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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

INCREASED REPRESSION AND ISOLATION IN VENEZUELA MUST FACE INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

UN Human Rights Council
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Mr. President,

Amnesty International thanks the High Commissioner for his update. Recent events have shown the critical importance of continued scrutiny by this Council over the situation in Venezuela.

Together with numerous civil society organisations, Amnesty International [strongly condemned](#) the suspension of OHCHR activities in Venezuela by the Venezuelan government. This decision came soon after the OHCHR expressed concern regarding the enforced disappearance and continued detention of renowned human rights defender [Rocío San Miguel](#). The suspension also coincided with the publication of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food's critical report after his visit to Venezuela.

The country's renewed attempts to evade international scrutiny are alarming. The expulsion of OHCHR staff, the initial enforced disappearance and continued detention of San Miguel, [Javier Tarazona](#) and members of [opposition](#) political parties, as well as brazen attacks on [civil society](#) are part of systematic attacks on political opponents and human rights defenders.

We emphatically call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained for political reasons and a definitive stop to attacks on civil society. We further call on Venezuela to allow for an effective presence of the OHCHR in the country, collaborate with international accountability mechanisms like the FFM, and provide unhindered access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Thank you.