

1021 O STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4020



# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**CAROLINE MENJIVAR**  
TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT

January 11, 2023

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As a member of the California State Senate, with a district in Los Angeles County, I respectfully urge you to work quickly and resolutely to bring home Eyvin Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez is a public defender and resident of Los Angeles, and he has been wrongfully detained in Venezuela since March 2022.

Mr. Hernandez fled the civil war in El Salvador with his family, and he came to Los Angeles as a toddler. My own parents left El Salvador during that time, so I know how much his family had to fight to bring him here and create a new home in the United States. Mr. Hernandez did not take his parents' sacrifices for granted. He worked hard, attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where he obtained his law degree, and he dedicated his life to public service as a Deputy Public Defender at the Law Offices of the Los Angeles County Public Defender.

The United Nations and U.S. agencies have expressed concerns over human rights violations in the maximum-security prison where Mr. Hernandez is being held, including the use of torture by government agents. While I am grateful the case has been assigned to the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Ambassador Roger Carstens, the conditions under which Mr. Hernandez is being held increases the urgency of his release. As a social worker, I know the sooner we can bring him home, the more effective health care providers can be in supporting his recovery and helping him reclaim his sense of safety and well-being.

I join other leaders and Mr. Hernandez's family in asking you to do what is necessary to expedite his return to Los Angeles. Thank you for your attention and for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "cg" followed by a stylized flourish.

CAROLINE MENJIVAR, Senator  
California's 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District