

PRESS RELEASE
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Representatives Kamlager-Dove, Kim, Castro, Barragan Introduce Resolution Calling for the Release Eyvin Hernandez

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37) led Representatives Young Kim (CA-40), Joaquin Castro (TX-20), and Nanette Barragan (CA-44) in introducing a [resolution](#) calling for the immediate release of her constituent, Eyvin Hernandez, who is being wrongfully detained in Venezuela. Eyvin was captured along the Colombia-Venezuela border by armed masked men, who transferred him to Venezuela upon discovering that he is a U.S. Citizen. He has been held in prison there since his capture on March 31, 2022.

Eyvin Hernandez is a University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law alumnus and a dedicated public servant. He has worked for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office for 16 years, since graduating from law school in 2005. In that time, Eyvin has tirelessly and selflessly served the people of his community.

In October 2022, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA) secured the release of seven U.S Citizens and Permanent Residents from their captivity in Venezuela. However, the U.S. Government left Eyvin behind, devastating his family and friends. At that point, Eyvin was six months into his captivity. Last month – 14 months into his captivity – SPEHA went to Caracas again to seek Eyvin's release, but failed once more to bring him home.

“My family is in a state of despair, as negotiations seem to have stalled since the last visit. Our conversations with the Biden Administration indicate that there is presently no clear plan to achieve the results that should have been achieved in October 2022,” said Henry Martinez, Eyvin's brother, who is leading the efforts of the Bring Eyvin Home Coalition. “As a result of the Administration's failure in October, Eyvin has sat in a dungeon, denied his freedom for another nine months. Goodness knows how much longer this fiasco will continue. Other Americans are also imprisoned and wrongfully detained in Caracas. They are suffering from mental health challenges that must be treated and alleviated, especially because their captivity exacerbates their conditions.”

“The Bring Eyvin Home Coalition is determined to do whatever it takes to bring Eyvin home, and we applaud and appreciate Representatives Kamlager-Dove, Kim, Castro and Barragan who are leading advocacy efforts to obtain Eyvin’s release. This is a bi-partisan effort just like the [resolution from the California Assembly](#), which was supported by all Republicans and Democrats. We welcome and ask all congressional members for their support,” said Drew Havens, an LA County Public Defender who was trained by Eyvin.

“We are grateful to Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove, and the other congressional leaders, for introducing a resolution seeking my son’s immediate release,” said Pedro Martinez, Eyvin’s father. “Every day without Eyvin is a day too many. Eyvin and I – we are both suffering. I have experienced so much sadness, fear, worry, and disappointment in the last 15 months. I keep pleading for people to help my son. I have been begging to meet with President Biden. But there has been nothing from him. Nada. How many times can a father’s heart be broken? This is taking its toll on my family. ”

“We hope that President Biden heeds the call of the resolution introduced today by Congresswoman Kalmager-Dove and understands the sense of urgency we feel to bring Eyvin home,” said Gladdys Uribe, an attorney in Los Angeles and former UCLA law school classmate of Eyvin’s. “We want President Biden to meet with our coalition so that we can tell him personally what an incredible person Eyvin is and how much the country will be served by bringing him home immediately.”

“Eyvin Hernandez represents the best of our District. He has touched countless lives through his work as a public defender, mentorship of aspiring law students, volunteer work as a juvenile justice advocate, and leadership of his local union. The positive impact he has made in our community cannot be overstated. His impact has galvanized a coalition of his loved ones to advocate on his behalf and ensure he is not forgotten,” said Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove.

“I stand in solidarity with Eyvin and the Los Angeles County community and call on the Administration to do whatever is required to secure Eyvin’s freedom,” continued Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove. “Every day that passes without Eyvin is pain that his loved ones should have never had to endure. I will always keep fighting to bring Eyvin home.”

“Eyvin has been wrongfully detained by the Venezuelan regime for over a year. It’s past time to bring Eyvin home,” said Congresswoman Kim, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific. “This resolution will send a unified message from Congress for our support for Eyvin and his family as we call on the Biden Administration to act. I am proud to join Rep. Kamlager-Dove in this bipartisan effort.”

“Eyvin Hernandez’s continued wrongful detention in Venezuela is unacceptable and it’s time for him to come home,” said Congresswoman Barragán, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. “Mr. Hernandez had no intention of entering Venezuela, and the charges brought against him have been shown to be completely false. We made clear to President Biden in December that

the judicial system in Venezuela is highly compromised, and any trial against Eyvin is unlikely to be carried out in a just manner or produce a fair result. His family, friends, and colleagues have been waiting anxiously for over a year for his safe return. Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove and I are proud to lead the call for the immediate release of our fellow Angeleno, Eyvin Hernandez, and encourage President Biden and his Administration to use all available means to quickly do so.”

Rep. Kamlager-Dove’s press release about the resolution’s introduction can be found [here](#).

To access pictures or learn more about Eyvin Hernandez and the Bring Eyvin Home Coalition, please visit <https://bringeyvinhome.org>. For updates, follow @bringeyvinhome on Instagram, Facebook, & Twitter.

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