

[www.BringEyvinHome.org](http://www.BringEyvinHome.org)



# Bring Eyvin Hernandez Home Press Conference

Eyvin Hernandez is a wrongfully detained American in Venezuela.  
Eyvin's family & friends call on the US government to bring Eyvin home!

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**  
**10:00 AM ET**

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**National Press Club  
Bloomberg Room  
529 14th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20045**

**PRESS  
PACKET**

**To RSVP, send an e-mail to:  
[BringEyvinHome@gmail.com](mailto:BringEyvinHome@gmail.com)**

## **BIOGRAPHY OF EYVIN ALEXIS HERNANDEZ**

Eyvin Alexis Hernandez is 44 years old. He was brought to the United States by his parents when he was a toddler. Eyvin's parents came to the U.S. after having fled civil war in their native El Salvador. Eyvin's parents sought peace and a better life for their children. Eyvin's family lived in various working class and sometimes rough neighborhoods of East Los Angeles for years trying to make ends meet. Eyvin's father, Pedro Martinez, worked as a roofer, gas station attendant, and caterer. Mr. Martinez toiled for his family and would sometimes come home from work as late as 2 a.m. Eyvin's mom, Ana Sandoval, worked at a donut shop, a yogurt shop, as a housekeeper and then a nanny to support their family.



Henry Martinez, Eyvin's younger brother, describes Eyvin as disciplined, focused, and calm. Growing up, Eyvin excelled in school, staying focused on his education and having a strong work ethic, which Henry attributes to being in the presence of their father and watching him toil away. Eyvin attended El Camino College with coalition member Karlene Nguyen, who met Eyvin in 1997, the first year they were both at the community college. Their friendship spans 25 years. The two of them and another friend were the "Three Musketeers" and study buddies. Karlene describes Eyvin as smart, but humble, humorous, personable, mild, opinionated, and passionate about fighting injustice. She said Eyvin would often be tired at school. Unbeknownst to Karlene until now, while at El Camino, Eyvin joined his father on catering gigs in the evenings and into the early mornings after the school day.

Both Karlene and Eyvin attended the University of California, Los Angeles. Susana Hernandez, a friend of Eyvin, said they also spent a lot of time studying together. She remembers Eyvin's love for South Park, the satirical political cartoon. Eyvin would perform characters from the show in their voices, and that made her laugh. She also remembers Eyvin encouraging and building her confidence for their applied math finals, while she helped him with the computer science programming class they took together. Eyvin did not care for computer science, but he had to take it as part of the Mathematics major requirements. Pedro remembers Eyvin staying awake to study until the early morning hours often, but especially during his years of undergraduate coursework at UCLA. Pedro recalls telling Eyvin that studying like that was not healthy, and if he continued at that pace, he would go crazy. Eyvin responded, "I guess I am just going to go crazy then." Eyvin graduated from UCLA with Bachelor of Science degrees in Physics and Mathematics.

To Karlene's surprise, Eyvin told her during his last year of undergraduate that he was going to attend law school as compared to the rest of their circle of friends that opted for graduate courses in engineering. Many of the members of Eyvin's coalition met him while he was in law school. During law school, his friends would describe him as gentle, quiet, observant, kind, driven by justice matters and the desire to protect poor and working class people. While at UCLA School of Law, Eyvin worked at the employment law clinic representing working class people on wage disputes with their employers; interned at the Working People's Law Center one summer; and was associate editor for the Chicanx-Latinx Law Review. Luan Huynh, a law school friend, remembers taking a salsa dancing class together and having Eyvin's ears as she sought advice from him about her love life.

After law school, Eyvin joined the L.A. County Public Defender's Office in 2006 where he has worked for the entirety of his career. Pedro said that Eyvin worked hard and was very focused on his job. They were living together at the time. Eyvin would come home from work late into the evening, always with files with him, and on Sundays, he would work at his office from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. There were nights when Pedro would come out into the living room at 1 a.m. and find Eyvin asleep in the upright position with documents in his hand and lap. Eyvin was always studying his cases. Pedro would wake Eyvin up, saying, "Come on mijo, go to bed." But Eyvin insisted on staying awake to work on his cases instead of sleeping.

