

URGENT ACTION

ALL ARBITRARY DETAINEES MUST BE RELEASED

Between December 25, 2025 and January 19, 2026, the authorities in Venezuela released a number of politically motivated arbitrary detainees, including Roland Carreño and Biagio Pillieri, as well as prisoners of conscience Rocío San Miguel and Carlos Julio Rojas. Meanwhile, at least 780 individuals remain arbitrarily detained for political reasons, according to NGO Foro Penal. We call on Delcy Rodríguez to release all those arbitrarily detained and protect their lives, safety, and fair trial guarantees while detained.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Fifth UA 72.24**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Delcy Rodriguez
Acting President of the Republic
Palacio de Miraflores,
Av. Nte. 10, Caracas 1012,
Caracas, Venezuela

Send a copy of your letter to the address below
**CC: Permanent Mission of Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela to the United Nations**
His Excellency Mr. Samuel R. Moncada Acosta
335 East 46th Street
New York, NY 10017

Ms. Delcy Rodriguez,

I am dismayed by the fact that, after Venezuelan authorities, namely the president of the National Assembly Jorge Rodríguez, announced the release of a “significant amount” of individuals arbitrarily detained for political reasons, **at least 780 individuals remain unfairly imprisoned**. Such announcements raised and crushed hundreds of victims’ families’ hopes of reuniting with their loved ones after months or years of unfair imprisonment.

I stress my deep concern about the ongoing arbitrary detention of at least 780 individuals, according to Venezuelan NGO Foro Penal as of January 22. 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.

Families, communities, and civil society organizations are coping with the uncertainty of not knowing what could happen to those detained, while they fight against all odds for the wellbeing and freedom of the hundreds of victims of politically motivated arbitrary detention.

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

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Venezuelan government's long-standing policy of repression to silence any form of real or perceived dissent has continuously used politically motivated arbitrary detentions to persecute people in Venezuela. Throughout many years, authorities have implemented a so-called 'revolving door' of detentions, whereby releases are usually followed by new detentions. Similarly, those released are kept subjected to arbitrary criminal proceedings and restrictions to their liberty, perpetuating fear, revictimization, and human rights violations. This practice reached a historic peak after the July 28, 2024 election, which saw over [2,000 people arbitrarily detained](#) for political reasons, many of them charged with seemingly unfounded counts of terrorism and incitement of hatred, including vulnerable groups such as [children and people living with disabilities](#).

Between December 2025 and early January 2026, authorities released a small proportion of the approximately 1,000 politically motivated arbitrary detainees being held at the time. On January 3, [USA's military action](#) in Venezuela led to the capture of Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores, and the swearing in of Delcy Rodríguez as acting president of Venezuela. A few days later, National Assembly president, Jorge Rodríguez, announced that a "significant number" of people detained will be released. Local civil society organizations have only been able to verify approximately 150 released since January 8, 2026. According to the local organization Foro Penal, as of January 22, 2026, 780 people remain arbitrarily detained for political reasons.

Since 2023, Amnesty International has campaigned on behalf of **Emirlendris Benítez, Javier Tarazona, María Auxiliadora Delgado, Juan Carlos Marrufo, Darío Estrada, and Robert Franco**. In a previous Urgent Action and its 2025 report [Detentions Without a Trace](#) profiled individuals whose stories demonstrated the widespread use of enforced disappearances, specifically between August 2024 and June 2025. These individuals included: **Pedro Guanipa, Perkins Rocha, Rafael Ramírez, Américo de Grazia, Biagio Pileri, Freddy Superlano, Luis Somaza, Alfredo Díaz, Luis Palocz, Ricardo Estevez, Jesús Armas, María Oropeza, Nélide Sánchez, Roland Carreño, Williams Dávila, Edwin Moya, José María Basoa, Andrés Martínez, Rosa Chirinos, Raymar Pérez, Danner Barajas, Damián Rojas, Dennis Lepaje, Yevhenii Trush, Fabián Buglione, Lucas Hunter, Alfredo Díaz, Eduardo Torres, Eudi Andrade, and Jorgen Guanares**. As of January 19, 2026, the fate and whereabouts of Jorgen Guanares remain unknown, while Alfredo Diaz died in custody of the state in December 2025. The remaining individuals have either been released or been located.

Within this policy of repression, the government has continually harassed, prosecuted and censored activists and civil society organizations working to protect the rights of Venezuelans amidst a complex humanitarian emergency and a deep human rights crisis that is making Venezuelans flee in unprecedented numbers in search of safety and protection. By May 2025, [7.9 million](#) had fled Venezuela.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 31, 2026

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