President of the Republic

Sr. Nicolas Maduro

Final Avenida Urdaneta,

Esq. de Bolero,

Palacio de Miraflores,

Caracas,

Venezuela

Dear President

I have read with concern the recent report from Amnesty International highlighting the stories of those who died or were arbitrarily arrested and tortured in detention during and after last year’s protests in Venezuela. I note that many of the victims are still awaiting justice and I am concerned that the failure to bring to justice those responsible effectively gives a green light to more abuses and violence.

I call on you and your colleagues to take urgent steps to ensure that these grave violations do not happen again by reinforcing the rule of law and by giving priority to the following:

* + - Guarantee the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of all
    - Refrain from making use of the Armed Forces in maintaining public order and send a clear and unequivocal message to the security forces that they must respect human rights while maintaining public order
    - Ensure the right of all victims and their families to truth, justice and adequate reparation.
    - Release without delay all persons detained arbitrarily.
    - Strengthen the justice system and refrain from interfering with their independence; an independent and impartial justice system is the cornerstone of the rule of law.
    - Guarantee the control of arms in the hands of the population, disarm pro-government armed groups and ensure that those who have committed abuses are brought to justice.

Yours sincerely

copy: Venezuelan Ambassador, 1 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2HW