Three years into Eyvin's job at the Public Defender's office, Pedro had a conversation with Eyvin. He told Eyvin, "It's been three years now, and you have gained enough experience there. You need to go out and open your own office and make some money." Eyvin responded by saying, "You guys only think about money. It's not about that. It's about helping people." Since then, Pedro never mentioned to Eyvin that he should get another job.

While at the LA County Public Defender's, Eyvin served as a mentor and trainer for dozens of newly-hired deputy public defenders, some of whom are a part of the coalition to bring him home. His most recent assignment was at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Courthouse handling felony cases. Eyvin has also volunteered his time to advocate for children in the juvenile justice system.

Eyvin is an active member of the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Union - Local 148, where he previously served on the board of directors. He also volunteered his time as a mentor for the UCLA Law Fellows Program that seeks to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to apply to and attend law school at UCLA.

In his free time, Eyvin loves to travel and dances salsa competitively. He is an avid fan of collegiate and professional sports and is a season ticket holder for UCLA football and loves his LA Dodgers. Eyvin was into boxing in high school and college. During his boxing days, Pedro recalls Eyvin coming home with a black eye one day because he got punched in the face. Eyvin told him not to worry about it.

Eyvin is an uncle to Henry's children—a niece and two nephews. When his niece was in high school and taking pre-calculus, Eyvin tutored her in person and over the phone. Eyvin would come over to see Henry's boys and monkey around with them. He would teach the kids how to dance salsa.

Eyvin is quintessentially a generous human being ready to help another human being in need. On a voicemail he left for Luan on March 12, he apologized for not calling her back "yesterday." "My mom's neighbor is having a party for one of her daughters and asked me and my dad to help them set up, so I spent most of the night doing that. I could not call you back. I am sorry. I am planning to fly out (to Colombia) this Friday."

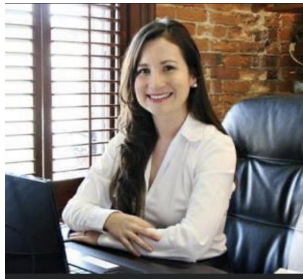
## BRING EYVIN HERNANDEZ HOME COALITION MEET THE DC/CALIFORNIA DELEGATION



**Henry Martinez** is Eyvin Hernandez' younger brother. He is a husband and the father to a daughter and two sons. Henry is an artist and currently works as a tattoo artist. Henry misses Eyvin deeply and agonizes over the horrible predicament that Eyvin is in. Bringing Eyvin home has become a full time job for Henry, with layers of bureaucracy to navigate, media to reach out to, letters and emails to write. It is never-ending work and Henry hopes that it will end soon and life for his family will continue as it was, with Eyvin home with them. Eyvin home for Christmas is what Henry wants more than anything.



**Pedro Martinez** is Eyvin Hernandez' father. Eyvin's family fled El Salvador during the civil war. When Eyvin's family immigrated to the United States, they lived in various places around Los Angeles. Pedro has dedicated his life to providing for his family. Since coming to the United States, Pedro worked as a roofer, gas station attendant, and caterer. He currently helps take care of his grandchildren. These days, Pedro spends much of his time fighting to bring Eyvin home from Venezuela.



**Yvonne Ballesteros** has been a friend of Eyvin for over 20 years, since meeting at UCLA as first-generation undergraduates and attending UCLA School of Law together. Eyvin was also a mentor to Yvonne in law school. Yvonne currently serves as Judge Pro Tem for the Los Angeles Superior Court. She was a federal judicial law clerk and litigator, representing clients in civil rights, class actions, and business litigation matters.



**Luan Huynh** has known Eyvin since the 2002 UCLA School of Law summer orientation, when they immediately became friends. Luan asserts that Eyvin is the best that humanity has to offer, and she looks up to him in the ways she does to Dr. Martin Luther King, James Baldwin, or Walter Mosely. Through the years, Luan and Eyvin stayed in touch, and assisted each other in personal and professional capacities. Eyvin attended Luan's wedding. Luan was in communication with Eyvin before he left for Colombia, and she is committed to bringing Eyvin home. Luan has been a California Senate employee for the last seven years. Previously, she worked at the Child Care Law Center and the

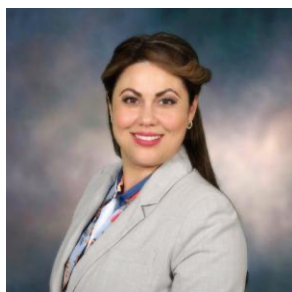
East Bay Community Law Center, in direct services, policy and budget advocacy.



