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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the report of the International Independent Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (HRC res. 45/20)

FACT-FINDING MISSION ON VENEZUELA REVEALS CHAIN OF COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND REINFORCES THE NEED FOR RENEWED MANDATE

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty first session
12 September – 7 October 2022

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the Fact-Finding Mission's (FFM) latest report on Venezuela and expresses concern over the scale of human rights violations across the country. The report exposes the command responsibility of key actors for wide-ranging human rights violations and abuses being committed in Venezuela, many of whom remain in their positions of power with impunity.

The FFM's report details an unrelenting human rights crisis across Venezuela, disproportionately affecting women, girls and indigenous peoples, particularly in the Orinoco Mining Arc and Bolivar state. Prisoner of conscience and Fundaredes Director, Javier Tarazona, continues to be arbitrarily detained for defending human rights and we reiterate our call for his immediate and unconditional release. We also call for an urgent end to the policy of repression which includes increased attacks on human rights defenders, civil society organisations, trade unions, and other dissenting voices.

Ahead of this session of the Council, Amnesty International and 124 Venezuelan and international civil society organisations made a call to extend the mandate of the FFM and recognised the invaluable role its investigations and reporting play in the fight for truth and justice in Venezuela. Crucially, victims have come to see the FFM as a trusted space for their testimonies.

The conditions that led to the establishment of the FFM remain. Grave human rights violations continue; lack of judicial independence denies remedy at a national level; and Venezuela still refuses to fully and genuinely engage with international human rights bodies, including with this Council and the FFM itself.

We call on this Council to support a resolution that extends the FFM's mandate for a minimum

of two years.

Lastly, we ask the FFM what resources it needs to fulfill its mandate and adequately support victims.

Thank you.