

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

Dear Nicolás Maduro,

I am deeply alarmed that human rights defender and Director of FundaREDES, Javier Tarazona, remains arbitrarily detained since 2 July, whilst Rafael Tarazona and Omar de Dios García, also human rights defenders from the same organization, have been released under arbitrary conditions, including having to report before the court every eight days and not being allowed to leave Venezuela.

FundaREDES monitor, document and report on human rights abuses committed by armed groups in Venezuela's border regions. The charges they face appear to be politically motivated since SEBIN officers arrested them without an arrest warrant, and the court charged them with terrorism, which are elements of a well-documented pattern of arbitrary detentions. In addition, they have been denied access to trusted legal representation, as well as other violations to their right to due process.

I urge you to release Javier Tarazona immediately and unconditionally, and close all criminal investigations into these three human rights defenders, and to also put an end to the harassment and criminalisation of non-governmental organisations in Venezuela.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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