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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

INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY MUST CONTINUE IN THE FACE OF ESCALATING REPRESSION IN VENEZUELA

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty fifth session
26 February - 5 April 2024

Mr. President,

Amnesty International thanks the Fact-Finding Mission for their update on the grave human rights situation in Venezuela.

Since this Council last met, the government's policy of repression has intensified as attacks on civic space reach critical levels. The current electoral period has translated into more arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, gross violations of due process guarantees and stigmatization of human rights defenders.

Political opposition parties have been heavily targeted since [late 2023](#), including through the incommunicado detention of members of Vente Venezuela like Juan Freites, Luis Camacaro and Guillermo López and the enforced disappearance of Emill Brandt. Human rights defenders are increasingly at risk, as the short-term disappearance and continued detention of [Rocío San Miguel](#) and [Javier Tarazona](#) so clearly exemplifies. Meanwhile, the government continues pursuing the draft law that seeks to strip all [NGOs](#) operating in Venezuela of their right to freedom of association in a blatant effort to silence their defence of human rights.

We reiterate our call for the unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained for political reasons and an immediate end to attacks on civil society. Instead of seeking isolation, Venezuela must cooperate with international scrutiny and justice mechanisms.

In the face of pervasive impunity for crimes under international law and grave human rights violations in Venezuela, the Fact-Finding Mission's mandate, investigations and reports continue to be indispensable to furthering justice, truth and reparation for victims.

Thank you.