

**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
RESOLUTION 91/2025**

Precautionary Measure No. 1750-25

Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza regarding Venezuela

December 11, 2025

Original: Spanish

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On November 20, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“the Inter-American Commission,” “the Commission” or “the IACHR”) received a request for precautionary measures urging the Commission to request that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the “State” or “Venezuela”) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights of Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza (“the proposed beneficiary”). According to the request, the proposed beneficiary has been deprived of his liberty since July 30, 2024. He is allegedly not receiving adequate medical care, despite repeated episodes of suicide attempts in State custody. In addition, the request questioned his detention conditions.

2. The Commission requested additional information from the applicants on November 25, 2025, and received a response on November 26, 27, and 29, 2025, and December 5 and 6, 2025. Pursuant to Article 25(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested information from the State on December 1, 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 requesting party, the Commission recognizes that Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm. Therefore, based on Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela: a) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza; b) implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary’s detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including: i. ensure access to adequate and specialized medical care, treatments, and medications, and immediately carry out a comprehensive medical evaluation of his physical and mental health; ii. provide immediate access to adequate food and water; iii. guarantee that he is not subjected to violence, threats, intimidation, and aggression inside the prison; c) consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented 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. According to the request, Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza is a telecommunications engineer and was deprived of his liberty on July 30, 2024, as part of the police operations related to the post-electoral protests in Venezuela. The detention allegedly occurred arbitrarily, without a court order, by unidentified subjects, when he returned home after performing physical activity recommended by his doctor as part of his psychiatric treatment. It was revealed that, after his detention, he was taken to the 41st Brigade in the state of Carabobo, where he was beaten by a group of people. At present, he is reportedly deprived of liberty at the command of the Municipal Police of Naguanagua, Carabobo state.

5. On August 22, 2024, the Municipal Police of Naguanagua prepared a Criminal Investigation Report recounting the finding of “three stones, as gray rocky matter” inside a bag, for which the proposed beneficiary was allegedly charged with the crime of terrorism. The applicant reported that the criminal case continues at the trial stage before the Third Trial Court.

6. The request stated that the proposed beneficiary suffers from anxiety and depression with severe symptoms that date back to the death of his brother in 2017, which allegedly led him to develop suicidal ideation and chronic insomnia. It was stressed that the confinement and the interruption of specialized treatment (including Alprazolam) have aggravated his condition, manifesting a functional deterioration, anxiety crisis, panic attacks and recurrent suicidal ideation. In particular, the following episodes were reported:

- a. On August 5, 2024, the proposed beneficiary was threatened by members of the 41st Brigade, who also reportedly told him that he would “spend 30 years in prison.” It was noted that this triggered an episode of acute panic that culminated in a suicide attempt.
- b. On October 14, 2024, after the preliminary hearing in which the proposed beneficiary was allegedly pressured to admit the crimes of terrorism, incitement to hatred, obstruction of public roads and resistance to authority, he suffered an intense psychiatric crisis that led to another suicide attempt.
- c. On March 2, 2025, after a period of release of other prisoners, the proposed beneficiary was allegedly not included without explanation, which led to a severe depressive episode and a suicide attempt. Images of cuts on the wrist were attached.

7. The request highlighted that the proposed beneficiary requires the constant consumption of Alprazolam (anxiolytic), Paroxetine (antidepressant), Quetiapine (antipsychotic), and Trazadone (antidepressant). The lack of continuous access to this medication would be the direct trigger for the self-harm crisis.

8. The psychiatrist, in a report dated July 20, 2023, reported that the proposed beneficiary “went to a consultation for suicide attempt, taking some pills.” In this regard, the professional recommended specialized medication and, in particular, “permanent family care and surveillance”. Likewise, in a report dated July 30, 2024, she stated:

“The patient has been coming to my office for 1 year because he has moderate depression with a risk of suicide, so he must be under permanent family surveillance. He deserves weekly evaluation in this consultation. He must take medication continuously for a long time, which cannot be stopped abruptly.”

9. In another report dated August 4, 2024, the psychiatrist highlighted:

“(…) I certify that in this situation his condition could worsen completely, with a regression in what he had already advanced with the treatment. Complications could include committing suicide or developing a psychotic episode. He must be under the supervision of the family.”

10. In a report from the physician of the National Service of Medicine and Forensic Sciences, dated July 7, 2025, the health status of the proposed beneficiary is described:

“(…) repeatedly evaluated for depressive episodes and suicide attempts. He has a history of underlying psychiatric pathology: 1. Long-standing bipolar disorder. 2. Suicidal thoughts. Physical examination: Patient with obvious deterioration in physical appearance, bradylalic speech, anxious and crying (…). NEUROLOGICAL: Patient in active depressive phase, crying with incoherent speech, suicidal thoughts, loss of appetite, and inactive. In view of the above, following clinical analysis and the attached reports, the diagnosis of active psychiatric illness associated

with bipolar disorder, tending toward psychotic episodes and self-harm, is concluded. For this reason, I indicate that these pathologies are not compatible with life in formal confinement, given the evident risk of self-harm and the emergence of an evident psychotic episode. For this reason, and in order to protect the life and health of the aforementioned patient, I recommend: 1. Urgent psychiatric evaluation. 2. Medication control and monitoring. 3. Detention in a suitable location. 4. Urgent evaluation by infectious disease and/or pulmonology specialists.”

11. In another report from the physician of the National Service of Medicine and Forensic Sciences, dated August 21, 2025, it is reported:

“(…) 34-year-old male patient brought in by an officer of the Naguanagua Municipal Police due to abnormal behavior and multiple attempts at self-harm. Physical examination: patient with depressed facial expression, incoherent speech, crying (...) Neurological: Patient on medication due to their underlying diagnosis. Patient known to have attempted suicide on more than three occasions. However, this type of patient must be constantly monitored and his medication must be strictly controlled in order to prevent further attempts at self-harm, concluding: 1. Depressive Syndrome. 2. Three suicide attempts. Psychiatric monitoring and supervision is recommended.”

12. The requesting party noted that the family has filed multiple applications with various Venezuelan agencies, in particular:

- (i) medical reports were submitted and humanitarian measures were requested from the 58th National Prosecutor’s Office. To date, there has been no response;
- (ii) They went to the Public Defender’s Office. The officer reportedly stated verbally that the proposed beneficiary was included in “a list of people with conditions requiring urgent attention and measures.” There has been no further information since then;
- (iii) They filed a request for review of the deprivation of liberty measure before the Third Trial Court, which is said to remain pending, without substantial progress;
- (iv) The family submitted a request for review of measure and the report of psychiatric pathologies before the National Assembly.

13. However, the applicant stated that the different ministries and entities have ignored the situation and have breached their duty to guarantee the rights of the proposed beneficiary.

14. In addition to the above, it was noted that the detention center does not meet minimum standards for health, medical supervision, care protocols, or basic guarantees of dignified treatment. In particular, the following was detailed:

- a. Overcrowded cell, without adequate ventilation.
- b. Poor light, constant humidity and precarious bedding.
- c. Limited feeding without sufficient nutritional intake, which includes only what the family is able to bring.
- d. There is no regular access to drinking water.
- e. Medical care is almost non-existent; supposedly only essential personnel are on call for emergencies.
- f. Psychiatric medications are only obtained when the family brings them in.
- g. There is no specialized monitoring to protect him from suicidal crises.
- h. He has no access to an intramural psychologist or psychiatrist.

15. On December 5, 2025, the request also communicated that, in recent weeks, the proposed beneficiary has been exposed to two episodes of aggression within the collective cell. Both incidents were allegedly provoked by another person deprived of liberty with a history of violent behavior. It was reported that on one occasion the alleged aggressor tried to attack him with a cheese scratcher, and at another time, he

used an artisanal knife. Although the proposed beneficiary did not suffer serious injuries, it was highlighted that it was thanks to the intervention of other prisoners in the same cell. The requesting party pointed out that at the beginning the proposed beneficiary did not provide this information due to the fear of suffering internal reprisals and fear of being transferred to a prison of greater danger.

B. Response from the State

16. The IACHR requested information from the State on December 1, 2025. To date, no information has been received from them, and the granted timeline has expired.

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

17. 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.

18. 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.¹ Regarding the protective nature, these measures seek to avoid irreparable harm and to protect the exercise of human rights.² 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.³ 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.⁴ In the process of reaching a decision, according to Article 25(2) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission considers that:

¹Inter-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.

² 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).

³ 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).

⁴ 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.

- 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.

19. 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 be assessed from a *prima facie* standard of review to determine whether a serious and urgent situation exists.⁵ Similarly, the Commission recalls that, by its own mandate, it is not within 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.⁶ 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 determination on the merits.⁷

20. As regards the *context*, the Commission has been monitoring the rule of law and human rights situation in Venezuela since 2005,⁸ 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.

21. 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.⁹ On December 27, 2024, the IACHR approved the report titled “Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context” and reaffirmed that the State has been engaging in practices such as “arbitrary arrests of opponents, human rights defenders, and social leaders,”¹⁰ while using “terror as a tool of social control.”¹¹

22. In 2025, the IACHR condemned the situation of persons deprived of their liberty in Venezuela in the context of the country.¹² The IACHR identified that relatives have not yet received a formal communication about the detention center where their loved ones are held.¹³ In other cases, they have only been able to find out that they are alive and where they are being held through information shared by other

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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 (Available only in Spanish); [Case of the Barrios Family v. Venezuela](#), Provisional Measures, Order of April 22, 2021, considerandum 2.

⁸ IACHR, [2023 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 386 rev. 1, approved on December 31, 2023, para. 1.

⁹ IACHR, [Press Release No. 184/24](#), IACHR and SRFoE condemn State terrorism practices in Venezuela, August 15, 2024.

¹⁰ IACHR, Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, para. 3.

¹¹ IACHR, Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context, previously cited, para. 5.

¹² IACHR, [Press Release No. 72/25](#), Venezuela Must End the Incommunication of Political Prisoners and Release Them Immediately, April 11, 2025.

¹³ IACHR, Press Release No. 72/25, previously cited.

inmates, or because officials from the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service call them to ask them to bring medicine or collect dirty clothes for washing.¹⁴ During its 192nd Period of Sessions, the Commission was able to obtain information on the situation of persons deprived of their liberty in the post-election context and received testimonies from relatives of victims and civil society on arbitrary detentions, torture, and serious detention conditions.¹⁵

23. Consequently, the Commission understands that the circumstances in which the proposed beneficiary finds himself, along with the country contextual monitoring carried out by the IACHR, are relevant in the analysis of the procedural requirements.

24. With regard to the requirement of *seriousness*, the Commission considers that it has been met. From the information received, the Commission finds that the proposed beneficiary presents a picture of anxiety and depression with severe symptoms, with suicidal thoughts, chronic insomnia, and functional impairment, documented in medical reports from 2023, 2024, and 2025, both by the psychiatrist and the National Service of Medicine and Forensic Sciences. Reports warn of the risk of self-harm and the development of a psychotic outbreak. Indeed, it is serious that the proposed has reportedly presented at least three documented suicide attempts in less than a year, while being in the custody of the State.

25. Therefore, the medical reports included, from July 2023, July 2024, August 2024, July 2025 and August 2025, refer to the need for: (i) permanent family surveillance; (ii) periodic evaluation; (iii) continuous specialized medication; (iv) constant supervision; (v) detention in a suitable location; and (vi) urgent evaluation by different specialties. However, according to the information presented, medical care at the place of detention is “almost non-existent,” given that medical personnel would go only in cases of emergency. Similarly, specialized treatment—including the continuous supply of Alprazolam—was reportedly interrupted and it was indicated that the proposed beneficiary does not have access to an intramural psychologist or psychiatrist. It was reported that psychiatric medications are only available when the family provides them and that there is no specialized surveillance to attend to or prevent his suicidal crises.

