

URGENT ACTION

HUNDREDS STILL ARBITRARILY DETAINED

At least 485 individuals remain arbitrarily detained for political reasons. Despite the implementation of an Amnesty law in February 2026, and the release of numerous political prisoners as a result, many have had their applications rejected or have since had their status changed. The Venezuelan government's long-standing policy of repression to silence any form of real or perceived dissent has continuously used politically motivated arbitrary detentions to persecute people in Venezuela. We call on Delcy Rodríguez to release all those arbitrarily detained, to drop the charges against them and protect their lives, safety, and fair trial guarantees while detained.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE MODEL LETTER BELOW

Delcy Rodríguez
Acting President of the Republic
Palacio de Miraflores,
Av. Nte. 10, Caracas 1012,
Caracas, Venezuela

Ms Delcy Rodríguez,

I am deeply troubled that, despite announcements by Venezuelan authorities, including the president of the National Assembly, Jorge Rodríguez, regarding the release of a "significant number" of individuals detained for political reasons, and following the adoption of an Amnesty Law, hundreds of people remain unjustly deprived of their liberty. These statements initially gave hope to countless victims and their families of reuniting with their loved ones, only to ultimately deepen their anguish as reunions remain out of reach.

While I welcome the release of the many political prisoners over the last months, I remain gravely concerned about the continued arbitrary detention of at least 485 individuals, as documented by the NGO Foro Penal as of 6 April 2026. We once again urge Venezuelan authorities to remind that practices such as enforced disappearance and torture are unequivocally prohibited under international human rights law. Those responsible for such violations may be subject to investigation and prosecution before independent judicial bodies beyond Venezuela's borders.

This is your opportunity to make meaningful change and mark a new era in Venezuelan history. I stand with the families, communities, and civil society organizations continue to endure profound uncertainty regarding the fate of those detained, while persistently advocating, often under extremely difficult conditions, for the rights, well-being, and freedom of those individuals imprisoned for political reasons.

I call on you to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained on political reasons, and to put an end to all politically motivated criminal proceedings. While under state custody, every detainee must have their life and personal integrity fully protected, along with access to all fair trial guarantees, including the right to choose their own legal representation, receive adequate medical care, and maintain contact with their families.

Your sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In February 2026, an Amnesty Law came into force, and by the end of March over 8,000 had benefited. However, some people have had their applications for the implementation of the amnesty law rejected. This includes sisters Samantha (16) and Aranza Hernández (19), who have been detained since November 2025 on terrorism charges as well as Perkins Rocha, who remains under house prison, prisoner of conscience Javier Tarazona and journalist Rory Branker, who were conditionally released and now had their requests rejected. Similarly, Martha Lía Grajales was granted amnesty, halting the investigation against her. Yet on 13 April, her NGO [SurGentes reported](#) that the National Prosecutor's Office is conducting expert analyses of the human rights defender's phone.

Since 2023, Amnesty International has campaigned on behalf of Emirlendris Benítez, Javier Tarazona, María Auxiliadora Delgado, Juan Carlos Marrufo, Darío Estrada and Robert Franco. In a previous outputs, including the 2025 report [Detentions Without a Trace](#), the organization profiled individuals whose stories demonstrated the widespread use of enforced disappearances, specifically between August 2024 and June 2025.

These individuals included:

- Kennedy Tejeda, Pedro Guanipa, Freddy Superlano, Nélida Sánchez, María Oropeza, Eduardo Torres, Roland Carreño, Eudi Andrade, Ricardo Estevez, Biagio Pilieri and Williams Dávila, who have been granted amnesty.
- Rosa Chirinos and Raymar Pérez, who have been released.
- Rocío San Miguel, Carlos Julio Rojas, Robert Franco, Darío Estrada, Jesús Armas, Luis Palocz, Luis Somaza, Yevhenii Trush, José María Basoa, Andrés Martínez Adasme, Dennis Lepaje, who have been released on bail.
- And Emirlendris Benítez, María Auxiliadora Delgado, Juan Carlos Marrufo, Danner Barajas, Damián Rojas still in arbitrary detention in prison, and Perkins Rocha and Rafael Ramírez are under house arrest.

As of 6 April 2026, the fate and whereabouts of Jorgen Guanares remain unknown, while Alfredo Diaz died in custody of the state in December 2025.

The Venezuelan government's long-standing policy of repression to silence any form of real or perceived dissent has continuously used politically motivated arbitrary detentions to persecute people in Venezuela. Throughout many years, authorities have implemented a so-called 'revolving door' of detentions, whereby releases are usually followed by new detentions. Similarly, those released are kept subjected to arbitrary criminal proceedings and restrictions to their liberty, perpetuating fear, revictimization, and human rights violations. This practice reached a historic peak after the 28 July 2024 election, which saw over [2,000 people arbitrarily detained](#) for political reasons, many of them charged with seemingly unfounded counts of terrorism and incitement of hatred, including vulnerable groups such as [children and people living with disabilities](#).

Between December 2025 and early January 2026, authorities released a small proportion of the approximately 1,000 politically motivated arbitrary detainees being held at the time. On 3 January, [USA's military action](#) in Venezuela led to the capture of Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores, and the swearing in of Delcy Rodríguez as acting president of Venezuela. A few days later, National Assembly president, Jorge Rodríguez, announced that a "significant number" of people detained will be released. Following the announcement, hundreds of people were conditionally released. According to the local organization Foro Penal, as of 6 April 2026, 485 people remain arbitrarily detained for political reasons.

Within this policy of repression, the government has continually harassed, prosecuted and censored activists and civil society organizations working to protect the rights of Venezuelans amidst a complex humanitarian emergency and a deep human rights crisis that is making Venezuelans flee in unprecedented numbers in search of safety and protection. By May 2025, [7.9 million](#) had fled Venezuela.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 31 July 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Persons detained for political reasons (they, them, their)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR53/0635/2026/en/>