

To:

President Nicolás Maduro
Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Care of:

Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Ivan Andres Chataing Avila, Chargé D 'Affaires
Churchillplein 5
2517 JW Den Haag

Groningen, 2024

Dear Mr. President,

Married couple María Auxiliadora Delgado and Juan Carlos Marrufo, holding dual Spanish and Italian nationalities, were arrested on 19 March 2019 by the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence. Their only connection to criminal offenses seems to be limited to María Auxiliadora Delgado being the sister of retired military officer Osmán Delgado, listed as an alleged participant in the events of 4 August 2018. Osmán Delgado is living in the US and it has therefore not been possible to apprehend him.

On 9 December 2022, Delgado and Marrufo were sentenced to 30 years in prison for the crimes of treason, attempted murder, criminal association and conspiracy. Amnesty International considers the court ruling to be incompatible with international law and human rights. This in view of the fact that some of the criminal conduct of which the convicted couple are charged has not been clearly defined or is ambiguous, and that neither the prosecution nor the judge has clarified the extent of their involvement in the events,

It is clear that their detention is essentially related to the family ties between María Delgado and her brother and is not based on criminal conduct. I therefore urge you to immediately overturn the sentence of María Auxiliadora Delgado and Juan Carlos Marrufo.

Yours sincerely,