



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2022

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

Dear President Biden,

As Members of the U.S. Congress, and the Mayor of Los Angeles, we urge you to bring home Eyvin Hernandez, a public defender in the County of Los Angeles, who has been wrongfully detained in Venezuela since March 2022.

Mr. Hernandez is a U.S. citizen who was traveling in Colombia. State Department investigations have shown that he had no intention of entering Venezuela. According to reports, he encountered armed masked men while accompanying a friend to a border town. He was accused of being a spy, hooded, hand-cuffed and forcefully taken into Venezuela where he is currently held at the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence prison. In a letter dated November 1, 2022, Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA) Roger Carstens issued a determination that Eyvin Hernandez has been unlawfully detained. We appreciate that, pursuant to the law, the Hernandez family is being provided with important services and counseling.

Expeditious action is needed. The charges against Mr. Hernandez include criminal association and conspiracy, which together can result in a sentence of up to 16 years. The judicial system in Venezuela is highly compromised, and any trial against Mr. Hernandez is unlikely to produce a fair result. A September 2022 report from the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (FFMV) of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that the “human rights violations by State intelligence agencies, orchestrated at the highest political levels, have taken place in a climate of almost complete impunity.” The same report states that the state intelligence agency, known as SEBIN, “has tortured or otherwise ill-treated detainees - including opposition politicians, journalists, protesters, and human rights defenders...”

As elected members of the United States Congress, and the Mayor of Los Angeles, we are urging that you take the necessary steps to bring Mr. Hernandez home to his family, friends, and community as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Norma J Torres

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Karen Bass

Karen Bass
Mayor of Los Angeles

Judy Chu

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Darren Soto

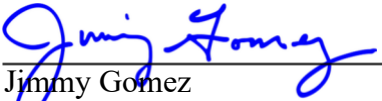
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator
Chairman, Subcommittee on
State Department and U.S.
Agency for International
Development (USAID)
Management, International
Operations, and Bilateral
International Development



André Carson
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress