

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE HELD INCOMMUNICADO

Retired general Raúl Isaías Baduel is currently in detention and has had no contact with his lawyers or family since 22 January.

Raúl Isaías Baduel (61), a retired general of the Venezuelan Armed Forces, is currently detained in the Ramo Verde National Military Detention Centre (Centro Nacional de Procesados Militares, CENAPROMIL) in Los Teques, near the capital, Caracas. He has had no access to his lawyers or family since 22 January.

On 12 January, Raúl Isaías Baduel, who is openly critical of the current government, was arrested by Military Intelligence Directorate officials after his parole granted in 2015 was revoked. The terms of his parole required him to appear periodically before the court in place of the prison sentence which he had been serving for a previous conviction. This sentence is due to end in March 2017. His family had no knowledge of his whereabouts for several hours and were then informed that he was detained in Ramo Verde prison.

The last time Raúl Isaías Baduel's family saw him was 21 January. In subsequent days, the CENAPROMIL prison authorities denied access to the detainee.

His lawyers reported his incommunicado detention to the Attorney General's Office and the Ombudsman on 26 January, and to date they have not received any response. Raúl Isaías Baduel has also not been brought before a court of law, as the arrest warrant issued against him required.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Demanding that the authorities immediately provide Raúl Isaías Baduel with access to free and private communication with his family and lawyers of his choosing;
- Calling on the authorities to guarantee his physical integrity;
- Urging them to ensure full respect for guarantees of due process for Raúl Isaías Baduel, particularly the presumption of innocence and immediate appearance before an impartial and independent court with the assistance of his lawyers.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 MARCH 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice and the Interior

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**

Attorney General

Dra. Luisa Ortega Díaz
Fiscalía General de la República
Avda. México, Manduca a Pelelojo,
Edif. Sede Fiscalía General de la
República, La Candelaria
Caracas, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 509 8504

Email: mp@fiscalia.gov.ve
**Salutation: Señora Fiscal General/
Dear Attorney General**

Ombudsman

Dr. Tarek William Saab
Defensor del Pueblo
Av. Urdaneta - Frente a El Universal
Centro Financiero Latino, Piso 27
Caracas, Venezuela

Fax: +58 212 5077025
Email: contacto@defensoria.gob.ve
**Salutation: Dear Ombudsman / Señor
Defensor**

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Retired general Raúl Isaías Baduel, former Minister of Defence during the administration of President Hugo Chávez, was discharged in 2007 and has since been openly critical of the government. One year prior to this, legal proceedings had been initiated against him in the military courts which resulted in him being sentenced to seven years and 11 months in prison.

Raúl Isaías Baduel's son, Raúl Emilio Baduel, was arbitrarily detained during a peaceful protest in the city of Maracay, in central Venezuela, in March 2014, during mass protests both in favour of and opposing the government which took place that year. Since then he has remained in detention and his lawyers have filled reports of cruel treatment and torture on several occasions.

UA: 33/17 Index: AMR 53/5611/2017 Issue Date: 2 February 2017