



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Former-interim President Juan Guaidó has faced weeks of threats, knowing that his arrest and imprisonment by the Maduro regime in Venezuela was imminent. Yesterday, he fled Venezuela on foot like millions of his countrymen and sought refuge in Colombia. Colombian President Gustavo Petro has repeatedly spoken about how he welcomes Venezuelans into his country just as Colombians were welcomed to Venezuela in the 1980's and 1990's fleeing terrorism and violence in the Colombian countryside.

**This is a Shameless Declaration and Deportation.** Instead of the warm welcome one might expect for a man fleeing persecution, Guaidó was described by Foreign Minister of Colombia Álvaro Leyva as having entered the country "inappropriately" and that he didn't even know him. Within hours of this slight, the Colombian government had put Guaidó on a one-way trip to the United States, expelling him from the country.

**This is a Dangerous Precedent for Venezuelans in Colombia.** Colombia has become home to millions of Venezuelans fleeing persecution from the Maduro regime. The deportation of the former-interim president sets a dangerous precedent that Colombia is no longer a refuge for those Venezuelans. You need to be much firmer with President Petro about the well-being of the Venezuelans and other refugees that live there.

**Guaidó and his Family Need to be Given Asylum.** Juan Guaidó must be offered asylum in the United States and for his wife and two daughters who are still in Venezuela. His life is in danger. He has been persecuted by the regime and the latest reports suggested that his arrest, imprisonment, and possible torture were imminent. There is no possibility of return as the Maduro regime continues to hold at least 282 political prisoners in Venezuela.

Please take the side of democracy and not dictatorship, unlike President Petro of Colombia, and stand up for the democratic forces of Venezuela against political persecution. The United States has always stood as a beacon of freedom in the world against dictatorships and their defenders. We must uphold this important legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Elvira Salazar', written in a cursive style.

María Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress