

**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
RESOLUTION 53/2025**

Precautionary Measure No. 939-25

Ulises Ramón Martínez Silva regarding Venezuela

August 5, 2025

Original: Spanish

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On July 14, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“the Inter-American Commission”, “the Commission” or “the IACHR”) received a request for precautionary measures filed by the CASLA Institute (“the applicants”) urging the Commission to require that the State of Venezuela (“the State” or “Venezuela”) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Ulises Ramón Martínez Silva (“the proposed beneficiary”). According to the request, the proposed beneficiary is an entrepreneur and coordinator of the *Vente Venezuela* party in the Simón Bolívar municipality of the state of Anzoátegui. He was reportedly detained by officials from the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) on June 9, 2025. Since then, his whereabouts have been unknown and it has not been possible to contact him.

2. The applicants submitted additional information on July 21, 2025. 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 July 24, 2025. To date, the State has not responded and the granted deadline has expired.

3. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law furnished by the parties, the Commission considers that the 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, i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reasons for and circumstances of his detention; or, alternatively, indicate the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate; ii. if he has been charged with a crime, specify whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention, or, if he has not been brought before a court, clarify the reasons why not; iii. expressly indicate the court that has oversight of his case, if he has been charged with a crime, and if not, specify the reasons why he has not been released to date; iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any; and v. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health and ensure access to necessary medical care; and b) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

**II. SUMMARY OF FACTS AND ARGUMENTS**

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

4. The proposed beneficiary is a businessman and coordinator of the *Vente Venezuela* party in the Simón Bolívar municipality of Anzoátegui state and participated in that capacity during the 2024 electoral process. The applicants stated that the State had accused him of being a “terrorist.” After being subjected to police persecution, the proposed beneficiary decided to leave his residence and seek shelter on July 28, 2024, the day of the presidential elections. He allegedly has high cholesterol and kidney stones which requires him to drink a certain amount of water per day and eat a balanced diet.

5. The applicants reported that at around 2:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025, the proposed beneficiary was detained by SEBIN officials at the residence where he was taking shelter in the city of Lechería, Anzoátegui state. It was alleged that the location was raided by hooded officials dressed in civilian clothing and armed, who did not carry visible identification. Reportedly no arrest warrant was issued. The proposed beneficiary's family was also not informed of the grounds for the detention or his whereabouts.

6. In the documentation attached to the request, it was indicated that on June 10, 2025, his family members went to the SEBIN headquarters in Lechería. They were told that he was being held there and would be subsequently transferred to the city of Caracas. When a family member went to the SEBIN headquarters in El Helicoide in Caracas, officials reportedly told him that the proposed beneficiary was not on the list of detainees. The request alleged that, six days after the detention, an individual who had previously been detained and identified as a "political prisoner" informed the proposed beneficiary's family members that he had shared a cell with him at the Helicoide. However, SEBIN officials continued to deny that he was being held there.

7. Since then, the proposed beneficiary's family members have not received any updates or information regarding his whereabouts, despite their efforts to locate him. The last time they heard from him was on June 8, 2025, just one day before his detention, when he exchanged text messages with his wife.

8. On June 30, 2025, a complaint was filed with the Ombudsperson's Office and another with the General Directorate for the Protection of Human Rights of the Public Prosecutor's Office, alleging violations of due process, personal freedom, and the physical, psychological, and moral integrity of the proposed beneficiary. Both complaints requested measures to protect his physical integrity and life, and that he be allowed to appoint attorneys of his choice to exercise his right to defense. It was added that his relatives also went to the Human Rights Coordination Office of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Caracas to request an urgent response regarding the detainee's situation. To date, they have not received a response.

