Nicolás Maduro
Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Edificio Palacio de Miraflores
Avenida Urdaneta
Caracas

VENEZUELA

Datum

**Nine individuals unfairly detained**

Dear Mr President,

In the last decade, Amnesty International has documented the use of arbitrary detentions for political reasons as part of a policy of repression. The arbitrary detention of the nine individuals stated below not only shows the extent of this policy, but also demonstrates the diverse range of people who are being targeted; from teachers to trade unionists, from human rights defenders to journalists.

We demand the immediately and unconditionally release of the businesswoman **Emirlendris Benítez** (detained in August 2018), the couple **María Auxiliadora Delgado and Juan Carlos Marrufo** (detained in March 2019), journalist and activist **Roland Carreño** (detained in October 2020), former trade unionist **Guillermo Zárraga** (detained in November 2020), engineer **Darío Estrada** (detained in December 2020), teacher and trade unionist **Robert Franco** (detained in December 2020), human rights defender **Javier Tarazona** (detained in July 2021), and activist and human rights defender **Gabriel Blanco** (detained in July 2022).

Venezuelan civil society organizations estimate that about 300 people are currently detained for political reasons in Venezuela. According to Foro Penal, there have been more than 15,700 politically motivated arbitrary detentions in Venezuela since 2014.

In face of the above, I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release these nine people who are unfairly imprisoned in Venezuela.

Sincerely,