

## Annex of Cases

1. **Ernesto Martín** (pseudonym) (34), Caracas. In April, DGCIM agents arrested Martín after he publicly criticized the government. He said officers handcuffed his hands and ankles, hanged him from the ceiling, and gave him electric shocks while they asked him about his links with the opposition. He reported also being subjected to beatings and threatened with death.<sup>145</sup>
2. **Alejandro Pérez Castilla** (pseudonym) (32), Carabobo state. On July 26, GNB agents detained Pérez during a demonstration. He said they threw him inside an armored vehicle, where they beat him for hours, walked on his fingers, pressed his face towards one of the guards' genitals, and threatened to rape his daughter. While in detention, he said, agents rubbed teargas powder on his face and in his eyes, nose, and birdshot wounds (from shots received during the demonstration). Pérez Castilla explained that they beat him while he was hanging handcuffed by his hands from the cage of an air-conditioner and barely able to touch the floor. He said that they later forced him to sit handcuffed to a metal bench and used a stun gun on his calf. He said agents also detonated a teargas canister inside his small cell and then closed the door.<sup>146</sup>
3. **Orlando Moreno** (26), Monagas state. On June 27, Monagas state police detained Moreno as he was leaving an opposition demonstration. He said that, while in detention, GNB agents hanged him from an elevated water tank with his feet barely touching the floor, and beat him repeatedly so he would film a video incriminating opposition leaders, including María Corina Machado, the head of the party he represented in Monagas, in financing the protests.<sup>147</sup>
4. **Carlos Jordan** (pseudonym), Aragua state. On May 15, after PNB agents detained Jordan, an agent ordered him to take off his pants and penetrated him with a tube, Jordan later told a judge. While in detention, PNB officers beat him and other detainees with their rifle butts and helmets, forced them to inhale teargas residue, and made them dance sensually with each other while the officers laughed, a lawyer present at the hearing said.<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>145</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ernesto Martín, August 22, 2017, and October 17, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with Martín's wife, June 7, 2017 and October 17, 2017.

<sup>146</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alejandro Pérez Castilla, August 16, 2017

<sup>147</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Orlando Moreno, September 25, 2015; written summary of the case provided by José Armando Sosa, Monagas coordinator of the FP, September 2017.

<sup>148</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Dimas Rivas, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017.

5. **Reny Elías** (35), Zulia state. On July 20, PNB agents arrested Elías at home without a warrant and beat him with shields and helmets while they dragged him out by pulling his hair, according to Elías. While in detention, he said, agents beat him with rifle butts and helmets, forced him to lie down on the floor while they walked on his back, and poured water and teargas powder on his face. He also said he witnessed another male detainee getting raped with a broomstick, and female detainees being sexually harassed.<sup>149</sup>
6. **Diego Martínez** (pseudonym) (14), Mérida state. Martínez said that on June 13, a GNB motorcycle ran him over while he was running away from a protest in which he was participating, breaking his leg. Martínez told a local human rights organization that officers dragged him violently towards an armored vehicle, where he was beaten, kicked, hit with guns and a helmet, spat on, and threatened with death and with a birdshot shot to his face or a gas canister detonation over his head. He also claimed that an officer stood on his broken leg while they were inside the vehicle.<sup>150</sup>
7. **Forty detentions near looted food company**, Carabobo state. On May 5, GNB personnel detained 40 people in separate incidents near a food company that had been looted a day earlier. Detainees were beaten, forced to eat raw pasta with excrement, and had teargas powder rubbed in their noses to force them to open their mouths to eat, according to testimony they provided in a judicial hearing, a lawyer present at the hearing said.<sup>151</sup>
8. **Jorge Jiménez** (pseudonym) (17), Mérida state. On June 20, Mérida state police agents detained Jiménez after he was caught in a confrontation when he was passing by a demonstration, according to a lawyer who provided legal defense in the case. The lawyer said that at CICPC headquarters, a police officer beat Jiménez in his stomach and on the head and shoulder, slapped him on the face, and beat his legs with a stick. An agent allegedly put a plastic bag over his head to coerce him into giving them names and addresses of other people who participated in demonstrations. The interrogation lasted more than 6 hours, the lawyer said.<sup>152</sup>
9. **Wully Arteaga** (23), Caracas. Arteaga said that on July 27, GNB agents detained him when he was peacefully participating in a protest. Arteaga said that during his detention, officers beat him with a metal tube, set his hair on fire and then put it out by beating him with their helmets, and interrogated him apparently so he

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<sup>149</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Reny Elías, September 22, 2017.

<sup>150</sup> Testimony gathered by the Human Rights Clinic of the Universidad de Los Andes (DDHHULA); photos of wounds and radiography on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>151</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Luis Betancourt, FP lawyer, May 14, 2017.

<sup>152</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Fernando Cermeño, FP lawyer, September 22, 2017.

would incriminate opposition leaders. Arteaga said that he also witnessed a female detainee being sexually abused.<sup>153</sup>

10. **Armando López Carrera** (pseudonym) (17), Carabobo state. López said that on July 20 GNB personnel arrested him and Rivera (below) during a confrontation between protestors and security forces. He said that during his detention, agents forced him to squat and walk while crouched. In addition, he said, they hit him with sticks, cut his hair, beat him, and forced him to do military training exercises and to bend over so he would have to stand on his feet and head without using his hands for about five minutes as a form of punishment. He said he was held in an overcrowded punishment cell for several days.<sup>154</sup>
11. **Antonio Alonzo Rivera** (pseudonym) (16), Carabobo state. Rivera said that on July 20, GNB agents beat and arrested him and Carrera (above) during a demonstration. While detained, agents forced him to squat and walk in a crouched position, he said. Rivera also said that they hit him with sticks, cut his hair, beat him, forced him to do military training, and forced him to bend over so he would have to stand on his feet and head without using his hands for about five minutes as a form of punishment. He said they held him in an overcrowded punishment cell for several days.<sup>155</sup>
12. **Andrés Salamanca** (pseudonym) (17), Carabobo state. Salamanca said that on July 20, GNB personnel detained him when he was on his way to play basketball. Agents shot buckshot at him while he was on the ground, beat him, and threatened to kill him, he said, and forced him to squat and walk while crouched. Salamanca also said that they hit him with sticks, cut his hair, beat him, forced him to do military training, forced him to bend over so he would have to stand on his feet and head without using his hands for about five minutes as a form of punishment. He said he was held in an overcrowded punishment cell alongside Carrera and Rivera (above) for several days.<sup>156</sup>
13. **Lawrence Espósito** (pseudonym) (17) Carabobo state. On June 5, Espósito said, GNB officers detained him while he was filming a demonstration with his phone. They took him to an armored vehicle with other detainees, where agents beat them, threatened to rape them, sprayed pepper in their faces, shut the doors, and threw teargas inside, he said. Espósito also described how agents took them to a base and left them in an outdoor area, where they then let two Pitbull dogs and two

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<sup>153</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Wully Arteaga, September 16, 2017.

<sup>154</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Armando López Carrera, August 16, 2017; court records on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>155</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Antonio Alonzo Rivera, August 16, 2017; court records on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>156</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Andrés Salamanca, August 16, 2017.

German shepherds out to attack them. He said he witnessed a GNB officer force one detainee to shoot another with birdshot and, when he refused, saw the agent shoot the detainee who had refused and put salt in the wounds.<sup>157</sup>

14. **Manuel Rojas Villas** (pseudonym) (21), Táchira state. On July 30, Rojas said, five unidentified men kidnapped him after calling him a demonstrator, and punched him. The men drove Rojas to a polling station, he said, where a GNB commander ordered them to interrogate him. They did so, Rojas recalled, beating him to force him to record incriminating videos. Rojas explained he was left in a stress position, with his hands tied to his ankles behind him. Agents beat him while he was handcuffed to a chair. Throughout his four-day detention, authorities did not provide any information about Rojas' whereabouts to his relatives.<sup>158</sup>
15. **David Romero** (pseudonym) (19), Lara state. Romero said GNB agents detained him on April 26 during confrontations between demonstrators and security forces. They captured and beat him with their rifle butts, he said. While in detention, he said, agents beat him repeatedly, including once on the head with a stone, and they detonated a teargas canister inside his cell every day.<sup>159</sup>
16. **Emerson Ibarra** (24), Mérida state. While protesting on May 1, Ibarra said a PNB officer gave him a blow with his rifle to the face and detained him. While in detention, he said, agents repeatedly beat him. He said agents also detonated a teargas canister inside his cell with him and other detainees inside.<sup>160</sup>
17. **Alberto Caramés** (pseudonym) (37), Mérida state. On July 26, PNB and GNB agents beat Caramés and broke his jaw when hitting him in the face with the butt of a gun while he was demonstrating, Caramés said. He explained that agents then took his shoes off, tied his hands with his sweater to an official motorcycle, and dragged him barefoot, burning his soles, for several meters. He said that he fainted from the pain and woke up in a clinic.<sup>161</sup>
18. **Gianni Scovani** (33), Anzoátegui state. On July 30, PNB and GNB officers brutally beat Scovani in a parking lot near an ongoing demonstration. The beating was caught on tape. GNB officers initially took him to a GNB base, where he was denied

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<sup>157</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Lawrence Esposito (pseudonym), August 16, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with FP lawyer, August 16, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with Maria Canteras (pseudonym), mother, August 16, 2017.

<sup>158</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Manuel Rojas Villas, August 8, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with FVP lawyer, August 8, 2017.

<sup>159</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with David Romero, August 14, 2017.

<sup>160</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Emerson Ibarra, August 10, 2017.

<sup>161</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alberto Caramés, August 12, 2017; images of wounds and radiographies on file at Human Rights Watch.

- access to his family, lawyers, and medical treatment, despite the injuries from the beatings and his Asperger condition, a lawyer involved in the case said.<sup>162</sup>
19. **Luis Guillermo Espinoza** (16), Carabobo state. A witness reported that, on June 5, GNB members shot Espinoza in the head at close range after they arrested him during a demonstration. Espinoza died after several weeks in a coma, on August 13.<sup>163</sup>
  20. **Hernán Sánchez** (pseudonym) (16), Mérida state. On July 5, the Mérida state police shot Sánchez at close range as he was walking down the street close to a demonstration, Sánchez said. Though he was visibly injured, agents then took him by motorcycle to a police station and beat him before letting him go. He said the pellets perforated his abdomen and ruptured his colon and that he spent a month in the hospital and had three surgeries, including a colostomy.<sup>164</sup>
  21. **Armando Andrés Gonzalez** (24), Caracas. On June 5, a GNB officer hit González on the back of his neck, González said. González was working as a green cross volunteer providing transportation to injured protesters during a demonstration. González explained that he fell to the ground and that around 15 officers surrounded him, beating and kicking him repeatedly. As he was leaving, one of guards fired riot-control munitions directly at his leg at close range, he said.<sup>165</sup>
  22. **Oscar Serrada** (22), Caracas. Serrada said that on May 18 a GNB officer shot him in the leg with modified ammunition containing glass marbles from less than 10 meters away, as he was running away.<sup>166</sup>
  23. **Gonzalo Nuñez** (pseudonym) (15), Miranda state. On May 14, he was walking home from work and passed through a road where a demonstration was taking place when a GNB officer shot **Nuñez** in the foot while he was running away from the mayhem, a lawyer who provided legal defense in the case said. He added that while **Nuñez** was on the ground, a GNB officer shot him in the thigh; another agent shot again aiming at his face but he covered himself and was shot in the arm.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>162</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alfredo Romero, July 15, 2017; copy of the video of the beating on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>163</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with confidential witness, August 2017; and « Death of Luis Guillermo Espinoza, the teenager wounded in the head by the National Guard on June 5 in Carabobo », (Murió Luis Guillermo Espinoza, adolescente herido en la cabeza por la GNB el 5 de junio en Carabobo), *RunRun.Es* August 13, 2017, <http://runrun.es/nacional/321504/murio-luis-guillermo-espinoza-adolescente-herido-en-la-cabeza-por-la-gnb-el-5-de-junio-en-carabobo.html> (accessed October 26, 2017).

<sup>164</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Hernán Sánchez (pseudonym), August 11, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with Rosa Sánchez (pseudonym), mother of Hernán Sánchez (pseudonym), August 11, 2017.

<sup>165</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Armando Andrés Gonzalez, August 18, 2017; video with images of the attack on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>166</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Oscar Serrada, August 22, 2017; images of medical records on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>167</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alberto Iturbe, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017.

24. **Carlo Cutarelli**, Lara state. Cutarelli said that on April 6, GNB agents on motorcycles shot rubber bullets at him from close range as he was training for a marathon, close to a demonstration. He claims they brutally beat him and denied him medical attention and access to family and food during his detention.<sup>168</sup>
25. **Gaetano Costa Ribas** (42), Lara state. Costa said that in June, GNB personnel stopped him at a checkpoint and beat him harshly after accusing him of being a leader of the “Resistance.” In another incident on July 20, Costa said that he was captured when trying to run away from PNB officers who had started to disperse a demonstration. He said that they beat him and shot buckshot at him at close range.<sup>169</sup>
26. **Donner Rivas**, Bolivar state. Rivas said that on April 19, a GNB officer fired buckshot at him from close range while he was covering a demonstration as a journalist, and stole his camera. Rivas was detained days later by GNB personnel who recognized him on the street as the person who had filed a complaint accusing a GNB officer of stealing his camera, a lawyer present at his judicial hearing said.<sup>170</sup>
27. **Francisco José Sánchez Ramírez** (22) and **Francisco Alejandro Sánchez Ramírez** (22), Caracas. On April 13, agents arrested the two brothers and accused them of participating in an attack on a building that belongs to the judiciary during an anti-government protest. At the offices of SEBIN, the agents beat them and threatened them with death so they would confess and incriminate themselves on camera, and the resulting video was later broadcast by the government, according to their father.<sup>171</sup>
28. **Carlos Sardi**, Carabobo state. Agents detained Sardi on May 6 while he was protesting. They beat him and forced him to wear a black hood, while individuals asked him about people who had allegedly been involved in the protests, according to a lawyer present at his initial hearing.<sup>172</sup>
29. **Abraham Cantillo**, Lara state. Cantillo said that on July 20, members of *colectivos* mugged, threatened, and kidnapped him at gun point. He claimed that they later interrogated him, beat him, threatened to kill him and to rape his daughters, and hung him by the wrists. They repeatedly asked him about the whereabouts of Pedro

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<sup>168</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Carlo Cutarelli, August 15, 2017.

<sup>169</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Gaetano Costa Ribas, August 14, 2017.

<sup>170</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ezequiel Monsalve, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017.

<sup>171</sup> Testimony provided by José Sánchez, father, to the National Assembly, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a52P\\_N\\_1-4U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a52P_N_1-4U) (accessed October 16, 2017).

<sup>172</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Luis Betancourt, FP lawyer, May 14, 2017.

- Troconis, a Penal Forum lawyer in Lara state who was appointed to the Supreme Court by the opposition-led National Assembly, he said.<sup>173</sup>
30. **Orlando Bermudez** (pseudonym), Caracas. On April 21, six armed men on motorcycles intercepted Bermudez while he was walking on the street, he said. Bermudez said that the men, whom he believed were members of *colectivos*, blindfolded him, took him to an unknown location, interrogated him, and forced him to record a video saying he had been paid by an opposition legislator to organize barricades.<sup>174</sup>
  31. **Yoel Bellowin**, Monagas state. On April 19, GNB officers beat, threatened, and applied electric shocks to Bellowin so he would incriminate political leaders from the opposition, according to a lawyer who defended him.<sup>175</sup>
  32. **UPEL students**, Aragua state. On July 2, PNB personnel entered the university, beat students, and took them away, according to lawyers who later defended the detainees. The lawyers say that according to the students, while inside an armored vehicle, an agent placed a female student's head close to his genitals, touched her breasts, and told her, "This is what you like." While in detention agents allegedly denied them food, beat them on the head, and insulted them. Four of the students reportedly got sick with malaria in prison, and did not receive adequate treatment.<sup>176</sup>
  33. **María González (pseudonym)**, Miranda state. On May 17, GNB officers detained González while she was protesting, her lawyer said. GNB agents beat and threatened her, urinated on her, and blew some powder on her face which made her dizzy and pass out, a lawyer who has provided legal representation for her said. She claims having woken up with vaginal pain, and believes she was raped.<sup>177</sup>
  34. **Nicolás Pérez Prieto** (26), Caracas. On May 29, Pérez was hit by a teargas canister that ricocheted off the ground while he was covering a demonstration as a photojournalist. He said a PNB officer grabbed him by the neck and pushed him. While on the ground, he said, agents repeatedly stepped on him until he passed out.<sup>178</sup>
  35. **Carlos Julio Velasco** (18), Caracas. On June 12, GNB agents detained Velasco, a student and first aid volunteer, as he was walking in an area close to where a building that belongs to the judiciary had been set on fire by unknown individuals,

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<sup>173</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Abraham Cantillo, August 15, 2017 and October 18, 2017.

<sup>174</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Orlando Bermudez, April 24, 2017.

<sup>175</sup> Written summary of the case provided by José Armando Sosa, Monagas coordinator of the FP, September 2017.

<sup>176</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Dimas Rivas and Daniel Merchan, FP lawyers, September 20, 2017.

<sup>177</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alberto Iturbe, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017.

<sup>178</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Nicolás Pérez Prieto, August 18, 2017.

- his relatives said. According to family members, agents hit him twice with a metal stick on his spine, which they said caused excruciating pain. A judge did not allow his release on humanitarian grounds, despite having medical problems and not having received adequate treatment while in detention.<sup>179</sup>
36. **La Villa de Rosario detentions**, Zulia state. Sixteen people who had been detained in different circumstances in La Villa de Rosario were brought together before a military court, a lawyer present at the hearing said. The lawyer said that they alleged GNB personnel beat eight of them during their detention. They also reportedly alleged that officers also spread a white powder on their faces, which caused a burning sensation and made them cry.<sup>180</sup>
37. **Ambrosio Arragoza** (pseudonym) (33), Mérida state. On July 20, agents arrested Arragoza while he was walking down the street, and threw him inside an armored vehicle with other detainees, where they were beaten, his brother said. The GNB personnel then doused water on the detainees and sprayed teargas at them while in detention, according to the brother.<sup>181</sup>
38. **Sebastian Lluviera** (pseudonym) (19), Mérida state. On July 26, police and intelligence agents arrested Lluveira when he was returning home from a party, beat him, blindfolded him, and threw him inside a SEBIN vehicle, Lluviera's mother said. According to the mother, agents beat him with shields, guns, and fists, and threatened to disappear him while driving him around and interrogating him.<sup>182</sup>
39. **Carlos Julio Rojas**, Caracas. On July 6, PNB agents detained Rojas, drove him around for hours, took him to a police station and placed him in a small punishment cell in the Ramo Verde military jail, where he spent 21 days without any natural light, he said.<sup>183</sup>
40. **Lina Espinoza** (pseudonym) (19), Lara state. Espinoza said that on May 4, *colectivos* detained her as she was getting into her car returning from a pharmacy, and took her to GNB headquarters. While in detention, she said she suffered from a severe diabetes crisis. She said that agents coerced her into signing a document stating that her human rights had not been violated in order to be released from detention to house arrest.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with relatives of Velazco, August 20, 2017.

