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President of the Republic Nicolas Maduro

**c/o Botschaft der Bolivarischen Republik Venezuela**

Waldeggstrasse 47

Postfach 237

3097 Liebefeld

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Mr Nicolás Maduro,

**We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Javier Tarazona, Rocío San Miguel, Carlos Julio Rojas, and Kennedy Tejeda**. They are all prisoners of conscience detained solely for defending, educating, and promoting human rights. They should never have been detained and now their lives have been forever changed.

Javier Tarazona is an educator and director of NGO FundaRedes. He was detained on 2 July 2021 when trying to report harassment from authorities to the public prosecutor’s office. Rocío San Miguel is a lawyer and president of the civil society organisation Control Ciudadano. She was detained on 9 February 2024 and sustained a should fracture while in custody that requires urgent surgery and rehabilitation. Carlos Julio Rojas is a journalist and community organiser, detained since 15 April 2024 for raising concern over problems affecting his community. Kennedy Tejeda is a young lawyer and volunteer for Foro Penal. He was detained on 2 August 2024 when inquiring over the whereabouts of two men who had allegedly been arrested.

All four prisoners of conscience have suffered a myriad of other grave human rights violations, including enforced disappearance in the days following their detention, denial of trusted legal defence, periods of incommunicado detention, denial of medical care, and some have even reported being subjected to torture.

These possible crimes under international law and grave human rights violations are being monitored and scrutinized individually by international justice and accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court.

The harassment, threats and detention of human rights defenders and the attacks on civil society more broadly must cease immediately. Their role, in the midst of the ongoing humanitarian emergency and human rights crisis should be protected and celebrated.

**We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Javier Tarazona, Rocío San Miguel, Carlos Julio Rojas, and Kennedy Tejeda, and every victim of arbitrary detention in Venezuela. As long as they remain in your custody, we demand their rights to life and medical care, to not be subjected to torture, and to enjoy all fair trial guarantees to be fully protected.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copies**

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