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**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
RESOLUTION 2/2025**

Precautionary Measure No. 1438-24

**Alberto Trentini regarding Venezuela**

January 7, 2025

Original: Spanish

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On December 24, 2024, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“the Inter-American Commission,” “the Commission” or “the IACHR”) received a request for precautionary measures filed by L.G.R. (“the requesting party”) urging the Commission to request that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the “State” or “Venezuela”) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights of Alberto Trentini, a citizen of Italy (“the proposed beneficiary”). According to the request, the proposed beneficiary is a humanitarian worker of the NGO “Humanity and Inclusion,” in Venezuela, and was allegedly detained on November 15, 2024, by Venezuelan authorities at the checkpoint of Guasdalito, Venezuela. Since that date, his whereabouts have been unknown.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 25(5) of its Rules of Procedure and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, the Commission requested information from the State on December 26, 2024. To date, the IACHR has not received a response from Venezuela and the granted deadline has expired.

3. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law furnished by the requesting party, the Commission recognizes that the proposed beneficiary is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his current location is unknown to date. Consequently, pursuant to the provisions of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela: a) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular, officially report whether he is in custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention; or else, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate; b) establish the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary’s detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including: i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to his family members, lawyers, and representatives, and allow the beneficiary to communicate with his country of nationality; ii. officially report on the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal process in which he is said to be involved, as well as the reasons why he has not been released to date and if a court has reviewed his detention; and iii. immediately carry out a medical evaluation of his health and guarantee access to the necessary medical care; c) consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and d) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

**II. SUMMARY OF FACTS AND ARGUMENTS**

**A. Information provided by the requesting party**

4. The request mentions that, since October 2024, Alberto Trentini began working as a field coordinator for the NGO “Humanity and Inclusion” in Caracas, Venezuela. During that time, he told his partner that he faced hostility at each airport when traveling between Amazonas and Caracas. On November 14, 2024, through WhatsApp messaging, he allegedly told his partner that he was going to resign from the NGO.

5. It is indicated that, on November 15, 2024, by order of the NGO, the proposed beneficiary moved to the state of Amazonas. That same day, he was requested to travel to the state of Apure. He traveled

from the Amazon to Santo Domingo airport by air and was subsequently transported by an NGO vehicle to Apure. At the Guasdalito checkpoint, he was detained by officers of the Administrative Service for Identification, Migration, and Foreigners (SAIME). According to the request, Alberto Trentini does not have a criminal or military record, affiliations to political groups, or political positions regarding the Venezuelan state.

6. On the morning of November 16, 2024, the NGO was informed that Alberto Trentini had been transferred to the authorities of the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM). They were informed that the proposed beneficiary had purportedly been taken on November 15, 2024, from Guasdalito to San Cristóbal with a final destination in Caracas. The request informs that his whereabouts have been unknown since then.

7. The proposed beneficiary has been held incommunicado. They only allowed him to make a phone call. He allegedly reported the situation to the NGO for which he works. In response, this organization purportedly sent humanitarian workers to inform the authorities that they had the authorization of the Comprehensive Defense Operating Zone (ZODI) to enter the state of Apure as humanitarian workers. However, the Venezuelan authorities reportedly refused to provide information.

8. The requesting party indicates that it was aware that the state of Apure is where all the detentions of foreign citizens working for non-governmental organizations are generated, on charges of espionage, mercenarism, and other similar accusations. In addition, foreigners working for those organizations are being associated with a plan that the Minister of the Interior and Justice of Venezuela, Diosdado Cabello, allegedly calls a plan of “assassination against President Nicolás Maduro.” In this context, a concern is expressed because the proposed beneficiary was reportedly in Colombia during December 2023 as well as in January and April 2024 to celebrate his partner’s birthday. It is noted that he worked at the “Danish Refugee Council” in 2023. A person who works for that organization is reportedly detained in Venezuela, which raises fears that the proposed beneficiary will be linked to that person.

9. The proposed beneficiary is an only child. He is said to have no support networks in the country. Her father has “Alzheimer’s” and her mother is an older adult. Both allegedly live in Venice, Italy. The requesting party affirms that Alberto Trentini suffers from high blood pressure, asthma, and skin fibroids, conditions that purportedly require medication and regular medical attention, and therefore, the deprivation of liberty without adequate assistance could impact his health. Lastly, it is reported that the NGO, through a lawyer, tried to file a *habeas corpus*, but the Venezuelan authorities reportedly refused to receive the document and to provide information on his whereabouts.

#### **B. Response from the State**

10. The Commission requested information from the State on December 26, 2024. To date, no information has been received, and the granted timeline has expired.

### **III. ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS OF SERIOUSNESS, URGENCY, AND IRREPARABLE HARM**

11. The precautionary measures mechanism is part of the Commission’s function of overseeing compliance with the human rights obligations set forth in Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States. These general oversight functions are provided for in Article 41(b) of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as in Article 18(b) of the Statute of the IACHR. The mechanism of precautionary measures is set forth in Article 25 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. In accordance with that Article, the Commission grants precautionary measures in serious and urgent situations in which these measures are necessary to avoid an irreparable harm to persons.

12. The Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (“the Inter-American Court” or “I/A Court H.R.”) have established repeatedly that precautionary and provisional measures

have a dual nature, both protective and precautionary.<sup>1</sup> Regarding the protective nature, these measures seek to avoid irreparable harm and to protect the exercise of human rights.<sup>2</sup> To do this, the IACHR shall assess the problem raised, the effectiveness of State actions to address the situation, and how vulnerable the proposed beneficiaries would be left in case the measures are not adopted.<sup>3</sup> As for their precautionary nature, these measures have the purpose of preserving legal situations while under the study of the IACHR. Their precautionary nature aims at safeguarding the rights at risk until the petition pending before the inter-American system is resolved. Their object and purpose are to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of an eventual decision on the merits, and, thus, avoid any further infringement of the rights at issue, a situation that may adversely affect the useful effect (*effet utile*) of the final decision. In this regard, precautionary or provisional measures enable the State concerned to comply with the final decision and, if necessary, to implement the ordered reparations.<sup>4</sup> In the process of reaching a decision, and according to Article 25(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission considers that:

- a. “serious situation” refers to a grave impact that an action or omission can have on a protected right or on the eventual effect of a pending decision in a case or petition before the organs of the inter-American system;
- b. “urgent situation” refers to risk or threat that is imminent and can materialize, thus requiring immediate preventive or protective action; and
- c. “irreparable harm” refers to injury to rights which, due to their nature, would not be susceptible to reparation, restoration or adequate compensation.

13. In analyzing those requirements, the Commission reiterates that the facts supporting a request for precautionary measures need not be proven beyond doubt. The information provided should be assessed from a *prima facie* standard of review to determine whether a serious and urgent situation exists.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, the Commission recalls that, by its own mandate, it is not called upon to determine any individual liabilities for the facts alleged. Moreover, in this proceeding, it is not appropriate to rule on violations of rights enshrined in the American Convention or other applicable instruments.<sup>6</sup> This is better suited to be addressed by the Petition and Case system. The following analysis refers exclusively to the requirements of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, which can be resolved without making any determinations on the merits.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.), [Matter of the Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center \(Yare Prison\)](#), Provisional Measures regarding the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Order of March 30, 2006, considerandum 5; [Case of Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala](#), Provisional Measures, Order of July 6, 2009, considerandum 16.

<sup>2</sup> I/A Court H.R., [Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 8; [Case of Bámaca Velásquez](#), Provisional Measures regarding Guatemala, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 45; [Matter of Fernández Ortega et al.](#), Provisional Measures regarding Mexico, Order of April 30, 2009, considerandum 5; [Matter of Milagro Sala](#), Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5.

<sup>3</sup> I/A Court H.R., [Matter of Milagro Sala](#), Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5 (Available only in Spanish); [Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 9; [Matter of the Criminal Institute of Plácido de Sá Carvalho](#), Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of February 13, 2017, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish).

<sup>4</sup> I/A Court H.R., [Matter of the Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 7; [Matter of “El Nacional” and “Así es la Noticia” newspapers](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of November 25, 2008, considerandum 23; [Matter of Luis Uzcátegui](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 19.

<sup>5</sup> I/A Court H.R., [Matter of the Members of the Communities of the Miskitu Indigenous People of the North Caribbean Coast Region regarding Nicaragua](#), Extension of Provisional Measures, Order of August 23, 2018, considerandum 13; [Matter of the children and adolescents deprived of their liberty in the “Complexo do Tatuapé” of the Fundação CASA](#), Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of July 4, 2006, considerandum 23.

