

Date of Hearing: February 2, 2023

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES**

James Ramos, Chair

HR 11 (Bryan) – As Introduced February 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** The release of Eyvin Hernandez.

**SUMMARY:** Calls on President Joseph 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, calls on the entire California congressional delegation to work toward his release and to speak up for Mr. Hernandez, as appropriate. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Eyvin Hernandez was captured by armed and masked men in the vicinity of the Colombia-Venezuela 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 United States citizenship and accused him of being a spy.
- 2) Mr. Hernandez is currently being held in a maximum security prison, the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM) in Caracas, Venezuela, where other United States nationals and Venezuelan political prisoners are imprisoned.
- 3) The Venezuelan government has charged Mr. Hernandez with criminal association and conspiracy, which could result in up to 16 years in prison. 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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 the state are many and deeply impactful.
- 7) Mr. Hernandez is a dearly loved son, brother, uncle, friend, colleague, and valued member of the State of California. The Assembly stands in solidarity with Eyvin Hernandez, his friends and family, the Los Angeles community, and the people of the state in advocating for his immediate release.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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