



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Venezuela

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*



Venezuelan National Police members stand guard outside the National Assembly on 7 January 2020 in Caracas – Cristian HERNANDEZ/AFP

VEN-10 – Biagio Pilieri
VEN-11 – José Sánchez Montiel
VEN-12 – Hernán Claret Alemán
VEN-13 – Richard Blanco
VEN-16 – Julio Borges
VEN-19 – Nora Bracho (Ms.)
VEN-20 – Ismael García
VEN-22 – Williams Dávila
VEN-24 – Nirma Guarulla (Ms.)
VEN-25 – Julio Ygarza
VEN-26 – Romel Guzamana
VEN-27 – Rosmit Mantilla
VEN-28 – Renzo Prieto
VEN-29 – Gilberto Sojo
VEN-30 – Gilber Caro
VEN-31 – Luis Florido
VEN-32 – Eudoro González
VEN-33 – Jorge Millán
VEN-34 – Armando Armas
VEN-35 – Américo De Grazia
VEN-36 – Luis Padilla
VEN-37 – José Regnault
VEN-38 – Dennis Fernández (Ms.)
VEN-39 – Olivia Lozano (Ms.)
VEN-40 – Delsa Solórzano (Ms.)
VEN-41 – Robert Alcalá
VEN-42 – Gaby Arellano (Ms.)
VEN-43 – Carlos Bastardo
VEN-44 – Marialbert Barrios (Ms.)
VEN-45 – Amelia Belisario (Ms.)
VEN-46 – Marco Bozo

VEN-85 – Franco Casella
VEN-86 – Edgar Zambrano
VEN-87 – Juan Pablo García
VEN-88 – Cesar Cadenas
VEN-89 – Ramón Flores Carrillo
VEN-91 – María Beatriz Martínez (Ms.)
VEN-92 – María C. Mulino de Saavedra (Ms.)
VEN-93 – José Trujillo
VEN-94 – Marianela Fernández (Ms.)
VEN-95 – Juan Pablo Guanipa
VEN-96 – Luis Silva
VEN-97 – Eliezer Sirit
VEN-98 – Rosa Petit (Ms.)
VEN-99 – Alfonso Marquina
VEN-100 – Rachid Yasbek
VEN-101 – Oneida Guaípe (Ms.)
VEN-102 – Jony Rahal
VEN-103 – Ylidio Abreu
VEN-104 – Emilio Fajardo
VEN-106 – Angel Alvarez
VEN-108 – Gilmar Marquez
VEN-109 – José Simón Calzadilla
VEN-110 – José Gregorio Graterol
VEN-111 – José Gregorio Hernández
VEN-112 – Mauligmer Baloa (Ms.)
VEN-113 – Arnoldo Benítez
VEN-114 – Alexis Paparoni
VEN-115 – Adriana Pichardo (Ms.)
VEN-116 – Teodoro Campos
VEN-117 – Milagros Sánchez Eulate (Ms.)
VEN-118 – Dennicis Pazos

VEN-48 – Yanet Fermin (Ms.)	VEN-119 – Karim Vera (Ms.)
VEN-49 – Dinorah Figuera (Ms.)	VEN-120 – Ramón López
VEN-50 – Winston Flores	VEN-121 – Freddy Superlano
VEN-51 – Omar González	VEN-122 – Sandra Flores-Garzón (Ms.)
VEN-52 – Stalin González	VEN-123 – Armando López
VEN-53 – Juan Guaidó	VEN-124 – Elimar Díaz (Ms.)
VEN-54 – Tomás Guanipa	VEN-125 – Yajaira Forero (Ms.)
VEN-55 – José Guerra	VEN-126 – Maribel Guedez (Ms.)
VEN-56 – Freddy Guevara	VEN-127 – Karin Salanova (Ms.)
VEN-57 – Rafael Guzmán	VEN-128 – Antonio Geara
VEN-58 – María G. Hernández (Ms.)	VEN-129 – Joaquín Aguilar
VEN-59 – Piero Maroun	VEN-130 – Juan Carlos Velasco
VEN-60 – Juan A. Mejía	VEN-131 – Carmen María Sivoli (Ms.)
VEN-61 – Julio Montoya	VEN-132 – Milagros Paz (Ms.)
VEN-62 – José M. Olivares	VEN-133 – Jesus Yanez
VEN-63 – Carlos Paparoni	VEN-134 – Desiree Barboza (Ms.)
VEN-64 – Miguel Pizarro	VEN-135 – Sonia A. Medina G. (Ms.)
VEN-65 – Henry Ramos Allup	VEN-136 – Héctor Vargas
VEN-66 – Juan Requesens	VEN-137 – Carlos A. Lozano Parra
VEN-67 – Luis E. Rondón	VEN-138 – Luis Stefanelli
VEN-68 – Bolivia Suárez (Ms.)	VEN-139 – William Barrientos
VEN-69 – Carlos Valero	VEN-140 – Antonio Aranguren
VEN-70 – Milagro Valero (Ms.)	VEN-141 – Ana Salas (Ms.)
VEN-71 – German Ferrer	VEN-142 – Ismael León
VEN-72 – Adriana d'Elia (Ms.)	VEN-143 – Julio César Reyes
VEN-73 – Luis Lippa	VEN-144 – Ángel Torres
VEN-74 – Carlos Berrizbeitia	VEN-145 – Tamara Adrián (Ms.)
VEN-75 – Manuela Bolívar (Ms.)	VEN-146 – Deyalitza Aray (Ms.)
VEN-76 – Sergio Vergara	VEN-147 – Yolanda Tortolero (Ms.)
VEN-78 – Oscar Ronderos	VEN-148 – Carlos Prosperi
VEN-79 – Mariela Magallanes (Ms.)	VEN-149 – Addy Valero (Ms.)
VEN-80 – Héctor Cordero	VEN-150 – Zandra Castillo (Ms.)
VEN-81 – José Mendoza	VEN-151 – Marco Aurelio Quiñones
VEN-82 – Angel Caridad	VEN-152 – Carlos Andrés González
VEN-83 – Larissa González (Ms.)	VEN-153 – Carlos Michelangeli
VEN-84 – Fernando Orozco	VEN-154 – César Alonso

