

United States Senate

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

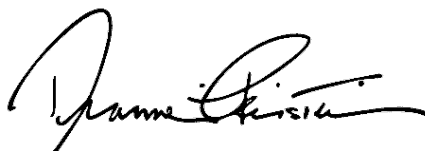
Dear Secretary Blinken,

We are writing to urge the Department of State to prioritize the safe return of Mr. Eyvin Hernandez, one of our constituents, who has been wrongfully detained in Venezuela since March 31, 2022. As you know, Mr. Hernandez was apprehended by Venezuelan officials while accompanying an acquaintance to the Colombian border and had no intention of entering Venezuela. The Venezuelan government has filed baseless charges against him, and we are especially concerned about the conditions of Mr. Hernandez's detention given reports on the inhumane conditions in Venezuelan prisons, including the maximum security facility where he is reportedly being held. We ask that you keep us personally informed regarding your efforts to secure his release.


We were encouraged to learn that Mr. Hernandez's case now falls under the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Ambassador Roger Carstens, following your determination that he is being wrongfully detained. Our staff was briefed by Mr. Carsten's team and is engaged with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff on this unjustified detention. Please know that we will continue to monitor this situation closely.

Thank you for your efforts on this case and for all that your office does to secure the freedom of U.S. hostages abroad. If we can be of any assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator