

I am writing to express my grave concern on human rights defender Luis Uzcátegui who has reported being beaten by four people, including two police officers, near his home in Coro city, Falcón State. He believes the attack to be in retaliation for his demands for justice following the killing of his brother by state police in 2001.

I respectfully urge the authorities to take effective action to protect Luis Uzcategui's safety in accordance with his wishes.

I further call on the authorities to carry out a full and impartial investigation into the attack on 17 October and arbitrary detention reported by Luis Uzcategui, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.

Venezuela is expected to fulfill its obligation to protect human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely yours,