<sup>180</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Laura Valbuena, FP lawyer, May 15, 2017.

<sup>181</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Roman Arragoza, sibling of Ambrosio Arragoza, August 10, 2017.

<sup>182</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Lluviera's mother, August 10, 2017.

<sup>183</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Carlos Julio Rojas, September 12, 2017.

<sup>184</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Lina Espinoza, August 15, 2017.



41. **Alfredo Santacruz** (pseudonym) (20), Caracas. On June 12, Santacruz's lawyer and grandmother explained, security force personnel detained him as he was taking notes about an ongoing protest. Santacruz's lawyer said he did not receive proper medical attention in detention, despite suffering from asthma and epilepsy. Although he had an epileptic attack during a judicial hearing, the lawyer said, the judge did not authorize his release from detention as a humanitarian measure.<sup>185</sup>
42. **Juan José Prado, Wilfredo Mota, Kendall Acevedo, and Johan Moreno**, Aragua state. On April 19, armed groups shot at them and beat them before turning them over to Aragua state police officers, their lawyer said. He also reported that at the CICPC office they were held in very poor detention conditions, slept bent over or sitting, and were handcuffed to the cell's bars. Some had gastrointestinal illnesses and alleged that they received no medical treatment.<sup>186</sup>
43. **Ángel Eduardo Meso Parra**, Carabobo state. On August 6, a GNB armored vehicle stopped Meso when he was walking home and arrested him, Meso Parra's lawyer said. The lawyer also said that a GNB officer kicked him, dislocating his shoulder, and hit him with an aluminum rod, which possibly fractured his left index finger. Meso Parra reported to his lawyer that agents threatened to rape him on multiple occasions.<sup>187</sup>
44. **Luis Alberto Gamez Mora**, Carabobo state. On April 19, agents from the Guacara municipal police arrested Gamez outside of his home when his house was raided by the municipal police, his lawyer explained. Municipal police officers beat him, resulting in broken ribs and blood in his urine, according to the lawyer. Gamez reported to his lawyer that despite his serious injuries, he was not taken to a hospital.<sup>188</sup>
45. **Eliecer Castro** (pseudonym) (22), **Sarah Palacios** (pseudonym) (43), **German Cortés** (pseudonym) (23), Mérida state. On July 20, GNB personnel arrested the three as they were passing near a demonstration, Castro's mother said. She explained that the detainees were beaten during their arrest, and kept in a small overcrowded punishment cell with a total of about 16 detainees in it, where they could not lie down at any time. She added that Palacios was kept handcuffed around the clock.<sup>189</sup>

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<sup>185</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with FP lawyer and Santacruz's grandmother, August 20, 2017.

<sup>186</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Dimas Rivas, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017; written description of case provided by lawyer on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>187</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with FP lawyer, September 23, 2017.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid.

<sup>189</sup> Human Rights interview with Carmen Romero (mother of Castro, sister of Palacios, and aunt of Cortes), August 10, 2017.

46. **David Jose Vallenilla**, Caracas. On June 22, a military police sergeant shot and killed Vallenilla through the fence of an airbase in Caracas while he was protesting. The moment of the shooting was caught on tape. Vallenilla suffered wounds to the lungs and heart and the Attorney General's Office confirmed that he was shot.<sup>190</sup>
47. **Juan Pablo Pernaleté** (20), Caracas. On April 26, a long-range teargas projectile struck Pernaleté in the chest and killed him while protesting. An investigation by the Attorney General's Office established that a GNB officer fired the fatal round.<sup>191</sup>
48. **Janeth Angulo** (56), Lara state. One of Angulo's relatives said her sister was killed on July 11 from a bullet that struck her in the head when GNB personnel moved to attack and dismantle a barricade outside her home. Neighbors could not immediately take her to see a doctor because shooting by security forces continued, they said.<sup>192</sup>
49. **José Gregorio Pérez** (20), Táchira state. On June 15, Pérez' mother said, two people wearing ski masks—she thought they were in all likelihood *colectivos*—raced past him while he was waiting at a bus stop with a group of fellow students in an area that was frequently barricaded, and shot at them with a pistol. A bullet hit him in the head and killed him, she said.<sup>193</sup>
50. **Neomar Lander** (17), Caracas. Lander was killed by teargas canister that hit him in the chest during a demonstration on June 7, according to his mother and information published by the Attorney General's Office.<sup>194</sup>
51. **Carlos Rambrant** (pseudonym) (19), Lara state. Rambrant explained that a bullet hit him in the neck on June 29 and lodged itself in one of his cervical vertebrae while he was demonstrating. CICPC officers quickly appeared to question him when

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<sup>190</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with medical professional, October 19, 2017; copy of the video on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>191</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Elvira Llovera, mother of Pernaleté, August 19, 2017; "Foreign Affairs Minister denounces responsibility of the media in actions that validate interventions" (Canciller denuncia responsabilidad de medios en configuración de hechos que validan intervenciones), *Agencia Venezolana de Noticias*, April 29, 2017, <http://www.avn.info.ve/contenido/canciller-denuncia-responsabilidad-medios-configuración-hechos-que-validan-intervenciones> (accessed October 4, 2017); "Attorney General's Office Publishes Pernaleté Case" (Ministerio Público publica caso Pernaleté), YouTube video uploaded by El Foco Digital on May 27, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inqAnMKjZZk> (accessed October 3, 2017); "La fiscal general de Venezuela confirma que el estudiante Juan Pernaleté murió por el impacto de una bomba lacrimógena lanzada por la Guardia Nacional », BBC, <http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-40037960> (accessed October 10, 2017); Human Rights Watch interview with Andrea Santacruz, lawyer from the Human Rights Center at the Metropolitan University, August 19, 2017; "Tarek William Saab reopened Juan Pablo Pernaleté case" (Tarek William Saab reabrirá caso de Juan Pablo Pernaleté), *El Nacional*, September 7, 2017, [http://www.el-nacional.com/noticias/politica/tarek-william-saab-reabrir-caso-juan-pablo-pernalete\\_202639](http://www.el-nacional.com/noticias/politica/tarek-william-saab-reabrir-caso-juan-pablo-pernalete_202639) (accessed October 2, 2017),

<sup>192</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Judith and Francia Angulo, Janeth's siblings, August 14, 2017.

