

**Priority question for written answer P-000477/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)

Subject: Enforced disappearance of four Spanish citizens in Venezuela

Rocío San Miguel, a human rights defender, president of the NGO Control Ciudadano and a highly respected voice on Venezuelan military affairs, was arrested along with her daughter in Caracas airport on 9 February 2024 for allegedly conspiring in a plot to assassinate Nicolás Maduro. Both detainees are Spanish citizens. Two of her brothers, who are also Spanish citizens, were arrested a few hours later, along with her ex-husband and another relative. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Various international organisations such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the UN and Amnesty International have already condemned these enforced disappearances and demanded that Maduro's regime provide information on their whereabouts, release them immediately and respect their legal rights and presumption of innocence.

This is the Venezuelan regime's systematic *modus operandi* of using hostages as bargaining chips to get sanctions eased or to get its crimes currently being investigated in international courts dismissed.

In light of the fact that four of the people who have disappeared are Spanish citizens, and therefore EU citizens, what action is the Vice-President / High Representative taking to mediate with the Venezuelan authorities to find out the whereabouts of these citizens and get them released as quickly as possible?

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