

URGENT ACTION

STOP WITHHOLDING DETAINEES' MEDICAL CARE

On February 19, 2024, Juan Carlos Marrufo was unexpectedly transferred to Venezuelan prison Rodeo I, almost three years into his politically motivated arbitrary detention. While his health deteriorates, the authorities deny him testing and treatment. María Auxiliadora Delgado, married to Juan Carlos and arbitrarily detained since March 19, 2019, requires immediate medical tests. Emirlendris Benitez, arbitrarily arrested in August 2018, suffers ailments resulting from the torture she was subjected to. She requires immediate surgery to treat her conditions. We call on president Nicolás Maduro to ensure their release and, while in custody, ensure they receive medical attention immediately.

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 **Third Urgent Action 96.23**. 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.

President Nicolas Maduro
Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela,
Edificio Palacio de Miraflores,
Avenida Urdaneta,
Caracas, Venezuela
Twitter: [@NicolasMaduro](#)

Permanent Mission of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
His Excellency Mr. Héctor Constant Rosales
335 East 46th Street
New York, NY 10017
Email: misionvene@venezuelaonu.gob.ve

Dear Mr. Nicolas Maduro,

The authorities responsible for the life and safety of all detainees in Venezuela must immediately stop withholding medical care. The neglect of the health of **Emirlendris Benítez, Juan Carlos Marrufo,** and **María Auxiliadora Delgado** is unacceptable and violates their human rights. All three need urgent medical attention, which authorities under your command must provide immediately.

Emirlendris Benítez is a mother, sister, and businessowner who should have never been detained. She is victim of arbitrary detention, torture, gender-based violence, discrimination, unfair trial, and inhumane prison conditions. She requires urgent surgery to treat potentially life-threatening health conditions. María Auxiliadora Delgado and Juan Carlos Marrufo have been unfairly detained for approximately three years. Both require urgent medical tests to treat health conditions that put their safety at risk. They were first arrested on March 19, 2019, and they are victims of arbitrary detentions, inhumane detention conditions, and have been deprived of plans of growing their family.

Emirlendris Benítez, Juan Carlos Marrufo, and María Auxiliadora Delgado should be immediately and unconditionally released. While they remain in custody of the state, you must urgently grant them access to trusted and adequate medical care, including urgent testing and treatment.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Emirlendris Benitez is a Venezuelan mother, sister, and tradeswomen. On August 5, 2018, Emirlendris was arbitrarily detained on fabricated grounds. Authorities falsely linked her to acts of violence committed against high profile political leaders in Venezuela; an accusation for which there is no evidence and which she has consistently stated that she had no part in. In custody, she was subjected to torture while pregnant. A few weeks after her arrest, she was forcibly transferred to a medical facility and her pregnancy was terminated without her knowledge or consent. The torture she was subjected to left her needing the long-term use of a wheelchair for mobility. In 2022, she was sentenced to a 30-year prison sentence by a partial and politically motivated court. The draconian sentence against her should be revoked and she must be immediately released.

Juan Carlos Marrufo and **María Auxiliadora Delgado** were first arrested on March 19, 2019. They are a married couple, holding dual Spanish and Italian nationalities, respectively. They had decided to undergo an in vitro fertilization treatment when they were arrested. Their only connection to criminal offenses seems to be limited to María Auxiliadora being the sister of a retired military officer with alleged ties to an attack on Nicolás Maduro. Not only are they victims of arbitrary detentions, but they have also been deprived of their plans of growing their family. While María Auxiliadora remains in custody at a detention center in Boleíta, Caracas, Juan Carlos was unexpectedly transferred to the prison referred to as Rodeo I. They require immediate medical tests and diagnosis.

Their detentions fall within a widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detentions - amongst other international crimes and human rights violations - used to target those considered critical of Nicolás Maduro's government. Other victims of arbitrary detention include human rights defender and prisoner of conscience, Javier Tarazona, detained since July 2021, and human rights defender, Rocío San Miguel, who was disappeared for five days and continues to be detained since February 9, 2024.

Civil society organizations face systemic threats from the government in Venezuela. Nicolás Maduro's government has continually harassed, prosecuted, and censored activists and civil society organizations amidst a complex humanitarian emergency and a deep human rights crisis that is making Venezuelans flee in unprecedented numbers. By November 2023, over 7.72 million had fled the country, representing over 25% of the country's total population.

Since 2020, four reports from the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have thoroughly documented hundreds of cases of extrajudicial executions; enforced disappearances; arbitrary detentions; and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment committed in the country since 2014; as well as the ways in which the justice system serves as a tool for the government's policy of repression, and concluded that these grave human rights violations may amount to crimes against humanity.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 24, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Emirlendris Benítez (she/her), Juan Carlos Marrufo (he/him), María Auxiliadora Delgado (she/her)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr53/7578/2024/en/>