

Néstor Reverol
Minister of the People's Power
for Interior Relations and Justice of Venezuela
Esquina Platanal, Este 1, Av. Urdaneta,
Caracas, Distrito Capital, Venezuela



Dear Mr. Reverol,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to express concern about an urgent issue oppressing the rights and freedoms of your civilian population. Reports from media sources including the New York Times, CNN and Amnesty International confirm the operation of “forced disappearances” conducted by Nicolás Maduro’s government. These authoritarian efforts are being used as a means of political intimidation to control the population and repress dissent. Forcefully abducting and detaining people is an illegal activity that does not become excused by governmental status. You are in an influential position as Minister for Internal Relations and Justice, to advocate for a different approach to national security. We urge you to condemn the use of forced disappearances to intimidate and extract information from the people, for the Venezuelan government.

From a legal standpoint, the actions of Maduro’s forces are a clear violation of international law. The International Criminal Courts defines an “enforced disappearance” as the arrest, detention or abduction of persons “by, or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons.” Furthermore, systematic disappearances constitute a crime against humanity; one of the most cruel and inhumane violations of international obligations. The Fact-Finding Mission established in September 2019 to investigate arbitrary and systematic crimes in Venezuela is due to publish their findings in September 2020. This mission, organized by the UN Human Rights Council, may lead to irreversible consequences for your government should nothing be done to stop forced disappearances.

Moreover, the current moral situation is frightening. Your Directorate General of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM) agency operates an infamous detention center known as ‘Boleita’ in Caracas. Abducted victims are subjected to torture, ill-treatment and violations of due process. The severe climate brought about by COVID-19 has also lengthened victims’ detentions. Court closure, restricted movement and lockdown procedures on

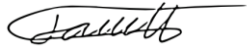
Venezuelan bureaucracy means an increasing number of civilians are being confined, against their will. Advocating for the closure of this center would perfectly demonstrate a zero-tolerance policy against forced disappearances. People are living in fear due to the current instability of international health and the economy. There is no justification for raising future generations in an environment where they also fear those who should be protecting them.

We hope that you understand the weight of this humanitarian issue. More than that, I believe that you have the willpower to advocate for its eradication, and consequently, for the freedom of your people.

Yours Sincerely,

Alisha Gilchrist

Advocate, The Organization for World Peace



Jonathon Arrell,

Vice President, The Organization for World Peace