President Nicolás Maduro

Presidente de la Rep. Bolivariana de Venezuela

Edificio Palacio de Miraflores

Avenida Urdaneta

Caracas

**VENEZUELA**

Dear Mr President

There are considerable Human Rights organizations that report a significant tendency and policy in Venezuela to simply restrain oppositional activity by arrests. The nine persons listed below are just a few examples. There are serious estimations that presently about 300 persons are detained this way and excluded from social activity. According to the organization ‘Foro Penal‘ it has been more than 15.700 individuals since 2014.

Apparently, the Venezuelan government uses arrests as an easy, arbitrary and simple measure in order to mute and repress all oppositional tendencies. Obviously, this is done ignoring juridical procedures needed for detention. There are countless examples reported of persons that did not commit any serious offence, but simply expressed their opinion.

Mr. President, may I remind you

> the Human Rights Declaration, especially on the freedom of expression of opinion;

> the principle to detain persons only on a judge’s verdict based on a serious accusation sentence;

> the principle that persons need to be considered non-guilty as long as there is no guilt conviction;

> that people will express their criticism the more they feel exposed to non-justified conditions and policies.

Mr. President, I kindly appeal to your pledge to protect and serve the citizens and review the detention reasons. If it is true that there is no serious reason according to international standards behind their accusation, then I urge you to issue release orders without delay.

Please, start with the nine persons listed below – but continue to assess the way arrests and detentions are being executed.

May your governance bring peace and justice in Venezuela.

Yours sincerely