**Drew Havens** has known Eyvin since 2017 where Eyvin trained him as a newly-hired public defender for Los Angeles County, where he currently works as a deputy public defender. Eyvin quickly became a friend and mentor to Drew. Drew is a member of the Bring Our Families Home Campaign and on the Board of the L.A. County Public Defenders Union. The injustice of Eyvin's imprisonment has inspired Drew to work tirelessly toward Eyvin's freedom.



**Shaffy Moeel** has been friends with Eyvin since their first year at UCLA School of Law. They bonded over their shared goals of using their law degrees to pursue justice on behalf of marginalized communities. For Shaffy, Eyvin was a constant calming presence, a great listener and friend. Shaffy is now a founding partner of Moeel Lah Fakhoury LLP, a San Francisco Bay Area litigation boutique where she specializes in high-stakes criminal defense. Shaffy is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and serves on the Board of Directors of both the National Criminal Defense College and Suzerain Capital Defense.



**Vianey Juarez** has been friends with Eyvin since 2007 when they worked at the Los Angeles County Public Defender, where Vianey was a Deputy Public Defender. Vianey considers Eyvin a good friend and positive contributor to our country. Vianey is the principal at the Law Office of Vianey Juarez, where she advocates for people with disabilities and provides pre-law students paid work experiences, in part to help them become better candidates for law school. Vianey also owns Revolution Financial Management, a financial services firm that teaches families about economic principles while also providing accessibility as a broker dealer serving across the United States.



**Parissh Knox** attended law school with Eyvin and they have been friends for 20 years. Parissh is a Deputy City Attorney with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. Parissh has practiced in the areas of municipal law and land use for approximately 16 years. His current practice focuses on advising and defending city departments on compliance with various planning, zoning, land use laws, as well as the California Environmental Quality Act. Parissh is also an adjunct instructor at UCLA where he teaches a graduate urban planning and law course. Over the years, Parissh has been active in the community dealing with issues related to foster youth empowerment, legal aid and community economic development.

# BRING EYVIN HERNANDEZ HOME



**Bring Eyvin Hernandez Home!**

[bringeyvinhome.org](https://bringeyvinhome.org)

Digital Press Packet available on our website. A link to the footage of the press conference will also be provided on the website soon after the press conference.

*The Coalition to Bring Eyvin Hernandez Home is a national coalition of family, friends, and allies that seek the immediate release of wrongfully-detained American Eyvin Hernandez from captivity in Venezuela. Learn more about the Coalition and its members at <https://bringeyvinhome.org>, [@BringEyvinHome](https://twitter.com/BringEyvinHome), and [#BringEyvinHome](https://twitter.com/BringEyvinHome).*

## CONTACT US:

Website: <https://bringeyvinhome.org/>

E-Mail: [bringeyvinhome@gmail.com](mailto:bringeyvinhome@gmail.com)

Media Inquiries Please Contact: (323) 744-1383

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Hashtag: [#BringEyvinHome](https://twitter.com/BringEyvinHome)

# San Francisco Chronicle

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## OPEN FORUM

# L.A. lawyer held as political prisoner

By Khaled A. Beydoun

**I** want to write a book. I want to share stories that connect with real people.”

Those were some of the last texts I got from my friend Eyvin Hernandez before he was taken prisoner in Venezuela on March 31.

For nearly seven months, Eyvin, a tireless public defender in Los Angeles County, has been imprisoned, reduced to a bargaining chip by a rogue government. He is the only known U.S. citizen to officially be designated as “wrongfully detained” in Venezuela by the U.S. Department of State since a major prisoner swap freed seven Americans earlier this month. Eyvin faces up to 16 years in prison in a country notorious for its human rights abuses.

The Biden administration needs to bring him home now.

In March, Eyvin was on vacation in Colombia with a friend when he accompanied her to the Venezuelan border to get her passport stamped. It was there that they came across a group that demanded cash. According to Eyvin's brother, Henry Martinez, once they realized he was American, the group “basically kidnapped him.”

