela has relied on the support of its people to defend human rights while safeguarding its sovereignty and independence. Such sanctions have not weakened its determination. Iran calls for the lifting of unilateral coercive measures which remain the main cause of human rights violations in sanctioned countries. Instead of politically driven monitoring, the Council should address grave violations committed by those imposing such measures that undermine the rights of entire nations. It is regrettable that country specific mechanisms such as the FFM on Venezuela pursue unconstructive approaches discouraging developing countries about the Council's future.

**Ireland** is deeply concerned by the widespread perpetration of human rights violations against opposition members, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, LGBTQ+ persons and Indigenous Peoples in Venezuela. The continued censorship and repression of dissenting



voices is deeply concerning, particularly in the lead up to, during and following the 2024 presidential elections as documented in the FFM's report. Ireland urgently calls for the creation and maintenance of a safe and enabling civil society space in which civil society organizations can operate free from harassment, intimidation, threat or reprisals. Ireland strongly condemns the reported acts of torture including sexual and gender based violence and deaths of detainees in state custody. Ireland reiterates the FFM's call on the authorities for the immediate and unconditional release of arbitrarily detained prisoners including those arrested before the electoral period and for the provision of adequate and timely medical care to all detainees. Urging the authorities to thoroughly investigate all human rights violations and abuses and hold those responsible to account, Ireland remains fully supportive of efforts to facilitate a Venezuelan-led dialogue to restore democracy and rule of law respecting the will of the Venezuelan people. Lastly, Ireland would like to know from Ms. Marta VALIÑAS how to support civil society actors and victims of this protracted human rights crisis.

**Japan** remains concerned about the human rights situation in Venezuela and appreciates the efforts made by OHCHR to continue its engagement in the country under challenging circumstances. At the same time, Japan expects to see the prompt return of all OHCHR personnel to the country and an 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. While welcoming the release of some detainees, Japan remains concerned by reports from OHCHR pointing to continued arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance. Japan continues to call for the release of all arbitrarily detained individuals including foreign nationals. Japan is also concerned about the consequences of the act on the control, regularization, operations and financing of non-governmental related organizations and calls for the Venezuelan government to preserve space for civil society. In closing, Japan continues to urge the Venezuelan authorities to address the human rights situation in the country in a manner that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people.

The **Lao PDR** takes note of the FFM's report and commends Venezuela for its commitment to fulfilling the international human rights obligations and the continued cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, including facilitating visits by the Special Procedures mandates holder. The Lao PDR reiterates that country-specific mandates without the consent of the concerned countries are ineffective and do not contribute to any substantive outcome for the promotion and protection of human rights in any country. Finally, the Lao PDR calls upon the Council to fulfil its mandate to promote and protect human rights based on constructive dialogue and cooperation in line with national priority of the country in question and guided by the principle of universality, impartiality, non-selectivity, respect for sovereignty and non-interference as enshrined in the UN Charter.

**Mozambique** reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the foundational principles of the UNHRC. Mozambique emphasizes that the promotion and protection of human rights must be pursued in a manner that respects the sovereignty, independence and the territory integrity of the status while ensuring that international mechanisms remain impartial and non-politicized. Mozambique reiterates its belief that sustainable progress in human rights is best achieved through genuine dialogue, mutual



respect and international cooperation rather than through approaches that may deepen division and dissensions. In this regard, Mozambique encourages continued engagement between Venezuela and relevant UN mechanisms in accordance with the Council's commitment and the principles of cooperation. Mozambique stands ready to support effort aimed at ensuring that the Human Rights Council remains a platform of consensus-building and support.

**Paraguay** appreciates the FFM's report and value its efforts to fulfil its mandate despite persistent limitations and obstacles. Paraguay regrets to reiterate that the human rights situation in Venezuela has worsened since the elections of 28 July 2024. Reports continue to show the persistence of systematic patterns of human rights violations. Paraguay is alarmed that these repressive mechanisms are becoming established as common practices directed against dissenting voices and even against foreigners detained for political reasons. Added to this is the worrying situation in prisons, with the growing number of deaths in custody, injuries suffered by inmates, and the lack of medical care for prisoners with serious illnesses. In establishing this body, the international community has committed itself to protecting and promoting respect for human rights throughout the world. Under this premise, Paraguay reiterates its call on the Venezuelan authorities to respect international norms and commitments and to guarantee full respect for democracy and the will of the Venezuelan people.

