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## **Global Organization of Libertarian Women Takes International Legal Action to Demand the Release of Activist Maria Oropeza**

August 29, 2024, LOLA (Ladies of Liberty Alliance), a non-profit that educates and empowers libertarian women, requested that the Organization of American States' (OAS) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issue a resolution to grant precautionary measures to guarantee Maria Oropeza's well being. In a live-streamed video from her Instagram account, on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 pm EST, the whole world saw how Maduro officials from Venezuela's military counterintelligence agency (GDCIM) broke into her residence and forced her out. Officers took her cellphone and shut down the streaming. In that video, Maria repeatedly asked her captors if they possessed a warrant and that they could not enter her house without one since she was not a criminal.

María Oropeza, 30 years old, is a Venezuelan lawyer and chapter leader of the Portuguesa state in Venezuela for the Ladies of Liberty Alliance. Also, she is a campaign coordinator for the opposition coalition Vente Venezuela. She was abducted, and her detention was used for propaganda purposes—a method used by the Venezuelan regime to systematically target leaders within the political opposition. As the IACHR resolution states, according to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, the Commission requested many assurances of Maria's safety from the State on August 8, 2024, a request that has since expired without a response from the state.

It has been over a month that Maria Oropeza's family has seen her except for a chilling video released by the GDCIM [link](#) intending to silence dissenting voices. Her mother still does not know where she's being held.

Adriana Flores Márquez, a Venezuelan refugee in Argentina, LOLA activist, and coordinator of Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado's campaign in Argentina, stated: *"The arbitrary detention of Maria Oropeza is a clear violation of human rights. She has been a crucial voice in the fight for democracy and fundamental rights in Venezuela."* The IACHR considers Maria Oropeza's situation serious, urgent, and risks irreparable harm.

Sâmila Monteiro, Brazilian activist and LOLA leader who headed the working group responsible for organizing and filing the complaint emphasized the importance of this action:

*"This resolution is a response to the systematic repression that Maduro's regime exerts on those who dare to oppose him. Maria Oropeza represents many other activists facing similar conditions. It is essential that the international community protects those who dedicate their lives to defending freedom and democracy."*

On August 16, Venezuelan lawyer Mora Tosta informed us that Ms. Oropeza is being detained in the Helicoide, a torture center in Caracas. She is being accused of two crimes against the state: terrorism and inciting hatred. The combined crimes carry a potential sentence of 15 years in jail. Ms. Oropeza does not have the right to a private lawyer.

Our colleague is one of the thousands of innocent victims subject to these criminal practices used regularly as a method of state control and denounced and described publicly by her.

LOLA will continue to closely monitor the case of Maria Oropeza and other human rights violations in Venezuela, reaffirming its commitment to defending democratic principles and fundamental rights in the region. [#FreeMariaOropeza](#)

LOLA has mobilized its global network, organizing dozens of demonstrations around the world to demand María's safe return. LOLA will continue to hold demonstrations on the 6th of every month until Maria is returned.

For more information, please contact Izabela Patriota (izabela.patriota@ladiesofliberty.org), phone: +1 727 370 5825

About LOLA (Ladies of Liberty Alliance): LOLA promotes libertarian ideas worldwide and empowers women in the liberty movement. The organization is in more than 41 countries and has over 130 chapters. <https://ladiesofliberty.org/>

*On August 6th, at 9:30 pm EST, our LOLA Venezuela leader was taken by force in Portuguesa, Venezuela, by Nicolas Maduro's regime police without a judicial order. Her whereabouts are unknown, and it is crucial to spread news to pressure the regime to release her.*

**LOLA**  
LADIES OF LIBERTY ALLIANCE

## LOLA STANDS AGAINST THE ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF MARIA OROPEZA

The **Ladies of Liberty Alliance** calls for the release of Maria Oropeza from the Maduro regime. Maria is the chapter leader for LOLA Portuguesa, Venezuela, a tireless activist for liberty, and actively supports Maria Corina Machado's campaign for a freer Venezuela. Her dedication to the principles of liberty and a freer Venezuela has made her a target, and she was forcibly taken from her home by Nicolás Maduro's government officials without any judicial order.

#FreeMariaOropeza #LiberenAMariaOropeza



www.ladiesofliberty.org

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