

**Committee:** United Nations Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Establishing measures to ensure the safety of political dissidents in Venezuela

**Main Submitter:** United Kingdom

**Co-submitters:** El Salvador, Panama, Netherlands, Chile, South Korea, Norway, Germany, Egypt, Austria, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Portugal, Rwanda

**Signatories:** Panama, Ukraine, Egypt, Netherlands, Cameroon, El Salvador, Chile, South Korea, Norway, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Côte D'Ivoire, Tanzania, Peru, Portugal, Namibia, Rwanda

*Recalling* Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that rights may not be derogated from under any circumstances, even in a public emergency.

*Deeply concerned* by the ongoing human rights violations in Venezuela, including the arbitrary detention, torture, and ill-treatment of those perceived to be opponents of the government

*Reminds* that according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, Venezuela is one of the least democratic countries in the world

*Expressing concern* at the imminent political and humanitarian consequences stemming from Venezuela's political regime

*Recognizing* the impact of political persecution on the democratic processes, stability, and overall well-being of the people of Venezuela

*Emphasizing* the role of regional and international organizations in facilitating conflict resolution in situations where political dissent is at risk

1. *Urges* the Venezuelan authorities to cease all acts of violence and repression against
  - a. Political dissidents,
  - b. Journalists,
  - c. Human rights defenders,
  - d. Members of non-governmental organizations;
2. *Insists* the numerous sanctions imposed on Venezuela be revised and edited to guarantee their effectiveness and usefulness,
  - a. Sanctions must affect those responsible for the condemned sanctions Venezuela has undergone,
    - i. Human rights violations,

- ii. Repression of civil society,
  - iii. Repression of democratic opposition;
- 3. Recommends the establishment of independent monitoring mechanisms at borders and ensuring all migrants have access to effective remedies,
  - a. Systems set up to oversee and ensure the protection of human rights at international borders,
    - i. They should be independent of national authorities and often involve non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and National Ombudsman Offices,
    - ii. These mechanisms would be used to ensure compliance with fundamental rights and laws, investigate allegations of violations at the borders, and promote accountability
      - 1. The aforementioned mechanisms would report on their findings and provide recommendations on robust follow-up action at national, regional, and international levels
  - b. Migrants must be able to seek and obtain aid when their rights are violated; remedies might include:
    - i. Access to justice systems,
    - ii. Reparations,
    - iii. Other forms of relief and assistance;
- 4. Insists on the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained on political grounds,
  - a. If the individual was detained with grounds of committing a crime an international-based jury will hold a trial in order to determine the reality regarding the charges,
  - b. Individuals who are detained for expressing their political views, participating in peaceful protests, or for their affiliations must be released and put into safe conditions;
- 5. Requests the close monitorization and provision of a monthly report on the situation of political dissidents in Venezuela which would include, but would not be limited to:
  - a. Cases of harassment or attempted harassment,
  - b. Infringements of the rights of political dissidents,
  - c. Any instances of faulty accusation or arbitrary detention,
- 6. Urges member states to provide financial support to civilians and human rights organizations present in Venezuela in order to mitigate the political dissidents' situation,
  - a. Prioritizing human rights,

- b. Contributions to capacity-building initiatives in Venezuela,
    - i. Strengthening institutions responsible for Human Rights issues,
    - ii. Bringing awareness to the public on the Human Rights issues happening in their country, hopefully in order to:
      - 1. Cause national awareness,
      - 2. Sensibilize the public,
      - 3. Cause the government to pay more attention to the issue as its residents get involved;
7. Endorses Venezuela to put into action measures which would be applied internally in the country with the hopes of ensuring the safety of political dissidents, such as, but not limited to:
- a. Creating support programs that provide human rights training for law enforcement agencies and security forces in Venezuela, in order to, but not limited to:
    - i. Ensure the protection of political dissidents,
    - ii. Respect for due process,
  - b. Establishing an independent international monitoring mechanism in order to, but not restricted to:
    - i. Assess and report on the human rights situation in Venezuela,
    - ii. Focusing on the safety of political dissidents;