<sup>193</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Carmen Victoria Pérez, August 8, 2017.

<sup>194</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Zugeirmar Armas, Neomar Lander's mother, October 6, 2017; information published by the Attorney General's Office and images of the day he was killed on file at Human Rights Watch.

- he arrived at the hospital, he said. For fear of his being arrested, the Rambrant family told the CICPC that he had been shot by a robber. When interviewed in August 2017, he was still suffering from temporary paralysis in his lower body and in severe pain.<sup>195</sup>
52. **Luis Enrique Díaz Kay** (40), Lara state. Díaz said that on July 22 several GNB personnel seized him and punched him when he tried to prevent the arrest of a young man during an opposition demonstration he was covering as a press photographer. While on the ground, he said, some GNB officers held his legs while others beat and kicked him, fracturing two of his ribs. Díaz resisted and a guard gave him a strong chokehold that fractured two of his cerebral vertebrae, he said.<sup>196</sup>
53. **Vladimir Galavis** (56), Caracas. Galavis said that on May 22, GNB personnel fired a water cannon directly at him as he walked away from the agents during an anti-government demonstration, knocking him to the ground. He said that a week later, in another demonstration, GNB personnel shot teargas canisters directly at demonstrators, and one hit him in the back. He and others sought refuge in a shopping mall, but GNB officers followed them. He witnessed GNB personnel using teargas inside the mall, he said, and beating people with batons and shields.<sup>197</sup>
54. **Elyangelica González**, Caracas. González, a journalist, said that on March 31, more than 10 GNB members tried to stop her from covering a student anti-government protest outside the Supreme Court. She said agents beat her, dragged her for several meters, and pulled her hair. They also damaged her work equipment and cell phones, she said, and temporarily detained her before letting her go.<sup>198</sup>
55. **Alberto Ramon** (pseudonym) (19), Mérida state. On July 26, PNB agents wounded Ramon with birdshot in his arm, shoulder, and eyebrow when they fired through the gate of his residence, Ramon's mother said.<sup>199</sup>
56. **José Luis Barquez** (46), Mérida state. On June 1, agents riding motorcycles surrounded and stopped him near his home, Barquez said. He said an agent hit him with his rifle in the back of the head, said "this is one," and left. Barquez is a well-known opposition politician in Mérida.<sup>200</sup>

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<sup>195</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Carlos Rambrant, August 14, 2017.

<sup>196</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Luis Enrique Díaz Kay, August 14, 2017.

<sup>197</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Vladimir Galavis, August 17; images of the incident on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>198</sup> Testimony provided by Elyangelica González, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AztW8YZB4p8> (accessed October 16, 2017).

<sup>199</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Monica Ramon (pseudonym), August 10, 2017

<sup>200</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with José Luis Barquez, August 10, 2017.

57. **Francisco Peña** (pseudonym) (49), Táchira state. On July 30, Peña said, unidentified men thought to be *colectivos* shot at him and hit him after electoral material was stolen and local authorities accused him of being responsible. Later that day, he said, a homemade mortar was thrown into his home, he assumed by *colectivos*.<sup>201</sup>
58. **Mildred Manrique**, Caracas. On May 24, GNB personnel shot teargas canisters directly at her and other journalists who were filming incidents during a protest, and one of them hit Manrique in the chest, Manrique said.<sup>202</sup>
59. **Wilmer Azuaje** (40), Barinas state. Azuaje, an opposition legislator, was detained by SEBIN agents on May 30, according to his family. The agents beat and kicked him before putting him on a military plane and forcibly taking him to Caracas, his family said. For weeks, his family did not receive any official confirmation of his whereabouts and he was unable to see them or his lawyers, his family said. Weeks later, the Supreme Court ordered Azuaje transferred from SEBIN headquarters to house arrest, but he remains in detention, now in a regular prison.<sup>203</sup>
60. **Roberto Picon** (55), Caracas. On June 22, SEBIN agents arrested Picon, a technical adviser for the opposition on electoral matters, without a warrant inside a private home where a meeting of the opposition had taken place, his family said. Picon was tried by a military court and charged with crimes including rebellion and treason, according to his family. According to his daughter, he was held in a bathroom for 17 days, denied access to lawyers or family for 57 days, and only allowed exposure to sunlight after 87 days. He remains in detention.<sup>204</sup>
61. **Carlos Graffe** (31), Carabobo state. On July 13, SEBIN agents detained and forced Graffe, an activist of an opposition party, into a car, days after he had vocally supported the opposition-led plebiscite opposing the Constituent Assembly vote, his family said. He was brought before a military judge in an improvised courtroom, to which neither his family nor lawyers had access. Graffe spent 3 months in detention at the Ramo Verde military jail. On October 13, he was taken to a military hospital, and in mid-November, he was transferred to house arrest. He remains subject to prosecution.<sup>205</sup>

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<sup>201</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Francisco Peña, August 8, 2017.

<sup>202</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mildred Manrique, May 26, 2017; images of the attack on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>203</sup> Human Rights Watch interviews with family member of Wilmer Azuaje, May 2017; copies of photos and videos on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>204</sup> Human Rights Watch interviews with Isabella Picon, daughter of Roberto Picon, June-September 2017; written updates sent by the Picon family to Human Rights Watch.

<sup>205</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Oswaldo Graffe, father of Carlos Graffe, July 17, 2017; and with Elsa Henriquez Amador and Betalia Bermejo, mother and friend respectively of Carlos Graffe, August 16, 2017.

