

URGENT ACTION

REFUGEES IN PERU RISK MASS EXPULSIONS

Venezuelan nationals in Peru no longer can apply for temporary protection, which allowed refugees to have a regular migratory status. On November 14, the Peruvian government issued the legislative decree 1582 dictating the expulsion of all foreigners with an irregular migratory status, putting countless Venezuelans who were unable to apply for temporary protection before the November 10 deadline at risk. The 24-hour process established for carrying out expulsions is incompatible with due process guarantees, the prohibition of non-refoulement, and international obligations of protection of Venezuelan nationals. We call on the Peruvian government to immediately repeal this decree.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 106.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Mr. Alberto Otárola Peñaranda
Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros
Jirón Carabaya, Cuadra 1,
Cercado de Lima, Perú
E-mail: lotarola@pcm.gob.pe
Twitter: [@AlbertoOtarolaP](https://twitter.com/AlbertoOtarolaP)

Peruvian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Gustavo Adolfo Meza-Cuadra Velásquez
1700 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC
20036
Phone: (202) 833-9860
Email: webadmin@embassyofperu.us
Salutation: His Excellency Mr.

Dear Mr. Alberto Otárola Peñaranda,

I am deeply concerned by the recent decree issued by the Peruvian government that puts Venezuelan refugees in Peru at grave risk. The recent deadline to apply for temporary protection was too tight for many Venezuelans to apply for regular migratory status and now they are left totally unprotected and facing unlawful expulsions.

Peruvian authorities cannot ignore its obligations under international refugee and human rights law to protect those fleeing massive human rights violations in Venezuela. Peru must guarantee the right to request recognition of refugee status for all Venezuelans; implement complementary and temporary protection measures that are fully accessible and that protect basic rights; and crucially, ensure strict compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.

Legislative Decree num. 1582 goes against international law, including ensuring the right to due process guarantees as a crucial barrier to protect refugees from refoulement. This decree seems to establish unlawful expulsions as a rule. We call on you to immediately repeal Decree 1582 and to fully comply with Peru's international obligations to protect Venezuelan nationals in the country.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By August 2023, over 25% of the population of Venezuela (more than 7.71 million Venezuelans) has fled massive human rights violations and 1.4 million more Venezuelans have fled since May 2022. More than 80% of these people are in Latin America and the Caribbean. Specifically, 70% are in Colombia (2.9 million), Peru (1.5 million), Ecuador (475,000), and Chile (444,000). Outside of Latin America and the Caribbean, the US ranks third, with 545,000 Venezuelan nationals in its territory (September 2021 figure). This figure is grossly outdated, as Venezuelans continue to be one of the top nationalities arriving to the US daily.

Amnesty International believes that Venezuelan nationals fleeing the country need international protection and should be formally recognized as refugees, given the threat to their lives, their safety, and their freedom because of human rights violations in Venezuela. Consequently, they cannot be returned to Venezuela or to places where their lives are at risk. However, a growing number of countries, including the US, have resumed deportation flights to Venezuela, violating international human rights and refugee law.

This crisis has impacted Venezuelan women and girls disproportionately. In 2022, Amnesty International published “Unprotected: Gender-based violence against Venezuelan refugee women in Colombia and Peru”, revealing how the lack of access to international protection and migratory regularization, and obstacles in accessing health and justice services and shelters, showed that Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia breached their obligations to prevent and remedy gender-based violence against Venezuelan refugee women. In a September 2023 report, “Regularization and protection: International obligations for the protection of Venezuelan nationals”, Amnesty International concluded that Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile do not comply with their obligations to protect Venezuelans.

The Peruvian state has repeatedly taken actions that put Venezuelan refugees at risk. In 2020, Amnesty International issued an urgent action given the risk of forced evictions Venezuelan nationals and others faced during the Covid pandemic, when many Venezuelan refugees were in a situation of heightened vulnerability. In November 2021, Amnesty International issued another urgent action to demand Peruvian authorities grant emergency humanitarian status to Venezuelan children in Peru, after Peruvian authorities unduly denied them such status. Both actions were eventually successful. In 2023, Amnesty International issued an open letter to the presidents of Peru and Chile to express its deep concern for the critical situation faced by people in need of international protection at the border between Chile and Peru, because of the measures implemented by their respective governments, including the deployment of military forces and the declaration of a state of emergency.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: January 9, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Venezuelan refugees (they/them)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr46/7377/2023/en/>