

President of the Republic Nicolas Maduro

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

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 for -at least- 24 hours since he was taken by unidentified men in Caracas is appalling.

Carlos Correa's defence 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. We demand his fate and whereabouts be disclosed to his relatives and representatives immediately.

It is beyond regrettable to note that 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 Rocio San Miguel in February 2024, Carlos Julio Rojas in April 2024, and Kennedy Tejeda 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 spiralling policy of repression, should be protected and celebrated.

As crimes under international law and grave human rights violations continue to be committed with impunity in the country, we remind authorities that they are being monitored and scrutinized individually and at a state level by international accountability mechanisms.

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,