



AI Index: AMR 53/3811/2021
11 March 2021

-Check against delivery-
ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 4: Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (HRC res. 45/20)

INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY BY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST BE STRENGTHENED TO TACKLE SYSTEMIC IMPUNITY

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

Madam President.

Amnesty International continues to document grave human rights violations being committed in Venezuela, including arbitrary detentions, excessive use of force and torture by security forces, as part of the government's systematic policy of repression of dissent.

Since this Council last met in September 2020, Venezuelan authorities have detained and criminalised humanitarian workers, and harassed and threatened human rights defenders. There are also credible allegations of extrajudicial executions committed. For instance, Amnesty International has documented at least 14 probable extrajudicial killings committed in the La Vega area of Caracas, between 6-9 January, reportedly by FAES (Special Action Forces) forces and other members of the Bolivarian National Police. Two months on, there have been no official statements condemning these heinous acts and no impartial investigation appears to have been launched.

Madam President,

The well-documented systemic impunity in Venezuela must be met with rigorous international scrutiny. We welcome the High Commissioner's efforts to engage constructively with the government of Venezuela and note her access to the country. However, despite this engagement, we are yet to see the government taking any meaningful steps to end its policy of repression and investigate well-documented violations, some of which may amount to crimes against humanity.

We urge the government of Venezuela to meaningfully engage with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and to facilitate country visits by Special Procedures with mandates such as the Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial executions and torture and other ill-treatment and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in order to address the widespread human rights violations documented.

In light of continued grave human rights violations, we would like to ask the High Commissioner

what is being done to follow up on her recommendations for the dissolution of FAES, allowing entry to the World Food Programme, and ensuring protection for humanitarian workers?

Thank you, Madam President.