26. In addition to the above, it was noted that the cell in which the proposed beneficiary is located is overcrowded, without adequate ventilation, with poor light, constant humidity, precarious bedding, no regular access to drinking water, limited food, and no nutritional contribution. In addition, the request stated that, in the last weeks of 2025, the proposed beneficiary was the subject of two episodes of aggression by another prisoner, who allegedly tried to attack him with a cheese scratcher and then with an artisanal knife. The applicant highlighted that these facts were not initially reported for fear of reprisals and being transferred to a prison of greater danger.

27. Despite the efforts of the family to publicize the health condition of the proposed beneficiary before the Prosecutor’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Third Court of Trial and National Assembly, the applicant stated that these institutions have not addressed the situation of the proposed beneficiary. There is also no information on protection measures adopted to mitigate the situation that has been alleged and brought to the attention of the State.

28. In this regard, the Commission recalls that the Court has established the special position of guarantor that the State acquires in relation to detained persons, as a result of the particular relationship of subordination that exists between the inmate and the authorities.¹⁶ The Court has stressed that in these circumstances the general state duty to respect and guarantee rights acquires a particular nuance, which

¹⁴IACHR, Press Release No. 72/25, previously cited.

¹⁵IACHR, [Press Release No. 50/25](#), IACHR ends the 192nd Period of Sessions with 32 hearings on human rights, March 7, 2025.

¹⁶I/A Court H.R., [Matter of four members of the Mayangna indigenous people deprived of liberty](#), Provisional Measures regarding Nicaragua, June 27, 2023, para. 46.

obliges the State to provide the inmates with the minimum conditions compatible with their dignity while they remain in a detention center.¹⁷ The Court has also clarified that this role as guarantor also requires the State to show that there are no conditions of extreme gravity and urgency that could result in irreparable harm to the proposed beneficiaries.¹⁸

29. 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 be sufficient to disprove the facts alleged by the requesting party, nor to assess whether the risk that the proposed beneficiary faces has been addressed or mitigated.

30. Taking into account the current context of the country, and the previous assessments, the Commission observes that, from the applicable *prima facie* standard, it is sufficiently shown that the proposed beneficiary faces a situation presenting a serious risk to his rights to life, personal integrity and health in Venezuela.

31. With regard to the requirement of *urgency*, the Commission deems that it has been met given that, should the proposed beneficiary continue to face the situation described, he is likely to face an immediate aggravation of his state of health. In this regard, the Commission warns that, given his status as a person deprived of liberty, his psychiatric condition, repeated suicide attempts, interruption of specialized treatment, lack of psychiatric care within the prison, and reported conditions of detention, there is an imminent possibility of serious harm to his rights to life, personal integrity, and health. In addition, the Commission does not have information from the State that would be sufficient to assess the actions being taken to address or mitigate the identified situation presenting a risk. Therefore, it is necessary to immediately adopt measures in order to safeguard the rights of the proposed beneficiary.

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

IV. BENEFICIARY

33. The Commission declares Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza beneficiary of the precautionary measures, who is duly identified in this proceeding.

V. DECISION

34. 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, it requests that Venezuela:

- a) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza;

¹⁷ I/A Court H.R., [Matter of four members of the Mayangna indigenous people deprived of liberty](#), Provisional Measures regarding Nicaragua, previously cited, para. 46.

¹⁸ I/A Court H.R., [Matter of four members of the Mayangna indigenous people deprived of liberty](#), Provisional Measures regarding Nicaragua, previously cited, para. 46.

- b) implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:
 - i. ensure access to adequate and specialized medical care, treatments, and medications, and immediately carry out a comprehensive medical evaluation of his physical and mental health;
 - ii. provide immediate access to adequate food and water;
 - iii. guarantee that he is not subjected to violence, threats, intimidation, and aggression inside the prison;
- c) consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented 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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

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

38. Approved on December 11, 2025, by José Luis Caballero Ochoa, President; Andrea Pochak, First Vice-President; Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, Second Vice-President; Roberta Clarke; Carlos Bernal Pulido; and Gloria Monique de Mees, members of the IACHR.

Tania Reneaum Panszi
Executive Secretary