Celsa Bautista Ontiveros

Ministra del Poder Popular para Asuntos Penitenciarios

Avenida Venezuela, Edificio Platinum

Urbanización El Rosal, Municipio Chacao

Caracas

**VENEZUELA**

Dear Minister

I would like to bring your attention to Emirlendris Benítez, a 42-year-old mother and businesswoman who is imprisoned. She was arbitrarily detained on August 5, 2018, for being linked to acts of violence committed against high-ranking politicians in Venezuela. Already imprisoned for five years in 2022 the court sentenced her to 30 years in prison after an unfair trial.

There is no evidence to support this accusation, and Emirlendris Benítez has repeatedly stated that she was not involved. Although she has not engaged in any political activity, a politically motivated case has been brought against her.

Throughout her detainment she has experienced a variety of serious human rights violations, including discrimination, gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, an unfair trial, inhumane prison conditions and torture. Bearing in mind the lack of evidence and the aforementioned psychological and physical injustices inflicted on her I kindly urge you to ensure her safety and consequently her release. Please address these injustices as it is within your power and role to oversee the penitentiary system and its operations.

Yours respectfully