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Excessive delays
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Impunity
- ✓ Other violations: right to privacy

A. Summary of the case¹

The case concerns credible and serious allegations of human rights violations affecting 134 parliamentarians from the coalition of the *Mesa de la Unidad Democrática* (Democratic Unity Roundtable – MUD), against the backdrop of continuous efforts by Venezuela’s executive and judicial authorities to undermine the functioning of the National Assembly elected in 2015. The MUD is opposed to President Nicolas Maduro’s government and obtained a majority of seats in the National Assembly in the parliamentary elections of 6 December 2015.

According to the complainant, the parliamentarians elected in 2015 have been subject to the following:

Almost all parliamentarians listed in the present case have been attacked or otherwise intimidated with impunity by law enforcement officers and/or pro-government officials and supporters during demonstrations, inside parliament and/or at their homes. At least 11 National Assembly members were arrested and released later, reportedly due to politically motivated legal proceedings against them. All were detained without due respect for the constitutional provisions on parliamentary immunity. There are also serious concerns regarding respect for due process and their treatment in detention. People associated with opposition parliamentarians have also been detained and harassed. One parliamentarian is currently under house arrest, 36 are in exile, six have recently returned to Venezuela, 23 are engaged in court proceedings, and six have been barred from holding public office. The passports of at least 13 members of parliament have been confiscated, not been renewed, or cancelled by the authorities, reportedly as a way to exert pressure and to prevent them from travelling abroad to report what is happening in Venezuela.

On 31 August 2020, President Nicolas Maduro pardoned 110 members of the political opposition who had been accused of committing criminal acts. The decision meant the closure of ongoing criminal proceedings against 26 parliamentarians listed in the present case and the release of four of them.

Fresh parliamentary elections took place on 6 December 2020. A new legislative body was formally inaugurated on 5 January 2021. The National Assembly elected in 2015, however, decided to continue functioning through a delegated committee “until free, fair and verifiable presidential and parliamentary elections have been held in 2021, or until an exceptional political event occurs in 2021, or even for an additional annual parliamentary term after 5 January 2021”. In December 2021, the 2015 National Assembly decided to renew its parliamentary mandate and to continue its work, led by Mr. Juan Guaidó.

A joint mission, composed of members of both the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) and the IPU Executive Committee, went to Venezuela from 23 to 27 August 2021. The delegation was able to meet with a large variety of state authorities and stakeholders as well as with more than 60 of the 134 parliamentarians elected in 2015 with cases under examination by the CHRP, thereby obtaining first-hand information on their individual situations.

In January and February 2022, the complainant stated that acts of persecution, harassment and intimidation, including the possible opening of new court proceedings, against opposition parliamentarians elected in 2015 have increased, and that these members of parliament all fear for their freedom and physical integrity.

Case VEN-COLL-06

Venezuela: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: 134 opposition members of parliament (93 men and 41 women)

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint: March 2017

Recent IPU decision: November 2021

IPU mission: August 2021

Recent Committee hearings: Hearings with members of the governing and opposition parties at the 141st IPU Assembly (October 2019)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the National Assembly 2020 (November 2021)
- Communication from the complainant: March 2022
- Communications to the Speakers of the National Assembly of 2015 and 2022 (February 2022)
- Communication to the complainant: January 2022

¹ For the purposes of this decision, the term “opposition” relates to members of parliament from political groups or parties that have limited decision-making power and are opposed to the ruling power.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that President Maduro's government has announced the imminent resumption of dialogue with representatives of the opposition; *reaffirms* in this regard that the issues involved are part of the broader political crisis in Venezuela, which can be resolved through inclusive political dialogue and by the Venezuelans themselves; *firmly hopes* that the talks will be resumed soon and will allow the various national stakeholders to work together to bring about a new social pact through participatory and non-violent means, without foreign interference and in compliance with the State's international human rights commitments; *reaffirms* the IPU's readiness to provide support for any effort to strengthen democracy in Venezuela; and *calls on* the relevant authorities to provide further information on how best to provide such assistance;
2. *Reaffirms* that the harassment of opposition parliamentarians elected in 2015 is a direct consequence of the prominent role they played as outspoken opponents of President Maduro's government and as members of the opposition-led National Assembly elected in 2015; *urges* the authorities, once again, to put an immediate end to all forms of persecution against the opposition parliamentarians elected in 2015, to ensure that all relevant state authorities respect their human rights, and to thoroughly investigate and establish accountability for reported violations of their rights; and *calls on* the Venezuelan authorities to provide official information on any relevant new developments in this regard and on any steps taken to this end;
3. *Remains deeply concerned* about the findings of the successive mission reports of the United Nations Human Rights Council Independent International Fact-Finding mission on Venezuela, which give further weight to the accusations of political repression and the responsibility of the State at the highest level, such accusations being further reinforced by the opening of an investigation into the situation in Venezuela by the International Criminal Court; and *expresses the firm hope*, once again, that the State of Venezuela, with the support of the international community, will be able to address the violations and crimes documented in these reports;
4. *Reiterates* its calls on all IPU Member Parliaments, IPU permanent observers and relevant human rights organizations to take concrete actions, within their respective mandates, in support of the urgent resolution of the individual cases at hand and the political crisis in Venezuela in a manner consistent with democratic and human rights values;
5. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant Venezuelan institutions, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
6. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.