9. On July 1, 2025, the proposed beneficiary's son filed a writ of *habeas corpus* before the Duty Judge of the First Instance Court for the Protection of Personal Liberty and Security in the Criminal Judicial Circuit of the Metropolitan Area of Caracas. The writ requested information on: (i) his whereabouts, (ii) his legal situation, (iii) communication with his family unit and trusted attorney, (iv) to bring the proposed beneficiary before the courts, (v) the case number, and (vi) the status of his proceedings. That same day, one of the proposed beneficiary's relatives went to the Palace of Justice of the Judicial District of the Caracas metropolitan area to verify whether the corresponding preliminary hearing had been held. However, the Document Reception and Distribution Unit (*Unidad de Recepción y Distribución de Documentos*, URDD) reportedly indicated that it had no record of the proposed beneficiary. The applicants stated that the Public Defender's Office denied having any record of the proposed beneficiary's name. Consequently, the applicants consider that there is no record that the proposed beneficiary has been brought before a court or heard by a judge. According to the applicants, the circumstances surrounding the proposed beneficiary constitutes an enforced disappearance.

10. Lastly, the request added that the proposed beneficiary's wife is also a member of the *Vente Venezuela* party. His wife and children are reportedly safe but scared of being persecuted because of their family's political affiliation.

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

11. The IACHR requested information from the State on July 24, 2025. However, despite the expiration of the given deadline, the State has not submitted its response to date.

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

12. 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 irreparable harm to persons.

13. The Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (hereinafter "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, according to Article 25(2) of its 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.

14. In analyzing those requirements, the Commission reiterates that the facts supporting a request for precautionary measures need not be proven beyond doubt; rather, the information provided should

<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](#), 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 (Available only in Spanish).

<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 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 (Available only in Spanish).

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 in its purview 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 carried out without making any determination on the merits.<sup>7</sup>

15. 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 enforced 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>

16. Regarding 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.

17. In 2024, the Commission 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>12</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>13</sup> On December 27, 2024, the IACHR approved the report titled “Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in Connection with the Elections” and reaffirmed that the State has been engaging in practices such as the arbitrary detention of opponents, human rights defenders, and social leaders,<sup>14</sup> while using “terror as a tool of social control.”<sup>15</sup>

<sup>5</sup> I/A Court H.R., [Matter of Members of the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples of the North Caribbean Coast regarding Nicaragua](#), Extension of Provisional Measures, Order of August 23, 2018, considerandum 13 (Available only in Spanish); [Matter of children and adolescents deprived of 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 stated 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.” I/A Court H.R., [Matter of James et al. regarding Trinidad and Tobago](#), Provisional Measures, Order of August 29, 1998, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish); [Case of the Barrios Family v. Venezuela](#), Provisional Measures, Order of April 22, 2021, considerandum 2 (Available only in Spanish).

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

<sup>13</sup> IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

<sup>14</sup> IACHR, [Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in Connection with the Elections](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, para. 3.

<sup>15</sup> IACHR, Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context, previously cited, para. 5.

18. On January 9, 2025, the Commission learned of arbitrary detentions carried out days before the peaceful protests called by the opposition. These acts represent a new wave of the repressive pattern.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, it urged the State of Venezuela to immediately cease the persecution of opponents, human rights defenders, and journalists, and to promptly release all individuals detained for political reasons.<sup>17</sup>

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

20. As for the requirement of *seriousness*, the Commission considers that it has been met. When analyzing the situation of the proposed beneficiary, the Commission finds that the proposed beneficiary's detention takes place in the context described above. In light of the information available, the Commission observes with concern the following information:

- The proposed beneficiary's whereabouts have been unknown since June 9, 2025, after being detained by alleged SEBIN officials. The detention allegedly took place without a warrant and without informing the family of the grounds for the detention or the location where the proposed beneficiary was taken;
- Although authorities at the SEBIN headquarters in Lechería, along with another source, reportedly stated that the proposed beneficiary was being held at the Helicoide in Caracas, officials at that headquarters denied that he was there. There is no information regarding other locations where the proposed beneficiary may be held. This situation remains unchanged despite the search his relatives are carrying out.
- Officials from the Palace of Justice and the Public Defense Coordination Office have denied having any records of the proposed beneficiary's situation, and there has been no ruling on the *habeas corpus* petition filed by his family. In this regard, the Commission observes that the Venezuelan authorities have not provided official information on any of the following: the proposed beneficiary's legal situation; his place of detention; the case file number or the criminal charge for which he is being investigated; the judicial authority that ordered his detention; or the competent court that would hear the case.
- Similarly, there has allegedly not been any progress in the complaints filed by the applicants with the Ombudsperson's Office and the Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the alleged facts. In addition, the requests for the appointment of a personal attorney for the proposed beneficiary have not been addressed either. Accordingly, the Commission observes a lack of response from the State to the domestic remedies pursued, as well as the family's inability to effectively seek protection of the proposed beneficiary's rights.
- There is no updated information regarding the proposed beneficiary's health, nor any indication that the State is ensuring the specific diet and water intake that the applicants identified as necessary for the proper management of his high cholesterol and kidney stones.

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<sup>16</sup> IACHR, Press Release 09/25, [The IACHR condemns the ongoing practices of state terrorism in Venezuela and recalls that María Corina Machado is a beneficiary of precautionary measures](#), January 9, 2025.

<sup>17</sup> IACHR, Press Release 09/25, previously cited.



21. Furthermore, the Commission observes that the proposed beneficiary's last communication with his relatives took place on June 8, 2025. In effect, for nearly two months, there has been no information on the proposed beneficiary's whereabouts after being detained by state agents.

22. 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 does prevent 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 has no grounds to refute the facts alleged by the applicants or to assess whether the risk that the proposed beneficiary faces has been addressed or mitigated. In this context, 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. Until the State provides a response regarding the situation of the proposed beneficiary, the Commission concludes that he remains in a situation of complete vulnerability.

23. In light of the foregoing considerations, the Commission concludes that, based on the applicable *prima facie* analysis, the right to life and personal integrity of the proposed beneficiary are at serious risk. The aforementioned is given that his whereabouts and legal situation remain unknown to date, following his detention on June 9, 2025. In addition, state authorities have not responded to internal appeals for protection in favor of the proposed beneficiary.

24. Regarding the requirement of *urgency*, the Commission finds that it is met insofar as the whereabouts of the proposed beneficiary remain unknown over time, thereby exposing him to imminent further impairment of his rights in the context of Venezuela. In addition, the Commission does not have information from the State to assess the actions that are being taken to address and mitigate the alleged risk faced by the proposed beneficiary. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt immediate measures to safeguard his rights.

25. Regarding the requirement of *irreparable harm*, the Commission finds it met, given that the potential impact on the rights to life and personal integrity constitutes the maximum situation of irreparability.

#### **IV. BENEFICIARY**

26. The Commission declares Ulises Ramón Martínez Silva as beneficiary of the precautionary measures, who is duly identified in these proceedings in accordance with Article 25(6)(b) of the IACHR Rules of Procedure.

#### **V. DECISION**

27. The Commission considers 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,
  - i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reasons for and circumstances of his detention; or, alternatively, indicate the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;

- ii. if he has been charged with a crime, specify whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention, or, if he has not been brought before a court, clarify the reasons why not;
  - iii. expressly indicate the court that has oversight of his case, if he has been charged with a crime, and if not, specify the reasons why he has not been released to date;
  - iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any; and
  - v. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health and ensure access to necessary medical care; and
- b) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

28. The Commission requests that the Government of Venezuela inform the Commission, within a period of 20 days as of the date of this communication, on the adoption of the precautionary measures that have been agreed upon and to periodically update this information.

29. The Commission stresses that, pursuant to Article 25(8) of the Commission's 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.

30. The Commission instructs the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR to notify this resolution to the State of Venezuela and the applicant.

31. Approved on August 5, 2025, by José Luis Caballero Ochoa, President; Andrea Pochak, First Vice-President; Arif Bulkan, Second Vice-President; Carlos Bernal Pulido; and Gloria Monique de Mees, members of the IACHR.

María Claudia Pulido  
Assistant Executive Secretary