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ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 4: Interactive dialogue with the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

**INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GRAVE CRIMES
IN VENEZUELA REMAIN CRITICAL**

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth session
22 February – 23 March 2021

Madam President.

Amnesty International thanks the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (FFM) for their update on the grave human rights situation in Venezuela. We are dismayed that the violations exposed in its landmark 2020 report continue with impunity, including extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, excessive use of force and torture by security forces, as part of the government's policies of repression and social control.

We regret the continued refusal of the government of Venezuela to implement the FFM's recommendations on accountability and the continued denial of victims' rights to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Since September 2020, Amnesty has documented how Venezuelan authorities have criminalised humanitarian workers, further threatened human rights defenders, with allegations of extrajudicial executions. Recently, we documented at least 14 probable extrajudicial killings in the La Vega area of Caracas, reportedly committed by FAES (Special Action Forces) and other members of the Bolivarian National Police in January. There have been no official statements condemning these abuses nor any indication of an independent and impartial investigation being launched.

There are sufficient grounds to believe that crimes against humanity may have been committed in Venezuela, according to our own research, the FFM's 2020 report, and the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Office of the Prosecutor preliminary examination's findings.

Given the Venezuelan government's unwillingness to hold perpetrators to account, we urge the international community to do more to end the cycle of impunity that fuels violations in Venezuela, in line with the FFM's recommendations. States should investigate and prosecute those suspected of committing crimes under international law in accordance with the principle of universal jurisdiction. The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC should also consider the FFM's findings and Amnesty's recent research in its ongoing preliminary examination of possible crimes committed in Venezuela.

We would like to ask the FFM what more the international community could do to support the pursuit of accountability and stem further violations?

Thank you, Madam President.