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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

THE FACT-FINDING MISSION IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR BUILDING A VENEZUELA THAT RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS

Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la ONU
61º periodo de sesiones
23 de febrero – 31 de marzo de 2026

Mr President,

We welcome the update by the International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (FFM). The FFM's importance has become even more critical and necessary in light of recent events.

While state[LR1] authorities have released some of those arbitrarily detained, including prisoners of conscience and human rights defenders since 8 January 2026, hundreds still remain unfairly imprisoned, after suffering years of arbitrary detention, including Emirlendris Benítez, Juan Carlos Marrufo and María Auxiliadora Delgado[VB2]. We continue to call for their immediate and unconditional release, as well as that of all those arbitrarily detained for political reasons.

Amnesty International urges [VB3] Venezuelan authorities to grant the FFM access to the country to carry out its important work including its mandate to look into the systematic use of arbitrary detention, and oversee the process of releases. At this critical juncture for the country we call on members of this Council to echo this call.

Venezuelan authorities must cease the systematic and widespread policy of repression once and for all and as recommended by the FFM[LR4], dismantle the apparatus of repression in the country, including by repealing the "Anti-NGO" Law and the Law Against Hatred [LR5] and eliminating all laws and practices that silence dissent and restrict civic space[VB6]. If they want to show their true commitment to end repression, letting the FFM in, would be a clear sign they are following a path to end these violations. [VB7]

We ask the FFM what steps states and UN bodies can take to encourage the government to grant it access to the country.[RI8]

Thank you.