**Peru** once again expresses its deep concern over the alarming levels of repression and harassment against the opposition, society and their families. The imprisonment of dissident voices, forced disappearances, restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, and the persecution of journalists and human rights defenders. Peru is also concerned about the absence of guarantees of due process and undue restrictions on civic and democratic space. Peru also rejects the arbitrary detention of two Peruvian citizens by the Venezuelan authorities at the end of 2024, who remain unjustifiably detained, and urges that the Venezuelan authorities respect the rights of these citizens and provide information about them. Peru, together with other partner states in the region, will remain committed to efforts to find a genuinely Venezuelan solution that will strengthen peace, well-being, democracy, the rule of law, justice, and the full development of the Venezuelan people.

**Poland** highly appreciates the work of the all UN mandated bodies focused on the protection, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, combating violence and restoring democracy in the country. Deeply concerned by the findings of the report, in particular by the scale of persecution of the human rights defenders, activists and independent voices, Poland urges the authorities of Venezuela to take immediate measures to halt, remedy and prevent all human rights violations in the country. Poland echoes EU's calls on the Venezuelan government to cooperate actively and genuinely with United Nations human rights protection bodies and mechanisms, including the UNHRC and OHCHR. Lastly, Poland urges the Venezuelan authorities to take immediate measures to hold remedy and prevent all human rights violations in the country.

**Portugal** reiterates its unwavering support for the FFM and calls on the Venezuelan authorities to cooperate with all human rights mechanisms and to restore OHCHR's presence in Caracas with full operational capacity and unrestricted access across the country. Portugal remains deeply concerned by persistent reports of arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment of detainees including sexual



and gender-based violence and enforced disappearances. Portugal calls the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained including dual and foreign citizens. Alarmed by the suppression of political opposition and the targeting of journalists, media workers and human rights defenders, Portugal further stresses that the ongoing funding gaps affecting UN agencies and programs as well as NGOs pose further risks for civil society and the human rights defenders. Lastly, Portugal seeks for the FFM's assessment of the Venezuelan state's response to previous recommendations from the FFM and the UNHRC.

The **Russian Federation** continues to consistently advocate for the objective, impartial and non-politicised work of the Council and is categorically opposed to the use of this UN human rights body to exert political pressure on Venezuela. Instead, Russia suggests focussing on the achievements of the Bolivarian leadership in ensuring the rights and freedoms of its citizens to freely express their will in the recent elections, in which opposition mediators participated and were represented. The Venezuelan authorities are working consistently to develop civil society institutions and improve the legislative framework and judicial system. The key challenge to stability in Venezuela remains the externally directed activities of radicals who have embarked on a path of terror. External pressure in the form of illegitimate unilateral coercive measures poses a serious threat to human rights in the country. More than a thousand different restrictions with a direct humanitarian impact have already been imposed on Caracas. In this regard, Russia calls on human rights mechanisms to focus on providing real assistance to Venezuela in expanding and strengthening its human rights capacity, rather than engaging in frenzied criticism of Caracas.

**Saudi Arabia** has reviewed the FFM's report and expresses its appreciation for the efforts made by the Venezuelan government in this area and its commendation for its continued cooperation with OHCHR. Saudi Arabia reaffirms that constructive dialogue based on mutual respect and free from selectivity is the best way to exchange experiences and best practices in the field of promoting and protecting human rights, taking into account the challenges faced by states. Saudi Arabia affirms that tangible progress in the field of human rights must be based on effective cooperation and sincere dialogue with the state concerned and on providing the necessary assistance to build its national capacities.

**Spain** thanks the FFM for its report of the human rights situation in the country, which documents how serious human rights violations have intensified in the wake of the 2024 presidential elections, with a significant increase in the number of arbitrary detentions and a resurgence of political repression, including the persecution of dissidents and opponents, members of civil society, human rights defenders and journalists. Spain demands the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained, including dual nationals and foreign citizens. Spain has four nationals and 16 dual nationals arbitrarily detained in Venezuela who are being denied proper consular assistance. Spain demands an end to enforced disappearances and the cessation of all practices of torture or inhuman and degrading treatment, including acts of sexual and gender-based violence that the FFM has described. Spain joins the FFM in demanding an end to the state practice of isolating detained opposition figures and denounces the serious lack of judicial guarantees. Lastly, Spain addressed to Ms. Marta VALIÑAS to ask if, in the current context in Venezuela, any real justice mechanism available to victims of human rights violations in the country exists.





