

URGENT ACTION

REFUGEES IN PERU FACE IMPOSSIBLE DEADLINE

As of 10 November 2023, Venezuelan nationals in Peru will no longer be able to apply for temporary protection. This status is essential for refugees to have a regular migratory status, access to basic rights, and protection against forced returns to Venezuela. Survivors of gender-based violence face heightened risks if excluded from this status. Venezuelan refugees should be granted temporary protection through programmes that are fully accessible, making such deadlines contrary to international protection obligations. We call on the Superintendent of Migrations to repeal this deadline, or at least extend it, to ensure all Venezuelans can apply for the permit.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Mr Armando García Chunga
Superintendente Nacional de Migraciones
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Lima,
Perú
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Twitter: @Armando1703

Dear Mr Armando García Chunga,

I am alarmed by the imminent deadline Venezuelan refugees are facing to request a regular migratory status, or temporary protection in Peru. This deadline, set to 10 November 2023, contravenes the Peruvian state's obligation to protect refugees in the country.

While we acknowledge the challenges implied in welcoming unprecedented numbers of people seeking protection, we remind Peruvian authorities of their [obligations under international refugee and human rights law](#) to protect those fleeing massive human rights violations in Venezuela. Peru must guarantee the right to request recognition of refugee status for all Venezuelans, including effective access to the procedure without delay, based on the definition of refugee enshrined in your national laws and the Cartagena Declaration of 1984.

While the Peruvian [asylum system remains inadequate](#) to comply with such obligations, we remind you that all complementary and temporary protection measures -such as the CPP or Permiso Temporal de Permanencia- must be fully accessible to all Venezuelans, without limitations on costs, date or form of entry into the country, migratory status, or document or formal requirements that disregard the current situation in Venezuela. These measures must protect basic rights, including work, health and education.

We call on you to ensure Peru fully complies with its international obligations and to immediately repeal the undue deadline imposed on Venezuelans who seek to access a regular migratory status through the CPP programme. Alternatively, we call on you to extend the deadline to ensure all Venezuelans can apply to the programme.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By August 2023, over [25% of the population of Venezuela](#) (more than 7.71 million Venezuelans) have fled massive human rights violations. That's one in every four people in the country. Numbers are still rising: since May 2022, there has been a 1.4 million increase. More than 80% of these people are in Latin America and the Caribbean. Specifically, 70% are in Colombia (2.9 million), Peru (1.5 million), Ecuador (475,000), and Chile (444,000). Outside of Latin America and the Caribbean, the top 10 host countries include the United States, which ranks third, with 545,000 Venezuelan nationals in its territory (September 2021 figure). This figure is considered to be grossly outdated, with the population increasing daily as Venezuelans continue to be one of the top nationalities arriving to the US through the border and parole programs.

Amnesty International believes that Venezuelan nationals fleeing the country are in need of [international protection](#) and should be formally recognised as refugees, given the threat to their lives, their safety and their freedom as a result of massive human rights violations committed in Venezuela. Consequently, they cannot be returned to Venezuela or to places where their lives and human rights are at risk. However, a growing number of countries, including the US, have resumed [deportation flights](#) to Venezuela in contravention of international human rights and refugee law.

This crisis has impacted Venezuelan women and girls disproportionately. In 2022, Amnesty International published [Unprotected: Gender-based violence against Venezuelan refugee women in Colombia and Peru](#), revealing how the lack of access to international protection and migratory regularization, and obstacles in accessing health and justice services and shelters, showed that Peru, Ecuador and Colombia breached their obligations to prevent and remedy gender-based violence against Venezuelan refugee women.

In a September 2023 report, [Regularization and protection: International obligations for the protection of Venezuelan nationals](#), Amnesty International concluded that neither Colombia, Ecuador, Peru or Chile comply with their obligation to offer international protection or complementary protection to Venezuelans. The number of Venezuelan nationals recognized as refugees is extremely low in all four countries, and challenges accessing basic human rights compound the vulnerability Venezuelans face.

In the face of ineffective asylum systems, countries have implemented alternative measures to offer migratory regularisation, like in Peru. However, none of them comply with international standards for complementary protection and all fall short of asylum-equivalence. Access to these measures are often restricted by means of temporary limits to entry into the country or date of application, or monetary cost. They also fail to provide effective protection against refoulement or other basic rights.

The Peruvian state has repeatedly taken actions that put Venezuelan refugees at risk. In 2020, Amnesty International issued an urgent action given the risk of [forced evictions](#) Venezuelan nationals and others faced during the Covid pandemic, at a time when many Venezuelan refugees were in a situation of heightened vulnerability. In November 2021, Amnesty International issued another urgent action to demand Peruvian authorities grant emergency humanitarian status to [Venezuelan children](#) in Peru, after Peruvian authorities unduly denied them such status. Both actions were eventually [successful](#). In 2023, Amnesty International issued an [open letter to the presidents of Peru and Chile](#) to express its deep concern for the critical situation faced by people in need of international protection at the border between Chile and Peru, as a result of the measures implemented by their respective governments, including the deployment of military forces and the declaration of a state of emergency.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 29 December 2023

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

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Venezuelan refugees (they/them)