

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE HELD INCOMMUNICADO AGAIN

After being disappeared for 23 days, Raúl Isaías Baduel is once again being held incommunicado at the National Intelligence Service facilities in Caracas, denied access to his family and lawyers. His family is concerned for his physical and mental integrity.

Raúl Isaías Baduel, a retired general of the Armed Forces, was last seen by his family in the National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) facilities in Plaza Venezuela, Caracas, commonly known as “La Tumba” (The Tomb) on 31 August, after 23 days with no news of his whereabouts. Raúl Isaías Baduel was initially detained at Ramo Verde Military Detention Centre in Caracas on 12 January. On 8 August he was removed from his cell at approximately 5:30am and his whereabouts were unknown until the authorities permitted his family to visit him once in his new location in “La Tumba” on 31 August. Although authorities allowed his family this visit, his family has not been allowed to contact him since and his lawyer has not been allowed access to him since 8 August.

Despite repeated formal requests for visits by his lawyer and family, to date there has been no response from the authorities. Raúl Isaías Baduel’s family stated that they have not been permitted to provide him food or needed medicine in “La Tumba”, and are concerned his health may worsen as a result. His family and lawyer are concerned for his physical and mental integrity due to his incommunicado detention.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Demanding the authorities immediately provide information on the physical and mental integrity of Raúl Isaías Baduel and ensure they are protected;
- Demanding they immediately grant him free and private access to his family, and lawyers of his choosing;
- Urging them to ensure full respect of Raúl Isaías Baduel’s rights, especially regarding right to due process.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 OCTOBER 2017 TO:

Minister of the Interior and Justice

Gen. (Ej.) Néstor Luis Reverol Torres
Ministerio del Interior y Justicia Avenida
Urdaneta Esquina de Platanal Edificio
Interior y Justicia Despacho del Ministro
Caracas, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 506 1685

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear
Minister**

Minister of Defence

Chief General Vladimir Padrino
Fuerte Tiuna, Edif. Sede del Ministerio
del Poder Popular para la Defensa,
Caracas, Distrito Capital, Venezuela
Email: mppdrrii@gmail.com
Twitter: @vladimirpadrino

**Salutation: Dear General/ Señor
General**

And copies to:

Amnesty International Venezuela
Email: info@aiven.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY ROCÍO MANEIRO, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 1 Cromwell Road SW7 2HW, 020 7584 4206 or 020 7581 2776, Fax 020 7589 8887, despacho.londres@mppre.gob.ve embavenezuk@venezlon.co.uk info@venezlon.co.uk, <http://reinounido.embajada.gob.ve/>

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 194/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr53/6932/2017/en/

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Raul Isaías Baduel is a retired general of the Armed Forces and former Minister of Defence of Venezuela who retired in 2007, and has since been a public critic of the current government. In 2006, after a trial under military law, he was sentenced to seven years and 11 months by a military court.

Raúl Isaías Baduel has been imprisoned since 2009 for a range of charges, which are widely considered to have been politically motivated given his public opposition to government policies. In 2016, he was granted parole which was then suddenly revoked on 12 January 2017.

On 3 March 2017 he was set to complete his prison sentence, but the day before his scheduled release a military court found him guilty of treason and military rebellion and issued him with a new prison sentence. After this new sentence, the former general was kept incommunicado for an extended period of time, a violation which Amnesty International denounced in a previous Urgent Action.

“La Tumba” (The Tomb) where Raúl Isaías Baduel was transferred, is well-known for allegations of torture and ill treatment.

His son, Raúl Emilio Baduel, was arbitrarily detained in March 2014 during a peaceful protest in the city of Maracay, in central Venezuela, during the massive demonstrations held by both government supporters and protestors. He has been in detention since and his lawyers have reported repeated instances of Raúl Emilio Baduel being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

Further information on UA: 194/17 Index: AMR 53/7051/2017 Issue Date: 5 September 2017