

# URGENT ACTION

## SOME RELEASED, HUNDREDS UNFAIRLY DETAINED

Between 23-24 August 2025, 13 politically motivated arbitrary detainees were released from detention in Caracas, Venezuela. All 13 victims had been held in El Helicoide, a detention center run by the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN, in Spanish) and included Pedro Guanipa, Rafael Ramírez, and Américo de Grazia, amongst others. Meanwhile, 816 individuals remain arbitrarily detained for political reasons, according to NGO Foro Penal, and new detentions continue to be routinely carried out. We call on Nicolás Maduro to release all those arbitrarily detained and to protect their lives, physical integrity, and fair trial guarantees while in detention.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE MODEL LETTER BELOW**

*President of the Republic Nicolás Maduro  
Palacio de Miraflores, Av. Nte. 10, Caracas 1012,  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*President Maduro,*

*Taking note of the recent decision to conditionally release from prison 13 individuals who were arbitrarily detained for political reasons, we are writing to demand that all charges against them be dropped and the unconditional release of every person who is still subjected to unfair detention in Venezuela.*

*After the contested presidential election held in July 2024, over 2,200 men, women, and children were arbitrarily detained and subjected to unfair trials, many for no reason at all. Many others were detained for exercising their right to peaceful protest only to be accused of discretionary crimes such as 'terrorism', conspiracy, or incitement of hatred. Dozens of those detained were targeted for holding and expressing dissenting political views, including some of those recently released from El Helicoide, in Caracas.*

*Amnesty International has issued several urgent actions calling for the release and protection of these thousands of victims. In April of 2025, the organization noted with concern reports of how the Venezuelan authorities withheld and concealed the fate and whereabouts of detainees, or kept them in prolonged incommunicado detention, to leave them in a situation of defencelessness and facilitate acts of torture and ill-treatment. Many of those situations amounted to enforced disappearances. On 23-24 August 2025, Américo de Grazia, Pedro Guanipa and Rafael Ramírez were released from custody. De Grazia will continue his proceedings in liberty, while Guanipa and Ramírez are under house arrest. Perkins Rocha, Biagio Pilieri, Freddy Superlano, Luis Somaza, Alfredo Díaz, Luis Palocz, Ricardo Estevez, Jesús Armas, María Oropeza, Nélica Sánchez, Roland Carreño, and Edwin Moya remain arbitrarily detained.*

*While it provides some measure of relief to know some of these individuals are no longer separated from their families, we remain concerned about the ongoing criminal proceedings against them and the rights and safety of those who remain arbitrarily detained in Venezuela. Once again, we remind the Venezuelan authorities that enforced disappearance and torture are acts that are strictly prohibited under international human rights law. Those responsible for committing these international crimes could face investigation and criminal prosecution by independent courts of justice outside of Venezuela.*

***We call on you to immediately release all those arbitrarily detained for political reasons, including those individuals mentioned above. While in custody of the state, every detainee must see their life and safety protected, as well as all fair trial guarantees, such as naming their lawyer of choice, receiving adequate medical care, and being granted family visits.***

*Your sincerely,*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Venezuela has been suffering a profound human rights crisis for over a decade. During this time, Amnesty International has reported serious human rights violations, including crimes against humanity, and a complex humanitarian emergency that has caused more than 25% of the population to flee the country. The ongoing political repression by the government of Nicolás Maduro, aimed at silencing any form of real or perceived dissent, reached historic levels following the presidential elections of 28 July 2024. The patterns of persecution registered after that date were consistent with those reported in the previous decade and still continue as of August 2025.

Since 28 July 2024, more than [2,200 arbitrary detentions](#) of protestors, political opponents, activists, human rights defenders and even bystanders have been recorded. These thousands of victims joined the -at least- [300 people](#) detained since before the elections. Almost all of these individuals have been subjected to arbitrary criminal proceedings, accused of charges of “terrorism” and inciting hatred, many of them simply for dissenting with the current government. [Children and adolescents](#), as well as people living with some form of [disability](#), have also been victims of these human rights violations, and many of them have additionally been subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. According to the Venezuelan NGO Foro Penal, as of 21 August 2025, 815 people were subjected to politically motivated arbitrary detention, and the whereabouts of 45 persons were unknown. These figures had not yet been updated since the releases carried out between 23-24 August.

Building on the urgent action issued in April 2024, Amnesty International published a new report profiling 15 individuals whose stories demonstrated the [widespread use of enforced disappearances](#) in Venezuela, specifically between August 2024 and June 2025. As of 11 August 2025, eight of those individuals remained forcibly disappeared, namely: Andrés Martínez (Spanish), Damián Rojas, Danner Barajas (Colombian), Eudi Andrade, Jorgen Guanares, Jose María Basoa (Spanish), Rory Branker, and Yevhenii Petrovich Trush (Ukrainian). The whereabouts of Alfredo Díaz, Dennis Lepaje, Eduardo Torres, Raymar Pérez and Rosa Chirinos have been established, but they remain arbitrarily detained.

As part of its policy of repression, the Venezuelan government has intimidated, criminalized and censored civil society organizations and activists, who are working in a highly repressive environment with no access to basic rights such as health, education or access to food. This deadly combination has forced an unprecedented number of Venezuelans to flee the country in search of safety and protection. As of December 2024, [7.9 million](#) Venezuelan nationals had left the country.

From 2020, reports from the [UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission](#) (FFM) on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have comprehensively documented hundreds of cases of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions and torture and other ill-treatment committed in the country since 2014. The FFM has also documented the ways in which the justice system is used as an instrument for the government’s policy of repression and has concluded that some of the international crimes and human rights violations constitute crimes against humanity. In particular, in its 2024 report, the FFM concluded that it had “reasonable grounds to believe that the crime of persecution on political grounds has been committed during the timeframe covered by its mandate”.

Since November 2021, the [Office of the Prosecutor](#) of the [International Criminal Court](#) is conducting a criminal investigation on the situation in Venezuela, in particular on crimes against humanity including “...imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty; torture; rape and other forms of sexual violence; persecution on political grounds...” committed by state security forces, civil authorities and pro-government collectives at least since April 2017.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Spanish

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 31 January 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Persons detained for political reasons (they, them, their)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr53/9257/2025/en/>