62. **Ángel Zerpa** (57), Caracas. On July 22, SEBIN agents arrested Zerpa, who had been recently appointed by the opposition-led National Assembly to Venezuela's Supreme Court. Agents claimed they were ordered by President Maduro to arrest him, according to his family. They took him before a military court, where his lawyers were not allowed access, and charged him with treason. Zerpa was held for days at SEBIN headquarters in a dirty bathroom, his family said, until he went on a hunger strike and was then taken to the hospital. As of October, 2017 he was under house arrest.<sup>206</sup>
63. **Juan Carlos Marquina** (42), Vargas state. On September 25, at least 12 armed SEBIN agents wearing ski masks tried to burst into the formal opening of a children's soup kitchen in Vargas state, an event in which opposition legislator Juan Manuel Olivares was participating. Olivares said that SEBIN agents handcuffed and detained Marquina as they were leaving. Olivares and his family did not know Marquina's whereabouts until the evening of September 27, when he was brought before a judge. His lawyer was able to see him minutes before the hearing, in which Olivares was charged with having forged documents—authorities claimed the paperwork for his car had been altered prior to its purchase by Olivares' mother, Olivares said.<sup>207</sup>
64. **Gustavo Marciano**. On July 25, the Supreme Court sanctioned Marciano, then mayor of Lechería (Anzoátegui state), to 15 months in prison and disqualified him from running for office following a summary proceeding that lacked basic due process guarantees. He was accused of failing to comply with a previous Supreme Court ruling ordering him to clear obstructions in the roads. He fled the country.<sup>208</sup>
65. **Alfredo Ramos**. On July 28, the Supreme Court sanctioned Ramos, the mayor of Iribarren (Lara state), to 15 months in prison and disqualified him from running for office following a summary proceeding that lacked basic due process guarantees. He was accused of failing to comply with a previous Supreme Court ruling ordering him to clear obstructions in the roads. That day, SEBIN agents detained Ramos, who remains in SEBIN custody. His family said that he had a hypertension crisis and no access to adequate medical care while in detention.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>206</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Zerpa's family members, August 16, 2017.

<sup>207</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with José Manuel Olivares, September 28, 2017.

<sup>208</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Gustavo Marciano, November 2, 2017; Supreme Court ruling on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>209</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Carmen and Natasha Ramos, wife and daughter of Alfredo Ramos, September 7, 2017; Supreme Court ruling on file at Human Rights Watch.

66. **Carlos García.** On August 2, the Supreme Court sanctioned García, then mayor of Libertador (Mérida state), to 15 months in prison and disqualified him from running for office following a summary proceeding that lacked basic due process guarantees. He was accused of failing to comply with a previous Supreme Court ruling ordering him to clear obstructions in the roads. He fled the country.<sup>210</sup>
67. **Ramon Muchacho.** On August 8, the Supreme Court sanctioned Muchacho, then mayor of Chacao (Miranda state), to 15 months in prison and disqualified him from running for office following summary proceedings that lacked basic due process guarantees. He was accused of failing to comply with a previous Supreme Court ruling ordering him to clear obstructions in the roads. He fled the country.<sup>211</sup>
68. **David Smolansky.** On August 9, the Supreme Court sanctioned Smolansky, then Mayor of El Hatillo (Miranda state), to 15 months in prison and disqualified him from running for office following a summary proceeding that lacked basic due process guarantees. He was accused of failing to comply with a previous Supreme Court ruling ordering him to clear obstructions in the roads. He fled the country.<sup>212</sup>
69. **Omar Lares.** Mayor of Campo Elías (Mérida state). On July 30, Lares said, dozens of GNB, PNB, and SEBIN agents, as well as members of *colectivos*, burst into his home looking for him. Lares is subject to a Supreme Court injunction that may lead to a sanction similar to the ones listed above against other opposition mayors. The mayor and the rest of his family were able to escape, but Juan Pedro Lares Rangel, his 23-year-old son, was taken into custody and was still in detention as of November 2017.<sup>213</sup>
70. **Juan Pedro Lares Rangel (23),** Mérida state. On July 30, armed men broke into the family home looking for Juan Pedro's father (above case), and raided it without a warrant. They detained Lares, threatened to spray him with gasoline and set him on fire, and hit him in the neck with a firearm, a witness said. The officers also stole property from their home, according to a family employee who was there. As of November 2017, Juan Pedro Lares remained in detention without having been brought before a judge or charged with the commission of any crime, according to his parents.<sup>214</sup>

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<sup>210</sup> Supreme Court ruling on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>211</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ramón Muchacho, September 16, 2017; Supreme Court ruling on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>212</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with David Smolansky, September 6, 2017; Supreme Court ruling on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>213</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Omar Lares, August 6, 2017.

<sup>214</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Omar Lares, August 6, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with Ramona Rangel, September 12, 2017; audio with taped testimony of witness on file at Human Rights Watch.

71. **Martín González** (pseudonym), Caracas. In May 2017, PNB officers detained González on the street as he was leaving a demonstration. They beat him and arbitrarily detained him for several hours.<sup>215</sup>
72. **Sergio Contreras**, Caracas. On May 10, PNB officers allegedly beat and detained Contreras while he was protesting. He was brought before a military tribunal and charged with rebellion, treason, and stealing military material, according to a lawyer present at the hearing.<sup>216</sup>
73. **UCAB Puerto Ordaz**, Bolivar state. On June 1, GNB members illegally entered the Andrés Bello Catholic University (UCAB) campus in Puerto Ordaz, Guayana, and detained **Nelson Nava**, a student, according to the university.<sup>217</sup> Outside campus, they detained **Marcos Valverde**, a journalist and university professor who tried to mediate with the officers. Both were taken to GNB headquarters. Valverde was released after several hours, while Nava was charged with public incitement to commit crimes, and released on conditional liberty.<sup>218</sup>
74. **Simon Bolivar University**, Caracas. On June 29, PNB officers detained at least 15 students at the Simon Bolivar University when they were participating in an anti-government protest. After the case garnered great attention in Venezuela, the students were brought before a judge—the prosecutor did not bring any charges and the judge released them, a lawyer who participated in their defense said.<sup>219</sup>
75. **Lisbeth Añez** (51), Caracas. An activist known for providing food and support to political prisoners, Añez was arrested by DGCIM agents at the Caracas airport as she was boarding a flight on May 11. She was brought before a military court, and charged with rebellion and treason, based on evidence that included alleged WhatsApp messages between Añez and a young man who had been detained days earlier.<sup>220</sup>

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<sup>215</sup> Human Rights Watch witnessed the detention and corroborated information regarding his arrest; video of the arrest on file at Human Rights Watch.