At the time, Eyvin was told the investigation was supposed to take 45 days. Instead, he has been held for months. In a phone call with Henry, Eyvin shared the horrors he is currently enduring. “There are no windows. There's nothing. I mean, we're basically in a garage being held in a cell, a cage,” he said.

It's the same kind of cell that drove other wrongfully detained Americans in Venezuela before him, like Matthew Heath, to attempt suicide. The U.N. has called the country's prisons, “beyond monstrous,” and many detainees, also held on fabricated charges, return to their families as shells of their former selves — if they're lucky enough to get out.

Those who know Eyvin well know him as a quiet leader. He is economical with his words and soft-spoken. But you would always feel his presence. That mild-mannered, cerebral man is the person I first encountered 20 years ago as a fellow law student in Los Angeles. We were from opposite sides of the country, and our parents emigrated from different parts of the world — his from El Salvador, mine from Egypt and Lebanon. But as first-generation college graduates, from kindred working-class backgrounds, we instantly became friends,



Eyvin Hernandez 2018

**Eyvin Hernandez, pictured in Cancun, Mexico, is “wrongfully detained” in Venezuela, according to the State Department.**

sharing a passion for everything from social justice and critical race theory to travel and boxing. During the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks, when Islamophobia descended on campus and the entire world around it, Eyvin would consistently check in on me. “If you need anything let me know,” he would text, usually followed by a joke like, “you're an honorary Latino now,” to console me.

During those days, Eyvin became my brother and new family in a foreign city as we both struggled with navigating the unfamiliar terrain of an elite law school as a child of refugees. Our common origin stories paved professional pathways rooted in helping vulnerable populations: I became an academic and writer, and Eyvin emerged into a tireless public defender helping the most marginalized clients in the heart of his community.

Now, that public defender, who has dedicated his life to indigent clients, is in dire need of our help.

The case of Brittney Griner, the famous basketball player imprisoned in

Russia, brought the plight of political prisoners into the American consciousness. Today, Eyvin's portrait stands alongside Griner's in a mural commemorating a string of political prisoners in Washington, D.C., miles away from the White House — the place that houses the final hope for a man languishing between bars and borrowed time.

“I'm carrying the weight of making these decisions,” Henry told me during a phone call. “Raising visibility could anger the (Venezuelan) government. But what choice do we have? Eyvin knows the risks and wants us to take action.”

Knowing Eyvin, that makes sense. He has always preferred action over words. Someone who fearlessly backpacked through South America alone, wore a Che Guevara tattoo on his arm and joined me on spontaneous trips to Costa Rica and Mexico. In the months since Eyvin's incarceration, Henry has served as his principal mouthpiece on the ground, mobilizing an action group composed of his former classmates, colleagues and friends to raise aware-

ness and lobby the Biden administration. “Bring Eyvin Home” has been morphed into hashtags and T-shirts, seeking to enlist public support and push elected officials — including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Gov. Gavin Newsom — to prioritize his case.

Eyvin's presence in my life has been more prominent despite his physical absence. Nightmares of my own family members locked away in Lebanese and Egyptian prisons by authoritarian actors of a different breed haunt me, while stories of captives being tortured and driven to suicide reel across my mind as I scroll through old texts from him.

Eyvin's words, whether spoken or written, always carried great weight. I hope the world, one day, will be able to read his words and the unwritten book that awaits his freedom.

*Khaled A. Beydoun is an author, an associate professor of law and the associate director of civil rights and social justice at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University.*





United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to summarize facts known by or reported to the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., concerning the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's wrongful detention of U.S. citizen Eyvin Hernandez.

Pursuant to the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-taking Accountability Act, Section 302(c) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, the U.S. Department of State has determined the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has wrongfully detained U.S. citizen Eyvin Hernandez. He was arrested on March 31, 2022, and has been wrongfully detained in Venezuela since that time. He is currently held in the Dirección General de Contrainteligencia Militar (DGCIM) prison in Caracas, Venezuela. Since his arrest, Mr. Hernandez has been unable to travel, freely communicate, or complete documentation necessary to manage his personal affairs. The U.S. Department of State has been engaged on Mr. Hernandez's case throughout and remains committed to assuring his welfare and securing his release.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Harkins in the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at 202-485-2128 or by email at [HarkinsJ@State.gov](mailto:HarkinsJ@State.gov).