<sup>6</sup> IACHR, [Resolution 2/2015](#), Precautionary Measure No. 455-13, Matter of Nestora Salgado regarding Mexico, January 28, 2015, para. 14; [Resolution 37/2021](#), Precautionary Measure No. 96/21, Gustavo Adolfo Mendoza Beteta and family regarding Nicaragua, April 30, 2021, para. 33.

<sup>7</sup> In this regard, the Court has indicated that “[it] cannot, in a provisional measure, consider the merits of any arguments pertaining to issues other than those which relate strictly to the extreme gravity and urgency and the necessity to avoid irreparable damage to persons.” See in this regard: I/A Court H.R., [Matter of James et al. regarding Trinidad and Tobago](#), Provisional Measures, Order of August 29, 1998, considerandum 6; [Matter of Barrios Family v. Venezuela](#), Provisional Measures, Order of April 22, 2021, considerandum 2 (Available only in Spanish).

14. In the same sense, in analyzing the facts alleged by the requesting party, the Commission observes that the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, to which the State of Venezuela has been annexed since its ratification on July 6, 1998,<sup>8</sup> interprets forced disappearance as the act “[...] perpetrated by agents of the state or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of the state, followed by an absence of information or a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the whereabouts of that person, thereby impeding his or her recourse to the applicable legal remedies and procedural guarantees.”<sup>9</sup> In addition, the Inter-American Commission highlights what was established by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, in the sense that “there is no minimum time, however short, to consider that an enforced disappearance has occurred.”<sup>10</sup>

15. As regards the *context*, the Commission has been monitoring the rule of law and human rights situation in Venezuela since 2005,<sup>11</sup> and has included the country in Chapter IV.B of its Annual Report. The Commission has also issued press releases and country reports, and established a special follow-up mechanism for the country, known as MESEVE.

16. In its 2023 Annual Report, the Commission also observed the persistence of a coordinated repression policy, and recommended that the State of Venezuela refrain from carrying out illegal or arbitrary detentions. In cases where a person is deprived of their liberty, the State should ensure that all due process guarantees are upheld, including prompt presentation before an independent judicial authority, in order to prevent enforced disappearances, torture, and other cruel and inhumane treatment.<sup>12</sup> The Commission has recently condemned the practices of institutional violence in the context of the electoral process in Venezuela, such as violent repression, arbitrary detentions, and political persecution.<sup>13</sup> The strategy of detention and criminalization appears to be specifically targeted at individuals perceived as opponents of the regime, including journalists, opposition leaders, human rights defenders, and others.<sup>14</sup>

17. In particular, in the press release of August 15, 2024, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE) stated that the regime in power is sowing terror as a tool to silence the citizenry and perpetuate the ruling authoritarian regime in power, and that Venezuela must cease practices immediately that violate human rights and reestablish democratic order and the rule of law.<sup>15</sup> It was found that detainees were subjected to criminal proceedings for crimes defined in ambiguous and broad terms, without the opportunity to be represented by a defense counsel of their choice, as public defenders were imposed on them. The IACHR stressed that “[t]he practices of state terrorism perpetrated by the current regime and observed by the Commission are not only aimed at the persecution of specific sectors, but also generate a climate of fear and intimidation among the Venezuelan population” which “amount also to a denial of the right to political participation.”<sup>16</sup>

18. The Commission understands that the circumstances in which the detention of the proposed beneficiary has taken place, together with the country contextual monitoring carried out by the IACHR, are relevant in the analysis of the procedural requirements.

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<sup>8</sup> [Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons](#), Belém do Pará, Brazil, June 9, 1994, [Signatories and current status of ratifications of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons](#).

<sup>9</sup> [Inter-American Convention on Enforced Disappearance of Persons](#), Belém do Pará, Brazil, June 9, 1994.

<sup>10</sup> IACHR, [2021 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II, approved on May 26, 2022, para. 85; United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, August 10, 2015, A/HRC/30/38, para. 102.

<sup>11</sup> IACHR, [2023 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 386 rev. 1, approved on December 31, 2023, para. 1.

<sup>12</sup> IACHR, [2023 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela](#), previously cited, Recommendation 8.

<sup>13</sup> IACHR, Press Release 184/24, [IACHR and SRFoE condemn State terrorism practices in Venezuela](#), August 15, 2024.