<sup>216</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alfredo Romero, FP director, May 14, 2017.

<sup>217</sup> “In light of the violation of Guayana University Campus” (Ante violación del recinto universitario de su sede de Guayana), UCAB press release, May 16, 2017, <http://guayanaweb.ucab.edu.ve/noticias-reader-guayana-actual/items/comunicado-ante-violacion-del-recinto-universitario.html> (accessed November 14, 2017).

<sup>218</sup> “Two UCAB students, free at last!” (Dos Ucabistas, al fin libres!), *Elucabista.com*, n.d., <http://elucabista.com/2017/05/19/liberados-dos-ucabistas-guayana-caracas/> (accessed November 14, 2017); “Marcos Valverde, detained professor of UCAB Guayana, speaks” (Habla Marcos Valverde, profesor detenido en UCAB Guayana), *Elucabisa.com*, n.d. <http://elucabista.com/2017/05/19/habla-marcos-valverde-profesor-detenido-ucab-guayana/> (accessed November 14, 2017).

<sup>219</sup> Tweet by Alfredo Romero, FP director, July 2, 2017, <https://twitter.com/alfredoromero/status/881611049136476160> (accessed November 14, 2017); “Unequally repressed: Why USB students walk while UPEL kids rot in jail,” *Caracas Chronicles*, July 4, 2017, <https://www.caracaschronicles.com/2017/07/04/unequally-repressed-why-usb-students-walk-while-upel-kids-rot-in-jail/> (accessed November 14, 2017);.

76. **Oriente University**, Sucre state. According to university officials, on June 22, *colectivos* and PNB, GNB, and state police officers entered the campus, destroyed classrooms, and detained seven students.<sup>221</sup>
77. **Manuel Rocas** (pseudonym) (19), Mérida state. On July 20, Rocas' mother said, her son was surrounded by GNB personnel on motorcycles wearing balaclavas when jogging in the street with a friend. The agents arbitrarily arrested him, hit him, and spat on him, before driving him away. She said they placed Rocas in a cell with 18 other people and charged him with instigation to commit crimes. Though his lawyer has filed the paperwork for his release on bail, he continued to be detained at time of writing.<sup>222</sup>
78. **Rafael Cuevas** (40), Mérida state. On June 26, Cuevas said, PNB and GNB agents stopped him during a demonstration and grabbed him by the testicles to force him onto an official vehicle, where he was beaten and insulted.<sup>223</sup>
79. **Marthe Arllentina Calles** (62), Lara state. On June 9, Arllentina said, GNB personnel arbitrarily arrested her while she was resting on a small wall close to a demonstration. GNB officers put her in a truck and took her to a GNB base, she said, where she spent two nights in detention. She was released for humanitarian reasons.<sup>224</sup>
80. **Carlos “Pancho” Ramírez** (27), Mérida state. On May 15, Ramírez' lawyer said, GNB members arrested him and took him to a military court where he was accused of rebellion. He was imprisoned with convicted prisoners, the lawyer said, and did not have access to his lawyer or family during his initial detention.<sup>225</sup>
81. **Carlos David Briceño “Apio”**, (30), Mérida state. On June 5, Briceño's lawyer said, Mérida state police officers arrested Briceño when he was taking photos of a demonstration for a local newspaper. Briceño was taken to a military court, where he was charged with insulting and attacking soldiers. His lawyers only managed to see him at trial.<sup>226</sup>
82. **Alberto Brito and Maribel Ilaraza**, Caracas. Members of *colectivos* separately detained Brito and Ilaraza on April 13 and handed them over to the GNB, their

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<sup>220</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alfredo Romero, FP director, May 14, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with Luis González Añez, son of Lisbeth Anez, September 5, 2017.

<sup>221</sup> “Press release: Stop violations to university campus [autonomy]” (Comunicado: Ya basta de tanta violación al recinto universitario), University del Oriente press release, n.d., <http://www.bolivar.udo.edu.ve/index.php/component/flexicontent/36-noticias/899-comunicado-decanato-del-nucleo-de-sucre> (accessed November 14, 2017).

<sup>222</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Lucy Rocas (pseudonym), August 10, 2017.

<sup>223</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Rafael Cuevas, August 10, 2017.

<sup>224</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Marthe Arllentina Calles, August 14, 2017.

<sup>225</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Francisco Pereira, lawyer, August 12, 2017.

<sup>226</sup> *Ibid.*



- lawyer said. A judge charged them with “instigation to commit crimes” and “holding incendiary substances” during anti-government demonstrations. Though they submitted documentation required for their conditional release, the court has failed to process the documents, she said. They remain in detention.<sup>227</sup>
83. **Daniela Zambrano**, Caracas. A journalist, Zambrano said she was detained on June 15 with two cameramen while they were leaving a demonstration they had been covering against President Maduro’s proposal to establish a Constituent Assembly. An official working for the subway system detained Zambrano, told her she did not have authorization to cover the protest, and forbade her and the cameramen from leaving until SEBIN agents arrived, she said. The intelligence agents asked her for her name, ID number, cellphone number, and Twitter account, and held her for almost two hours. She was only released after the crew erased the footage they had taped.<sup>228</sup>
84. **Laura Vildemar** (pseudonym) (37), and son, **Sampson Cristian Vildemar** (pseudonym) (18), Lara state. According to a relative, on July 24 CONAS agents detained Sampson at a barricade. When his mother tried to stop them, she was detained as well. Both were taken to a CONAS base, the relative said, where they claim they were framed with planted evidence. The two were initially presented before a military court. The case was subsequently transferred to civilian court, where they were charged with blocking public roads and holding incendiary weapons. They remained in detention at time of writing.<sup>229</sup>
85. **William Guedez (26)**, Miranda state. According to a lawyer who provided legal defense in the case, GNB officers detained Guedez while he was walking on a street where protests were taking place on April 14. While in detention, agents repeatedly beat him, including in the face, and broke some blood vessels in his eye, the lawyer said.<sup>230</sup>
86. **Anthony Ortiz (19)**, Miranda state. A lawyer who provided legal defense in the case said that on April 12, GNB members detained Ortiz while he was walking through an area where protests were taking place. They repeatedly beat him while in detention, injuring his knee to a point where he had trouble standing, the lawyer said.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>227</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Brito’s mother, Marina Siomara Morey, and Brito’s girlfriend, Obelin Cabrera, August 21, 2017; Human Rights Watch interview with FP lawyer, August 21, 2017.

