

President Nicolás Maduro
Palacio de Miraflores
Av. Norte 10, Caracas 1012,
Distrito Capital
VENEZUELA

Dear President,

This April will mark 9 months since Javier Tarazona, Director of local NGO FundaREDES, was arbitrarily detained after attempting to report harassment from security officers at the Attorney General's Office in the city of Coro. He was thereafter charged with inciting hatred, treason and "terrorism". Javier Tarazona is a prisoner of conscience, having been arbitrarily detained for his human rights work. The charge he faces, and for which he continues to be unfairly detained on the basis of, appears to be politically motivated as SEBIN agents detained him without a warrant and the court charged him with "terrorism". Both of these steps are elements of the well-documented pattern of arbitrary detentions.

Javier Tarazona's health has seriously deteriorated due to a lack of medical treatment. He suffers from hypertension, diabetes and sequelae of Covid-19 -which he contracted during his detention and has not been properly treated by a doctor he trusts and which require immediate and urgent attention.

I urge you to release prisoner of conscience Javier Tarazona immediately and unconditionally and end the harassment and criminalization of non-governmental organizations in Venezuela. Two other FundaREDES defenders, Rafael Tarazona and Omar de Dios García, are also subject to arbitrary criminal proceedings that must be closed immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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