

26th session of the Universal Periodic Review
(31 October – 11 November 2016)
Review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Statement by Ireland
1 November, 2016

Thank you, Mr. President.

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland welcomes Venezuela's regular submission of periodic reports to treaty bodies and encourages Venezuela to accept all outstanding visit requests from special procedures mandate holders in line with its voluntary pledge to the Human Rights Council in 2012.

Ireland is concerned by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's finding of a systematic pattern of arbitrary detentions in Venezuela, including detentions of opposition politicians. Ireland **recommends** the release of persons arbitrarily detained, and that all complaints of torture and ill-treatment of detainees be investigated promptly, thoroughly and independently.

Ireland also shares the Committee against Torture's concerns regarding reports of attacks, intimidation and harassment of journalists and human rights defenders. Ireland **recommends** that Venezuela take all the necessary steps to ensure the prompt and independent investigation of all allegations concerning intimidation, threats and attacks against journalists, media workers and human rights defenders. Ireland echoes the call of the High Commissioner on Venezuela to ensure that people are not penalised for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

Thank you