

TONY GONZALES  
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4323

December 14, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington D.C.

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C.

We write to you with deep concern for the safety and wellbeing of three detained Americans who have been wrongfully imprisoned in Venezuela since last year by the Maduro regime.

All three of these American citizens—Eyvin Hernandez, Jerrel Kenemore, and Joseph Cristella—were captured against their will under hostile and questionable circumstances. To date, the Venezuelan government has been unable to provide legitimate evidence to justify the allegations made against them. In fact, all three have been deemed “wrongfully detained” by the Department of State.

This designation by law obligates the U.S. government to work diligently to secure their release. Yet we are well past the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, deadline that your administration set for securing their release and still nothing has been accomplished.

It is vital that we demonstrate our resolve for securing the release of wrongfully detained Americans by using the tools at our disposal against those who choose to unfairly target U.S. citizens. Therefore, we urge you to reinstate sanctions that were recently lifted on the Venezuelan government while your administration continues to engage with your Venezuelan counterparts for their release.

We fully condemn the Venezuelan regime's continued use of wrongful imprisonment of American citizens for political purposes and urge you to use the full force of the United States government to secure their release as soon as possible. Our offices stand ready to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Gonzales".

Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark D. Amodei".

Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

TONY GONZALES  
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