

URGENT ACTION

FREE VENEZUELAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

On January 7, 2025, hooded individuals arbitrarily detained **Carlos Correa**, a renowned human rights defender and executive director of Venezuelan NGO **Espacio Público**, whose fate and whereabouts remain unknown. His detention is solely based on his human rights work, similarly to four other defenders currently arbitrarily detained for their activism in Venezuela: **Javier Tarazona**, **Rocío San Miguel**, **Carlos Julio Rojas**, and **Kennedy Tejada**. We demand **Nicolás Maduro** ensures their immediate and unconditional release and, while in state custody, protects their life and safety, right to not be subjected to torture, and fair trial guarantees.

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 **Urgent Action 1.25**. 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 of the Republic **Nicolas Maduro**

Palacio de Miraflores,
Av. Nte. 10, Caracas 1012,
Caracas, Venezuela

CC: Permanent Mission of Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela to the United Nations
His Excellency **Mr. Samuel R. Moncada Acosta**
335 East 46th Street
New York, NY 10017

Mr Nicolás Maduro,

I am gravely concerned over the arbitrary detention of **Carlos Correa**, whose brave work defending human rights in Venezuela is known and valued across the world. The fact that his fate and whereabouts has remained unknown since he was taken by unidentified men in Caracas is appalling. We demand his fate and whereabouts be disclosed to his relatives and representatives immediately.

Carlos Correa now joins a growing list of politically motivated arbitrary detentions of human rights defenders in Venezuela, which began with **Javier Tarazona's** detention in July 2021, and continued with **Rocío San Miguel** in February 2024, **Carlos Julio Rojas** in April 2024, and **Kennedy Tejada** in August 2024. Many others have also been unfairly detained and later conditionally released.

The detention of human rights defenders and the attacks on civil society more broadly must cease immediately. Their role, in the midst of an ongoing humanitarian emergency and a spiraling policy of repression, should be protected and celebrated.

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of every human rights defender unfairly detained in Venezuela and, as long as they remain in your custody, for their rights to life and safety, to not be subjected to torture, and to enjoy all fair trial guarantees to be fully protected.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Carlos Correa, director of Venezuelan NGO Espacio Público, was intercepted by hooded individuals dressed in black and taken to an unknown location on January 7, 2025, at around 5 pm on the streets around downtown Caracas. Carlos Correa's defense of human rights has been remarkable for over 20 years, leading civil society organizations like Provea and Espacio Público, which have served the Venezuelan people in dire circumstances and against many threats and attacks from government authorities.

As Amnesty International has repeatedly denounced, human rights defenders in Venezuela are at a constant risk of harassment, attacks, and detention. Human rights defender, prisoner of conscience, and director of local NGO Fundaredes, [Javier Tarazona](#), remains in detention and prosecuted for defending human rights since July 2, 2021. [Rocío San Miguel](#), a nationally and internationally renowned lawyer, professor, and human rights defender, was arbitrarily detained on February 9, 2024, her whereabouts unknown until February 15, 2024, and remains unfairly detained. **Carlos Julio Rojas** is a journalist and activist arbitrarily detained on April 15, 2024, allegedly by officers of the National Bolivarian Intelligence Service, who also remains unfairly detained for his activism. [Kennedy Tejada](#), a young lawyer and human rights activist member of renowned NGO Foro Penal, was arbitrarily detained in the state of Carabobo on August 2, 2024, when trying to offer free legal aid to other victims of arbitrary detention. As they all remain arbitrarily deprived of their freedom, they are also subjected to unfounded criminal proceedings and are targeted for their human rights work.

Nicolás Maduro's government's long-standing policy of repression to silence any form of real or perceived dissent reached a historic peak after the July 28, 2024 election, which saw over [2,000 people arbitrarily detained](#) for political reasons, many of them charged with seemingly unfounded counts of terrorism and incitement of hatred, including vulnerable groups such as [children and people living with disabilities](#). Within this policy of repression, the government has continually harassed, prosecuted, and censored activists and civil society organizations working to protect the rights of Venezuelans amidst a complex humanitarian emergency and a deep human rights crisis causing Venezuelans to flee in unprecedented numbers in search of safety and protection. By November 2024, over [7.8 million](#) had fled Venezuela.

Nicolás Maduro's government is currently pursuing several initiatives to control and silence human rights and civil society organizations. The [bill adopted](#) in August 2024 titled 'Law for the audit, regularization, action and financing of non-governmental and related organizations', or so-called 'anti-NGO law', imposes strict controls that include handing over lists of members and personnel and their assets, lists of donors, and registration of financial movements. Non-compliance with registration requirements could lead to the closure of civil society organizations and possible criminal prosecutions. The bill's provisions are set to enter into force starting in February 2025.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 8, 2025

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