**Sri Lanka**'s position on country-specific initiatives is that without the consent of the country concerned, they are unproductive and are not able to contribute any substantive manner to the promotion and protection of human rights in the concerned country. Whereas the UNHRC is supposed to help countries to improve their human rights situation, naming and shaming is not helpful. Venezuela has consistently engaged with OHCHR and its regular human rights mechanisms. Venezuela has also facilitated visits by Special Procedures mandate holders and fulfilled their treaty body reporting obligations and engaged in the UPR most recently in 2022. The UNHRC should adhere to its founding principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity and be guided by constructive international dialogue and cooperation. Furthermore, cooperation with the United Nations system must always be governed by respect for the sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of states as per the UN Charter. Therefore, Sri Lanka urges the Council to engage with the government of Venezuela objectively with a view to safeguarding the human rights of the Venezuelan people including their right to development.

**Sudan** notes efforts to whitewash the facts about the human rights situation in Venezuela. Sudan welcomes the progress and improvements in Venezuela in the areas of human rights and the protection of human rights, including the holding of parliamentary and local elections in 2025. Sudan also welcomes Venezuela's cooperation with OHCHR, the Universal Periodic Review process and human rights treaty bodies, as well as with Special Procedures mandate holders covering the right to freedom of expression and arbitrary detention. Sudan encourages Venezuela to continue its efforts in various areas of human rights and affirms its right to determine its own needs and priorities in the field of human rights. In this context, Sudan asks to the FFM to assess the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the economic and social well-being of the Venezuelan people, and would also appreciate from the FFM practical recommendations for the international community in this regard.

**Switzerland** appreciates the investigation work carried out by the FFM and is thankful for its report. Switzerland expresses concern over the intensification of systematic repression against dissidents, particularly in connection with the parliamentary and regional elections held on 25 May. Switzerland condemns the practice of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and all other human rights violations. Members of the opposition, journalists, human rights defenders and ordinary citizens are being targeted. Expressing further concern over poor detention conditions and the failure to respect guarantees of a fair trial, Switzerland calls on the authorities to cease these repressive practices and to release all those who have been arbitrarily detained. Regretting that the members of the FFM are still being denied access to the country, Switzerland reiterates its call on the authorities to cooperate with international human rights protection mechanisms and to implement their recommendations. Switzerland urges that OHCHR be allowed to operate fully in Venezuela, out of its conviction that an inclusive dialogue between all parties is essential to finding a solution to the situation in Venezuela and remains willing to act as a bridge builder. In closing, Switzerland asks to the FFM which avenues would the members suggest to encourage the authorities to improve conditions of access to arbitrarily detained persons.

**Türkiye** reiterates its wish for Venezuela to embark on a road towards a prosperous future so that the people of Venezuela will reach high standards of living and fully enjoy their human rights. Türkiye maintains its strong belief that any issue including those in the field of human rights can



only be solved through encompassing dialogue and cooperation among the Venezuelans themselves. The reestablishment of the presence of OHCHR in Venezuela is important. As a matter of principle, Türkiye does not join unilateral sanctions, as they have negative impacts on the daily life of Venezuelans as well as on companies and citizens of other states. Türkiye will continue to stand by Venezuela for its stability and prosperity.

**Ukraine** thanks the FFM for its report, which documents grave and systematic human rights violations in Venezuela. Ukraine is deeply concerned that serious abuses remain widespread and systematic, reflecting governance practices that erode fundamental rights and freedoms. The 2024 presidential elections marked by irregularities and intimidation were followed by mass arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances and repression of political opponents, journalists and human rights defenders. The FFM's findings of torture, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as excessive force leading to extrajudicial killings, point to a deliberate state policy of silencing dissent. The absence of judicial independence and the climate of impunity further entrench authoritarian rule. Ukraine deplores Venezuela's continued attempts to justify Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including the deliberate targeting of civilians. Such positions are morally indefensible and reveal contempt for international law and human rights. Ukraine calls on Venezuela to release all arbitrary detained persons and repressions and fully cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court. Echoing the EU's call on the Venezuelan government to cooperate actively and generally with United Nations human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms including the UNHRC and OHCHR, Ukraine remains deeply concerned by the findings of the report, in particular by the scale of the prosecution of the human rights defenders, activities and independent voices.

**Yemen** takes note of the FFM's report and welcomes the measures taken by the Venezuelan Government in terms of cooperation with human rights mechanisms, in particular the Universal Periodic Review process, the submission of reports to several treaty bodies, and the hosting of visits by Special Rapporteurs. Yemen encourages the Venezuelan government to continue and strengthen this constructive approach through dialogue and cooperation with OHCHR. In this context, Yemen reaffirms the importance of respecting the sovereignty of states, their territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly as unilateral measures can exacerbate the suffering of the population and undermine efforts to promote and protect human rights.

**Zimbabwe** commends Venezuela for its commitment towards fulfilling its international human rights obligations and continued cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms. It is regrettable that some of these positive efforts continue to be undermined by the imposition of country specific mandates that lead to duplicity, politicization and selectivity within the Council. Zimbabwe deplores the establishment and continuation of the FFM without the consent of the government of Venezuela. The move is counterproductive in terms of encouraging and supporting the country to meet more effectively its human rights obligations. Zimbabwe urges the Council to engage Venezuela through genuine and constructive dialogue and cooperation that uphold the principles of sovereignty and noninterference in its internal affairs. In closing, Zimbabwe condemns the imposition of UCMs on Venezuela and reiterates our call for their lifting on Venezuela and all targeted countries as a critical step towards the improvement of the lives and well-being of citizens.



### Non-Governmental Organizations

**Aula Abierta** gives the floor to a survivor of a clandestine torture centre in Venezuela reported by the FFM. Until now, Aula Abierta has recorded at least 70 seriously ill political prisoners, 4 adolescents, 12 human rights defenders, 133 women, almost 100 foreigners, more than a dozen university professors, and more than 130 people who have been forcibly disappeared. With data from the NGO Justicia Encuentro y Perdón, 92 different places of detention have been identified. This is an unprecedented figure that shows the gravity of the situation. Corruption worsens the situation of prisoners because families are extorted during prison visits when they have to bring food, medicine, and water. Aula Abierta calls on the UNHRC and states to strengthen the mandate of the FFM with resources to preserve evidence, analyse chains of command, add an anti-corruption lens, actively cooperate with the FFM, share information and publicly support it when its work is obstructed, promote full access for the OHCHR, Special Procedures and the ICRC to all detention centres to see detainees and articulate accountability by leveraging these findings from the FFM to support the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and other jurisdictions. There is still much to do.

The **Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)** denounce that after the elections of 28 July 2024, a new wave of repression against human rights defenders was consolidated in Venezuela. One of the patterns has been the arbitrary cancellation of passports used to restrict multiple human rights and thus silence critical voices. CEJIL documented 40 cases in 2024. Thirty-five occurred in August alone, after the elections. None had any legal basis or notification. People found out when travelling or checking the official system. In some cases, there were arrests at airports, interrogations, and confiscation of documents, including cancellations for family members, including children, and double cancellations after passport renewal. This arbitrary and legal pattern that continues to occur has been the prelude to more serious attacks such as criminalisation, forced disappearances, and illegal detentions. The case of Eduardo Torres, a PROVEA defender and beneficiary of precautionary measures from the IACHR, clearly exemplifies this. Following the cancellation of his passport in 2024, Eduardo was forcibly disappeared in May 2025 and remains incommunicado and without due process. Venezuela is on the verge of completely closing its civic space. CEJIL urges the UNHRC to act urgently to prevent this and demand the immediate release of Eduardo Torres and all human rights defenders who have been arbitrarily detained.

**Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)** thanks the FFM for its timely report. Religious leaders from all groups in Venezuela are under constant surveillance. Government informants in congregations are common, and officers from the national intelligence service routinely harass and threaten those viewed as unsupportive of Maduro's government. Religious leaders who are perceived as saying the 'wrong thing' are treated as traitors and are likely to be arbitrarily detained or at times attacked by illegal armed groups supported by the regime. Among those currently in detention is Pastor Gricelia Josefina Solórzano Malpica, who was arrested on unfounded charges of terrorism, embezzlement and conspiracy in June 2024. Pastor Solórzano Malpica's arrest was clearly political. She was accused of being one of those responsible for losing the internal elections of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela when she worked for the Legislative Council of Apure from 2008 to 2013. The pastor has been transferred to a prison in Caracas over 400km away from her home in an effort to isolate her from her family and church and pressure her into



providing information on other government targets. CSW calls on the government of Venezuela to release Pastor Solórzano Malpica and all other unjustly detained religious leaders and human rights defenders immediately and without condition. CSW also urges the government to guarantee freedom for religious leaders to carry out their work without harassment, threats or government pressure targeting them or their families.

The **World Organization against Torture (OMCT)** states that the Venezuelan State maintains a policy of persecution, intimidation and criminalisation to silence the population. Arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, the dismantling of judicial guarantees, the cancellation of passports and unjustified detentions at airports and immigration checkpoints against social leaders, journalists and human rights defenders have become common practice. NGOs have recorded more than 1,038 people detained for political reasons - including at least 42 foreigners - in places identified by the United Nations as torture centres. Cases of torture and cruel treatment of detainees in the post-election context continue to be documented, with methods designed to break their identity, leaving deep scars on the victims, their families and society. The persecution and criminalisation of human rights defenders continues, many of whom are being held incommunicado, such as Rocío San Miguel and Eduardo Torres. Recently, on 16 September 2025, the arbitrary detention of human rights defender Pedro Hernández, founder of the NGO Campo in the town of Aroa, Bolívar Municipality, Yaracuy State, was reported. One day later, the arbitrary detention of his father, Mr. Pedro Hernández Serrano, and his wife, Natalia Álvarez, was reported while they were trying to locate him. OMCT calls on the UNHRC member states to continue monitoring and demanding that the Venezuelan State immediately cease these techniques of State terrorism and that the relevant accountability mechanisms be established.

**Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) - Asociación Civil** states that in Venezuela, over the last three months, persecution against organisations of relatives of political prisoners has been on the rise, violating their rights to association, expression, demonstration, honour, integrity, freedom and justice. This is reflected in the police harassment, since June, of the Baduel sisters, relatives of CLIPPVE, as well as the violent and threatening dispersal by paramilitary forces, on 5 August, of 60 relatives of the Committee of Mothers in Defence of the Truth as they held a vigil in front of the Supreme Court of Justice to request a meeting with its authorities. Three days later, Martha Lía Grajales, co-director of the NGO Surgentes, was arrested as she left a solidarity event with the Mothers in front of the United Nations headquarters. She was charged with three serious crimes. Her telephone, which was stolen on Tuesday 5 August by the vigilantes who attacked the vigil, was presented by the police as evidence against her. She was prevented from appointing a lawyer of her choice and filing a habeas corpus petition, and, to date, from presenting evidence for her defence. The president, the interior minister and the Attorney-General have made statements criminalising the Mothers' Committee, Surgentes and other allied organisations. CELS requests the FFM to continue monitoring and promoting public debate on these events, so that the Venezuelan State fulfils its human rights obligations.

The **International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)** concurs with the FFM's findings highlighting the responsibility of military forces in gross human rights violations in Venezuela during recent years, primarily in the context of the repression of protests. The ICJ is alarmed by the continued misuse of the judicial system in particular to suppress the rights to freedoms of expression and of assembly and association. in the country. The aggravating patterns of repression include arbitrary





detention and enforced disappearances with individuals whose whereabouts are denied to their families, and who are kept incommunicado for days, weeks, or months. These individuals reappear charged with crimes before judges and by prosecutors lacking independence, without the possibility to be represented by lawyers of their own choosing that effectively defend them. An example of this is the recent cases of lawyers and human rights defenders Eduardo Torres and Marta Grajales. The ICJ is also concerned about the practice of releasing these individuals while keeping them subjected to a never-ending series of pretrial measures in ongoing unfair trials. In this context, the ICJ urges UNHRC members and observers states to continue to engage actively with the FFM and other relevant international mechanisms as whose contribution is key to ensure accountability for gross human rights violations and crimes under international law in Venezuela and to deliver justice for victims.

**Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L)** and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) thank the FFM for its report. An alarming cycle of repression persists in Venezuela, where the ongoing persecution of dissent continues to shrink and close civic space. Since the 2024 elections, an increasingly hostile environment for the legal profession has taken hold. Lawyers are systematically denied access to clients and case files, and face intimidation, and arrests simply for carrying out their professional duties. At least 823 individuals remain in detention for political reasons. Among them are lawyers such as Rocío San Miguel, Kennedy Tejada, and Eduardo Torres. Like other political prisoners, they have been subjected to enforced disappearance, torture and denial of their right to choose legal representation. In many cases, criminalization reflects a broader pattern of stigmatization, where lawyers are branded as 'enemies of the State'. In addition, at least 40 individuals, including human rights defenders, have had their passports arbitrarily cancelled by authorities. These practices foster a climate of fear among lawyers and severely obstruct access to justice. L4L and IBAHRI call for the immediate and unconditional release of San Miguel, Tejada, Torres, and all others detained for political reasons. They further urge the UNHRC to maintain a strong response to the deterioration of the rule of law in Venezuela, and to ensure that lawyers are able to carry out their professional duties freely and safely.

**Amnesty International** stresses that the human rights crisis of the scale seen in Venezuela cannot be normalized or ignored. As of early September, over 800 people, including four [children, remain arbitrarily detained](#) and thousands are being subjected to unfair trials while suffering inhuman prison conditions. Civic space faces ever-growing threats, and human rights defenders remain detained, including Javier Tarazona, Rocío San Miguel, Carlos Julio Rojas, Kennedy Tejada, Eduardo Torres and Pedro Hernández. In July, Amnesty International published new findings detailing how enforced disappearances are being committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack on the civilian population in Venezuela. Victims from Venezuela, Spain, Colombia, France and Ukraine, are amongst the individuals whose fate and whereabouts remain unknown. To date, more than 40 people remain forcibly disappeared. Amnesty calls on Venezuelan authorities to disclose the fate and whereabouts of all detainees and immediately release all those arbitrarily detained for political reasons in the country. Amnesty asks the FFM how it could be better supported by the UNHRC, including in the light of the present liquidity crisis, and how states could take further action for accountability, including in support of investigations by the International Criminal Court.



**Ingénieurs du Monde** states that the FFM's report confirms what Venezuelans know all too well - Nicolás Maduro remains in power through systematic repression, torture, and electoral fraud. Venezuela is not an imperfect democracy. It is an apparatus of power that has destroyed the rule of law, collapsed the economy, generated a complex humanitarian crisis, and displaced a third of the population. This illegitimate apparatus of power is the root cause of the current crisis and the crimes documented in the report presented today. Enforced disappearances, torture, sexual violence against detainees, and the imprisonment of children on terrorism charges. Venezuelans have known this reality for a long time. Ten years ago, the speaker was sentenced to 14 years in prison for denouncing Maduro as a repressive and corrupt drug trafficker. The same accusations that the FFM's report confirms today. Venezuela has a political problem and a problem with organised crime. In 2020, the UN recognised the existence of the Cartel de los Soles. Today, it is well-known that it is not a parallel group but the state transformed into a cartel that traffics drugs, launders money and exports violence. On 28 July 2025, Venezuela elected Edmundo González. However, Maduro struck a blow to popular sovereignty and remains in power by force with the backing of Russia, China, Iran and other autocratic countries. For these reasons, the speaker urges the UNHRC to recognise the will of the Venezuelan people, support the transition to democracy, demand justice and back the international coalition.

**Asociación Hazte Oír** and its more than 300,000 members raise their voices against the despotic government of Nicolás Maduro, because the Venezuelan people, brothers and sisters of the Spanish people, are not allowed to cry out for justice. Maduro's regime is a tyranny that has established a system of systematic repression and imposed a veil of silence by controlling the judiciary and the free press; it has instilled fear as a method of social control; it imprisons and tortures those it considers 'dissidents'. What he is doing is not politics, it is barbarism; it is not order, it is terror. But his iniquity does not survive on its own, it is sustained by international support networks of which Rodríguez Zapatero, the PSOE and the current President of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, are part. Proof of this was the PSOE's recent refusal to vote in favour of condemning the 'Cartel of the Suns' in the European Union. Zapatero, under the pretext of his status as an observer, has been a shadow agent of a government of terror. And the PSOE and Pedro Sánchez are his collaborating agents. Hazte Oír demands that freedom be defended for the good of the Venezuelan and Spanish people. That real sanctions be agreed against those who exercise power for their own exclusive benefit and those who support and sustain them. With diplomatic measures, yes, but firm ones. Hazte Oír requests the Council to be brave in defending justice and freedom so that the UNHCR can state loud and clear that only those who stand up for justice and freedom are worthy. Those who remain silent in the face of such evil are also guilty.

## FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

**6** Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

**34** State Delegations

**11** Non-Governmental Organizations