



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

September 26, 2022

Good morning.

On behalf of Alerta Venezuela, the Human Rights Center of the Andrés Bello Catholic University and Aula Abierta, we salute the most recent reports of the Mission, in which four keywords stand out: deliberate plan, high level, crimes against humanity and impunity.

One of the reports identified six repressive structures, but only managed to document and develop the modus operandi of two of them, so the other four structures still need to be investigated in depth. In addition, the report on the Orinoco Mining Arc identifies other armed actors that affect the rights of the population in the territories they dominate, including indigenous peoples, children, and women. This demonstrates the need to renew the Mission's mandate, to further investigate these structures and the impact of irregular armed groups that act with the consent or complicity of the authorities.

Mr. President, in order for the Mission to adequately carry out its functions, it is necessary for this Council to transmit a clear message to the OHCHR, to ensure adequate financial and administrative support for its operation. The lack of support, which is reflected in the high turnover of personnel and in the financial shortcomings of the mandate that is now ending, is inadmissible and must be corrected.

We demand the freedom of human rights defender Javier Tarazona and we ask this Council to remain vigilant against possible reprisals against victims, their families and the defenders who collaborate with this report.

Thank you.