

President Nicolás Maduro
Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela,
Edificio Palacio de Miraflores,
Avenida Urdaneta,
Caracas, Venezuela

Groningen, 2023

Dear Counsellor,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the arbitrary detention of labour rights activist and humanitarian worker Gabriel Blanco. He was arrested on 6 July 2022. The criminal investigation against him includes fabricated evidence, made up events, and inconsistencies that support the claim that he is being targeted for this activism and union work. Blanco was convicted on 1 August 2023 for the crimes of criminal association and conspiracy. This unjust decision imposes a 16-year prison sentence on him.

Blanca is being held in overcrowded conditions at the PNB headquarters in the La Yaguara sector of Caracas. The conditions of his detention have severely affected his health.

I believe that Blanco's detention is arbitrary and stems from his work as a social activist. Therefore, I urge you to overturn his conviction and release him immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely,