

# URGENT ACTION

## PROTECT EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN VENEZUELA

Devastating earthquakes hit Venezuela on June 24, 2026, leaving in their wake countless victims, including thousands of people killed, injured, displaced, unhoused, or otherwise affected. Constantly rising official figures are considered to not yet represent the extent of the disaster. Venezuelan authorities must ensure that human rights law and standards guide relief operations. Special measures are needed to protect people in situations of heightened vulnerability, including children and older people. The role of journalists who offer critical information to the public must be protected. We call on the acting president to ensure relief efforts respect humanitarian principles and human rights law.

### 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 **UA 66.26**. 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  
Twitter: @delcyrodriguezv

*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. Acting President,

I stand in solidarity with all those directly or indirectly affected by the terrible earthquakes, aftershocks and disaster that have hit Venezuela since June 24.

The emergency response plan and humanitarian efforts to assist all those affected by this disaster must follow the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. This includes refraining from any form of discrimination in the provision and deployment of humanitarian assistance.

Critically, the role of journalists and independent media must be fully protected. National and international journalists who are currently attempting to gather and share information of public interest must be allowed to do so as a way of providing vital information that might save lives and protect those in urgent need of rescue, assistance, and relief. Guaranteeing freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and access to information includes lifting bans and closures of media outlets and online media platforms in accordance with international law and standards.

The life, personal integrity, and safety of children and older people, who are and will continue to be particularly impacted by this disaster, should be most urgently and carefully guaranteed.

I call on you to provide relief and respond to the earthquakes in compliance with humanitarian and disaster relief standards as well as with international human rights law, protecting the freedom of the press and those most vulnerable to discrimination and marginalization, including children and older people.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In the afternoon of June 24, 2026, two earthquakes hit the Northern region of Venezuela, each 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude. The earthquakes mainly affected densely populated states including La Guaira, Caracas, Carabobo, Falcón, Aragua, Miranda, and Yaracuy. As of June 29, National Assembly president, Jorge Rodríguez, stated that at least 1,719 people have been killed, 5,000 injured, and 15,000 have been displaced from their homes. Hundreds of apartment blocks and other buildings collapsed or have suffered structural damage. These figures are widely considered to not fully convey the total extent of the human and material damage caused by the earthquakes, with thousands reportedly still missing as aftershocks continuing to occur.

On June 25, Amnesty International issued a press release raising the alarm over the devastating impact these earthquakes would likely have on people in Venezuela, coming off a decade-long complex humanitarian emergency and systematic policy of repression, and, critically, a collapsed health system.

In this regard, the organization noted that “access to information, freedom of the press, and freedom of expression have been severely restricted as a result of years of state-sponsored censorship, including the closure of dozens of media outlets, the blocking of social media platforms such as X, and the criminalization of journalists and human rights defenders. In the context of the current humanitarian emergency, the organization stresses the critical importance of immediately lifting all undue restrictions on the press, social media platforms, and essential online communications channels. The potential impact of not doing so could be measured in lives lost and rights irreparably affected.” In response to public reports of continued restrictions and censorship of the work journalists on the ground, this call remains critical to an effective and rights-based humanitarian response plan.

Furthermore, Amnesty International stated that “human rights and humanitarian NGOs are currently operating in a hugely restrictive environment as a result of a repressive legal architecture geared towards closing off civic space and targeting any form of perceived dissent. In order to offer an effective relief response plan, the Venezuelan authorities must immediately repeal the so-called Anti-NGO law and all other legal mechanisms that restrict, control and limit the lawful and necessary activities of these civil society organizations.”

This call has become all the more urgent in order to assist those groups most vulnerable to discrimination and marginalization, namely children and older people. The organization has registered grave concern concerning initial reports of children allegedly having potentially suffered grave human rights violations.

Amnesty International is continuously and closely monitoring the situation in the country, in full solidarity with the Venezuelan people, human rights defenders, NGOs, civil society organizations, and all those tragically affected by this disaster.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** August 10, 2026

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Earthquake victims and those affected (they/them)