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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session, 18 March 2022**

**Item 4 – FFM on Venezuela**

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel would like to thank the FFM on Venezuela for its oral update.

Israel remains concerned about the human rights situation in Venezuela, including brutal police practices, poor prison conditions, impunity for human rights violations, and harassment of human rights defenders and independent media. Israel is also concerned with the breakdown of democratic institutions and the rule of law, including an erosion of judicial independence over the past few years.

Mr. President,

Israel is also concerned that the Venezuelan security forces continue to intimidate, harass and attack anyone who opposes the government, including through extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment. These human rights abuses continue to be enabled by international state-backed terror organizations and foreign governments who arm and support the Venezuelan security forces.

Mr. President,

Israel also notes the release of Gustavo Cardenas and Jorge Alberto Fernandez last week, and urges Venezuela to release all political prisoners immediately.

I thank you.