<sup>14</sup> IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

<sup>15</sup> IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

<sup>16</sup> IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

19. In analyzing the requirement of *seriousness*, the Commission takes into consideration that, since November 15, 2024, Alberto Trentini, an Italian national, has been deprived of liberty by agents of the State of Venezuela, and his whereabouts have been unknown to date. This fact is aggravated by the refusal of Venezuelan authorities to provide minimal information about his situation, such as: the type of crime for which he is being investigated; the competent court hearing the criminal case; the number of the judicial file; the existence of judicial orders to detain him and transfer him to a penitentiary; the exact place where he is being held; if he has undergone a medical evaluation since his detention; or if he is currently receiving medical treatment for pre-existing conditions.

20. In addition to the foregoing, the Commission notes that, since they do not have minimal official information about his legal situation, his family members and representatives do not have mechanisms that would allow them to challenge the actions taken by state agents before the competent judicial authority. Moreover, it is noted that there are no domestic avenues available to seek protection for the proposed beneficiary. In particular, it was reported that the NGO, for which the proposed beneficiary works, tried to file a writ of *habeas corpus* in his favor, but the authorities reportedly refused to receive it. The Commission also does not have information on whether the Venezuelan authorities have guaranteed communication between the proposed beneficiary and his country of nationality. As long as the State fails to provide a clear response, the Commission believes that the proposed beneficiary remains in a state of complete vulnerability regarding the situations he may currently be facing.

21. Upon requesting information from the State, the Commission regrets its lack of response. Although the foregoing is not enough per se to justify the granting of a precautionary measure, it prevents the Commission from being aware of the observations or measures taken by the State to address the alleged risk that the proposed beneficiary faces. Therefore, the Commission does not have elements that would allow it to dispute the facts alleged by the requesting party, nor to assess whether the risk that the proposed beneficiary faces has been addressed or mitigated. In this regard, the Commission expresses its particular concern given that State agents, who hold a special responsibility as guarantors of the proposed beneficiary's human rights, have been identified as being responsible for his detention, since they have him in their custody.

22. In sum, the Commission finds that, from the applicable *prima facie* standard, it is sufficiently proven that the rights to life and personal integrity of the proposed beneficiary face a serious risk, since his whereabouts, conditions of detention, and state of health remain unknown to date, after his detention on November 15, 2024.

23. Regarding the requirement of *urgency*, the Commission finds that it has been fulfilled, insofar as the proposed beneficiary's whereabouts remain unknown, and because, with the passage of time, the likelihood of violations of his rights increases. In addition, the Commission highlights the impossibility of his relatives and representatives to activate internal actions in favor of the proposed beneficiary in order to locate him. Therefore, the Commission considers it necessary to adopt immediate measures to safeguard the rights of the proposed beneficiary.

24. Regarding the requirement of *irreparable harm*, the Commission maintains that it has been met, since the potential impact on the rights to life and personal integrity constitutes the maximum situation of irreparability.

#### **IV. BENEFICIARY**

25. The Commission declares Alberto Trentini beneficiary of the precautionary measures, who is duly identified in this proceeding.

#### **V. DECISION**

26. The Commission understands that this matter meets *prima facie* the requirements of seriousness, urgency, and irreparable harm set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

- a) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular, officially report whether he is in custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention; or else, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
- b) establish the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:
  - i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to his family members, lawyers, and representatives, and allow the beneficiary to communicate with his country of nationality;
  - ii. officially report on the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal process in which he is said to be involved, as well as the reasons why he has not been released to date and if a court has reviewed his detention; and
  - iii. immediately carry out a medical evaluation of his health and guarantee access to the necessary medical care;
- c) consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
- d) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

27. The Commission requests that Venezuela report, within 15 days from the date of notification of this resolution, on the adoption of the requested precautionary measures and update that information periodically.

28. The Commission emphasizes that, pursuant to Article 25(8) of its Rules of Procedure, the granting of precautionary measures and their adoption by the State do not constitute a prejudgment regarding the possible violation of the rights protected in the American Convention and other applicable instruments.

29. The Commission instructs its Executive Secretariat to notify this resolution to the State of Venezuela and the requesting party.

30. Approved on January 7, 2025, by Roberta Clarke, President; Carlos Bernal Pulido, First Vice-President; José Luis Caballero Ochoa, Second Vice-President; Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana; Arif Bulkan; Andrea Pochak; and Gloria Monique de Mees, members of the IACHR.

Tania Reneaum Panszi  
Executive Secretary