

Caracas
October 5th, 2020.

Your Excellencies
Ambassadors of the Member States of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Attention
Your Excellency
Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger
President of the Human Rights Council

Your Excellency
María del Socorro Flores Liera
Vice-President of the Human Rights Council for Latin America and the Caribbean

We respectfully address you, on the occasion of your role in the United Nations Human Rights Council, in the matter of highlighting the importance and need to make effective the renewal and strengthening of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela mandate, by virtue of justice, truth, reparation in favor of the victims and the principle of non-repetition.

For years, Venezuelans have faced the violation of our rights to life, liberty and integrity, being prevented from accessing justice, and it has been the hard work of civil society organizations, political parties, victims and their families, which has made it possible for these crimes not to be overlooked in the eyes of international politics that today, from the international protection system, monitors and implements a work agenda in response to the emergency situation in which our country finds itself.

However, with great responsibility we denounce that, despite the multiple recommendations that have been made over the years from different international bodies, including those corresponding to the recent report published by the FFM on September 16, the criminal State of Nicolás Maduro persists in breach of obligations, advancing with its policy of repression, persecution, torture and aggression, which, together with arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations, in turn constitute a policy of hatred and terror sponsored by impunity regarding the commission of crimes against humanity.

The Venezuelan population faces a complex emergency situation, aggravated by the pandemic and the use that the regime has made of it to increase its attack on citizens. By virtue of this reality, we find ourselves in an urgent need to point out that the international system must, in addition to promoting the cessation of human rights violations, act through the protocols already established in terms of protection, in order to face situations of risk and gravity, as is the case in Venezuela, where it is necessary to immediately protect the civilian population, with special attention to victims, family members and defenders, from the harassment to which they are subjected by the criminal conglomerate that usurps power.

We Venezuelans are determined not to succumb to the abuses of the regime, and at Vente Venezuela we have assumed the commitment to achieve the restoration of our rights and freedoms; it is on the occasion of this that today we ask you to renew and strengthen the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela, not only to continue with the investigation and documentation of the crimes that the criminal State commits in Venezuela under the complicit gaze of its allies, but to advance in the establishment of responsibilities for human rights violations.

The continuity of the FFM is vital for the attainment of documentation, contributes to the protection of evidence on the commission of crimes against humanity in our country, and it also constitutes an endorsement of the hard work that multiple defenders and organizations carry out, even compromising their own security and personal freedom, in favor of truth and justice.

Finally, from the Vente Venezuela Human Rights Committee, and on behalf of our entire organization, we urge you on the need to move forward, without further delay, in activating international justice mechanisms for the investigation and penal punishment of the perpetrators of violations of international law and crimes against humanity committed in Venezuela.

The prevention of conflicts that involve serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law means putting an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes. Only by initiating legal actions against those responsible and ensuring that they do not go unpunished can justice be achieved for the victims, in addition to fulfill the duty to work on behalf of the principle of non-repetition and ensure an invaluable contribution to general peaceful global coexistence.

Sincerely,

Vente Venezuela Human Rights Committee.