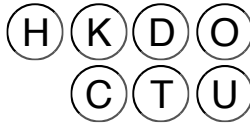
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.D. Carstens".

Ambassador Roger D. Carstens  
Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs

# Venezuela Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory Venezuela - Level 4: Do  
October 5, 2022  
Not Travel



***Last Update: Reissued with updates to health information.***

Do not travel to Venezuela due to **crime, civil unrest, poor health infrastructure, kidnapping, and the arrest and detention of U.S. citizens without due process or fair trial guarantees.**

Exercise increased caution in Venezuela due to **terrorism and wrongful detentions.**

**Country Summary:** On March 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of State announced the withdrawal of diplomatic personnel from U.S. Embassy Caracas. All consular services, routine and emergency, remain suspended until further notice. The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Venezuela. U.S. citizens in Venezuela who require consular services should try to leave the country as soon and as safely possible and contact a U.S. embassy or consulate in another country.

Violent crimes, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, and carjacking, are common. Political rallies and demonstrations occur, often with little notice. Demonstrations typically elicit a strong police and security force response that includes the use of tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets against participants and occasionally devolve into looting and vandalism. 2020 and 2021 [United Nations Human Rights Council Fact-Finding Mission](#) reports documented human rights abuses attributed to the Maduro regime, including torture, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, and detentions

without due process and/or fair trial guarantees or as a pretext for an illegitimate purpose. Shortages of gasoline, food, electricity, water, medicine, and medical supplies continue throughout much of Venezuela. The CDC issued a [Level 3 'Avoid Nonessential Travel'](#) notice on September 30, 2020, due to inadequate healthcare and the breakdown of the medical infrastructure in Venezuela.

The Department has determined that at least one U.S. national is wrongfully detained by the Venezuelan government.

Regime-aligned security forces have detained U.S. citizens for long periods. The Maduro regime does not notify the U.S. government of the detention of U.S. citizens and the U.S. government is not granted access to those U.S. citizens.

Colombian terrorist groups, such as the National Liberation Army (ELN), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP), and Segunda Marquetalia, operate in Venezuela's border areas with Colombia, Brazil, and Guyana.

Due to risks to civil aviation operating within or in the vicinity of Venezuela, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and/or a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR). For more information, U.S. citizens should consult the [Federal Aviation Administration's Prohibitions, Restrictions and Notices](#). This flight prohibition can make emergency medical evacuation flights between the United States and Venezuela difficult or impractical.

Read the [country information page](#) for additional information on travel to Venezuela.

If you decide to travel to Venezuela:

- Read the [Department of State's COVID-19 page](#) before planning any international travel, and read the [Venezuela Affairs Unit's webpage](#) for country-specific COVID-19 information.
- Visit our website for [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by international visitors.
- Do not travel between cities after dark.
- Avoid travel between Simón Bolívar International Airport and Caracas at night.
- Do not take unregulated taxis from Simón Bolívar International Airport, and avoid ATMs in this area.
- Avoid demonstrations.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and be prepared to adjust your plans.
- Make contingency plans to leave the country.
- Have evacuation plans that do not rely on U.S. government assistance.
- Keep travel documents up to date and easily accessible.
- Develop a communication plan with family and/or your employer or host organization.
- Draft a will and designate appropriate insurance beneficiaries and/or power of attorney.
- Consider hiring a professional security organization.
- Establish a “proof of life” protocol with your

loved ones, so that if you are taken hostage, your loved ones know specific questions (and answers) to ask the hostage-takers to be sure that you are alive (and to rule out a hoax).

- Leave DNA samples with your medical provider.
- Bring a sufficient supply of over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Country Security Report](#) for Venezuela.
- Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).
- Be prepared for an indefinite stay as there are limited international flights into or out of Venezuela and the Maduro regime has, at times, blocked U.S. persons' access to departing flights.
- Be prepared for the high risk of indefinite arbitrary detention on specious charges without consular access.
- Visit the CDC page for the latest [Travel Health Information](#) related to your travel.



**CELIA ZAVALA**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

SHEILA KUEHL

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

October 5, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We are writing to respectfully express our support for efforts to obtain the release of Mr. Eyvin Hernandez, who was detained by authorities in Venezuela on March 31, 2022. Our Board approved a motion on October 4, 2022, to seek your assistance in urgently investigating this matter and doing all that is necessary to ensure the well-being of Mr. Hernandez.