<sup>228</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Daniela Zambrano, June 17, 2017.

<sup>229</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Fernando Verdes (pseudonym), August 15, 2017.

<sup>230</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alberto Iturbe, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017.

<sup>231</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Alberto Iturbe, FP lawyer, September 20, 2017.

87. **Edgar Enrique Mujica Jiménez**, Carabobo state. On May 3, municipal police officers beat Mujica and arrested him when he tried to stop them from arresting members of his family, lawyers from the Penal Forum said. Mujica was charged with offenses, including instigating the commission of crimes. He spent a week in detention.<sup>232</sup>
88. **Nicolás Arvelo** (pseudonym), 26, Caracas. SEBIN agents detained Arvelo when he was having dinner at a restaurant and drove him to SEBIN headquarters where, according to his family, agents severely beat him to force him to confess on video to involvement in violent incidents related to anti-government protests. He remained in detention at time of writing.<sup>233</sup>

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<sup>232</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with FP lawyer, September 23, 2017.

<sup>233</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with several family members, October 14-15, 2017, and with Alfredo Romero, FP director, October 17, 2017.

## Annex: Letter to the Venezuelan Government

Jorge Arreaza  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Caracas, Venezuela

New York, October 23, 2017

Mr. Arreaza,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to request information from the Venezuelan government regarding investigations into abuses committed in the context of anti-government protests in 2017.

In early April 2017, Human Rights Watch launched a “Venezuela’s Crisis” blog to provide timely and reliable information of what happened in the country.<sup>234</sup> We found evidence of very serious abuses, including excessive use of force in the streets against demonstrators and bystanders, arbitrary arrests and abuses against detainees, as well as arbitrary prosecutions, including hundreds of cases of civilians who were prosecuted in military courts, in violation of both Venezuelan and international law.

Similarly, our findings are consistent with those of the United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which reported in August 2017, “the existence of a policy to repress political dissent and instill fear in the population to curb demonstrations.” The OHCHR claimed that its research “paint[ed] a picture of widespread and systematic use of excessive force and arbitrary detentions against demonstrators in Venezuela,” as well as “patterns of other human rights violations, including violent house raids, torture and ill-treatment of those detained in connection with the protests.”<sup>235</sup>

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<sup>234</sup> The “Venezuela’s Crisis” blog is available at: <https://www.hrw.org/blog-feed/venezuelas-crisis>.

<sup>235</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), “UN human rights team’s findings indicate patterns of rights violations amid mass protests in Venezuela,” August 8, 2017, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21948&LangID=E> (accessed October 3, 2017).

We are currently preparing a report with all our findings, including but not limited to those already published in the blog. We are writing to seek your input for such publication. For that purpose, we would appreciate if you could provide us with the following information:

1. What is the status of ongoing judicial and administrative investigations of members of the Bolivarian National Guard, the Bolivarian National Police, the Bolivarian National Intelligence Services, the General Direction of Military Counterintelligence, the Anti-extortion and Kidnapping National Commando, the Scientific, Penal, and Criminal Investigative Police, and state police forces implicated in human rights violations committed in 2017? Specifically:
  - a. How many investigations have been opened in cases of human rights abuses?
    - i. How many of these investigations are related to killings that occurred during anti-government protests between April and July 2017?
    - ii. How many of these investigations are related to serious injuries that occurred during anti-government protests between April and July 2017?
    - iii. How many of these investigations are related to arbitrary arrests and prosecutions?
  - b. How many officers have been charged with crimes in cases in which they have allegedly committed abuses? Please specify to which force the officers belonged and their rank.
  - c. How many officers are in detention for their alleged participation in abuses? Please specify to which force the officers belonged and their rank.
  - d. Is there any investigation open, and has any officer been charged or detained for allegations of torture? Please specify to which force the officers belonged and their rank.
  - e. In how many investigations have civilians who belong to armed pro-government groups called *colectivos* been implicated?
    - i. How many members of *colectivos* have been charged with crimes in cases in which they have allegedly committed abuses?
    - ii. How many members of *colectivos* are in detention for their alleged participation in abuses?
    - iii. Is there any investigation open, and has any member of a “colectivo” been charged or detained, for allegations of torture?
2. How many civilians have been prosecuted by military courts?

- a. How many were charged with “rebellion” or “treason” for acts allegedly committed during anti-government protests or linked to them?
  - b. How many remain subject to military prosecutions?
  - c. How many are in detention based on these prosecutions?
3. How many civilians are currently being held in installations of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Services, of the Bolivarian National Guard, of the General Direction of Military Counterintelligence, and in military prisons nation-wide?
  4. How many detainees have a judicial order for their unconditional release? How many have a judicial order for their release on bail?
  5. Please provide any specific or additional information you deem pertinent regarding the cases published in the “Venezuela’s Crisis” blog.

In August, the government claimed that 10 security-force officers died in the context of the demonstrations. It reported several instances of violence against government supporters, including two cases in which the victims were allegedly set on fire and one in which a retired military officer was lynched.<sup>236</sup> We would also be interested in obtaining updated official information regarding allegations of violent acts committed against security forces or government supporters, supposedly committed by anti-government protesters or opposition supporters, as well as information of ongoing investigations into these incidents and their results.

To be able to include this information in our publication, we would kindly request that you respond to this letter (with all or part of the information requested) by November 6, 2017.

Thank you,

Joe Saunders  
Deputy Program Director  
Human Rights Watch

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<sup>236</sup> Venezuelan Communications Ministry, “Fatal victims of political violence in Venezuela April-August 2017” (Víctimas fatales de la violencia política en Venezuela abril-agosto 2017), August 4, 2017, <http://minci.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Investigaci%C3%B3n-Period%C3%ADstica-V%C3%ADctimas-Fatales-de-la-Violencia-Pol%C3%ADtica-ABRIL-AGOSTO-2017-Actualizado-04-08-17.pdf> (accessed October 3, 2017).