



PUBLIC STATEMENT

Index: AMR 53/8029/2018

Venezuela: Raúl Isaías Baduel's life and personal integrity must be guaranteed

Amnesty International is extremely concerned at the prolonged solitary confinement of Raúl Isaías Baduel and the fact that he has also been held incommunicado for the last five weeks.

His relatives and lawyers have told Amnesty International that Raúl Isaías Baduel has been held in solitary confinement since his transfer to the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) headquarters in Plaza Venezuela in August 2017. He is held in a cell, without access to natural sunlight or contact with other people. In addition, his family and lawyers have reported that for the past five weeks he has been held incommunicado. Prior to this period of isolation, Baduel's communication with the outside world had been arbitrarily restricted many times.

Incommunicado detention puts Raúl Isaías Baduel at risk of torture and puts his life in danger. Indeed, isolation for prolonged periods of time – as has been shown in this case – may in itself constitute torture.

According to his lawyers, Baduel was last seen on 28 February, the day he was transferred to appear before a military court hearing the case against him; he has been detained and prosecuted on charges of "treason against the homeland" and "military rebellion". Since then, neither his family nor his lawyers have been able to see him. It is now five weeks since they were last able to visit him in the SEBIN headquarters and to bring him personal belongings and medicines.

The Venezuelan authorities must guarantee Raúl Isaías Baduel's life and personal integrity. Amnesty International also calls on the SEBIN to end his incommunicado detention and allow visits and regular communication with his family and lawyers, and to end his solitary confinement.

Further information

Retired general Raúl Isaías Baduel had been convicted and was serving a sentence of seven years and 11 months via an alternative form of deprivation of liberty authorized by the courts in 2015. However, on 12 January 2017, two months before he was due to complete his

sentence, Baduel was arrested and transferred first to the Ramo Verde National Centre for Military Prosecutions and then, from 8 August 2017, to the headquarters of the National Service of Bolivarian Intelligence (SEBIN) in Plaza Venezuela, on charges of treason and military rebellion. These charges were the basis for the renewed criminal proceedings against him.