Born in 1978, Eyvin Hernandez migrated to Los Angeles as a toddler with his parents, who were fleeing civil war in El Salvador. Mr. Hernandez obtained his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has dedicated his 16-year career to public service as a Deputy Public Defender at the Law Offices of the Los Angeles County Public Defender.

According to news reports, on March 31, 2022, while on vacation in Colombia, Mr. Hernandez accompanied a Venezuelan friend to the Colombia/Venezuela border for what was supposed to be a short trip for the friend to complete an administrative proceeding. However, an encounter with Venezuelan officials resulted in Mr. Hernandez being turned into the military counterintelligence agency of Venezuela. Mr. Hernandez remains detained in a maximum-security prison in Caracas, Venezuela.

According to published reports, Mr. Hernandez faces criminal association and conspiracy charges, which he denies. These charges are punishable by up to 16 years in prison. The United Nations has noted the lack of independence for Venezuelan judges and expressed concerns over the facility where Mr. Hernandez is being held. Mr. Hernandez was not granted his first hearing until August 29, 2022, almost five months after his detention.


The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
October 5, 2022  
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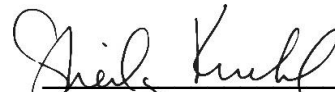
Given the urgent nature of Mr. Hernandez's situation, this Board supports Mr. Hernandez's family's efforts to obtain his release. Therefore, we respectfully request your support to investigate this situation and do all that is necessary to ensure the release and well-being of Mr. Hernandez.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
Chair of the Board  
Supervisor, Second District

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HILDA L. SOLIS  
Supervisor, First District

  
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SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District

  
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JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District

  
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KATHRYN BARGER  
Supervisor, Fifth District



**CELIA ZAVALA**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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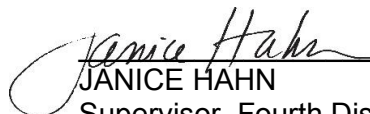
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Chair of the Board  
Supervisor, Second District

  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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KATHRYN BARGER  
Supervisor, Fifth District



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October 5, 2022

The Honorable Karen Bass  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2021 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bass:

We are writing to respectfully express our support for efforts to obtain the release of Mr. Eyvin Hernandez, who was detained by authorities in Venezuela on March 31, 2022. Our Board approved a motion on October 4, 2022, to seek your assistance in urgently investigating this matter and doing all that is necessary to ensure the well-being of Mr. Hernandez.

Born in 1978, Eyvin Hernandez migrated to Los Angeles as a toddler with his parents, who were fleeing civil war in El Salvador. Mr. Hernandez obtained his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has dedicated his 16-year career to public service as a Deputy Public Defender at the Law Offices of the Los Angeles County Public Defender.

According to news reports, on March 31, 2022, while on vacation in Colombia, Mr. Hernandez accompanied a Venezuelan friend to the Colombia/Venezuela border for what was supposed to be a short trip for the friend to complete an administrative proceeding. However, an encounter with Venezuelan officials resulted in Mr. Hernandez being turned into the military counterintelligence agency of Venezuela. Mr. Hernandez remains detained in a maximum-security prison in Caracas, Venezuela.

According to published reports, Mr. Hernandez faces criminal association and conspiracy charges, which he denies. These charges are punishable by up to 16 years in prison. The United Nations has noted the lack of independence for Venezuelan judges and expressed concerns over the facility where Mr. Hernandez is being held. Mr. Hernandez was not granted his first hearing until August 29, 2022, almost five months after his detention.


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October 5, 2022  
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Given the urgent nature of Mr. Hernandez's situation, this Board supports Mr. Hernandez's family's efforts to obtain his release. Therefore, we respectfully request your support to investigate this situation and do all that is necessary to ensure the release and well-being of Mr. Hernandez.

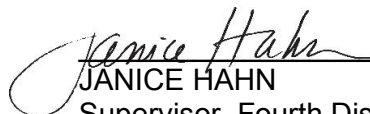
Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
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HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
Chair of the Board  
Supervisor, Second District

  
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HILDA L. SOLIS  
Supervisor, First District

  
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SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District

  
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JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District

  
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KATHRYN BARGER  
Supervisor, Fifth District