

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Eyvin Hernandez was captured by armed and masked men in the vicinity of the Colombia-Venezuelan border on March 31, 2022, after he was not able to pay a \$100 bribe the armed men requested, and after his kidnappers learned of his U.S. citizenship and accused him of being a spy;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez' kidnappers covered his head with a black hood, put him in the back of a pickup truck, transported him across multiple locations, and eventually transferred him over to the Venezuelan government;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez is currently being held in a maximum security prison, the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence in Caracas, Venezuela, where other U.S. nationals and Venezuelan political prisoners are imprisoned;

Whereas, the Venezuelan government has charged Mr. Hernandez with criminal association and conspiracy, which could result in up to 16 years in prison;

Whereas the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights states that the judiciary system in Venezuela lacks independence, that justice and safeguarding of individual rights are jeopardized, and serious human rights violations against opponents of the government have gone unchecked;

Whereas, the United States Department of State, on October 21, 2022, designated Mr. Hernandez as wrongfully detained, and the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs has been assigned Mr. Hernandez's case;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez has worked for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's office since 2006 representing the most vulnerable people in the county who are homeless, and living with mental health and substance abuse issues;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez is an active member of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union – Local 148, where he previously served on the board of directors;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez has volunteered his time to advocate for children in the juvenile justice system, was a mentor for the UCLA Law Fellows Program to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to apply to and attend law school, and was a mentor for the Latina Lawyer Bar Association;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez attended El Camino College, UCLA, and the UCLA School of Law where he was associate editor for the Chicana-Latina Law Review;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez's family immigrated to the United States when he was a toddler, fleeing the civil war and seeking a better life;

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Whereas, Mr. Hernandez is a man of impeccable character, loved and admired by many who know him for his deep devotion to justice, respect for humanity, willingness to help others, patience, kindness and intellect;

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez has always made himself available to help others whether they be family, friends, friends of friends, and absolute strangers, and the imprints that Mr. Hernandez has made on the Los Angeles community and state are many and deeply impactful; and

Whereas, Mr. Hernandez is a dearly loved son, brother, uncle, friend, colleague, and Angeleno.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Los Angeles City Council stands in solidarity with Eyvin Hernandez, his friends and family, the Los Angeles community, and the State of California in advocating for his immediate release;

Be It Further Resolved that the Los Angeles City Council calls on President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, National Security Advisor Jacob Sullivan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs Roger Carstens, to act with urgency and negotiate for Mr. Hernandez's release, and protect his well-being; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Los Angeles City Council calls on the entire California congressional delegation to work toward his release and to speak up for Mr. Hernandez as appropriate.

Introduced by


Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilwoman, Fifth District

Seconded by



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