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Oral Statement

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's intersessional oral update on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

VENEZUELAN CRISIS WARRANTS DECISIVE ACTION FROM STATES AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr President,

We remain deeply concerned by the persisting crisis in Venezuela. We regret that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is not allowed to return to the country, this is another indication of the authorities' intent on avoiding international scrutiny.

Mr President,

The government's policy of repression continues, including through arbitrary detentions, torture and other ill treatment and persecution. The arbitrary use of state authority affects many aspects of daily life and includes arbitrary restrictions on travel, communications, and freedom of expression and association.

New findings published by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFM) last week, expose the role of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) in executing this state policy of repression. The report concluded that GNB commanders and officials are involved in the commission of crimes against humanity. Crucially, it highlighted the need for decisive steps towards justice for victims, including those that could be taken by the International Criminal Court and national jurisdictions. Amnesty International calls on UN member states to take urgent action to support these steps including through universal and other extraterritorial forms of jurisdiction.

We further call on states, OHCHR, and other UN officials and bodies to take urgent measures to ensure the provision of prompt and adequate resources for all HRC mandates, including this FFM so as to enable it to fulfil its much-needed work.

Thank you.