

MEDIA RELEASE

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

**VENEZUELAN COURT REJECTS DECISION OF UN CALLING FOR
RELEASE OF OPPOSITION LEADER LEOPOLDO LÓPEZ**

*MADURO ARBITRARILY PUNISHES LÓPEZ BY SPRAYING CELL WITH FECES
AND URINE;
DENYING HIM ACCESS TO VISITORS FOR A MONTH*

Caracas – After closing her court for more than a month after saying she would respond publicly, Judge Susana Barreiros late yesterday rejected without explanation the decision of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention demanding the release of opposition leader Leopoldo López.

Furthermore, President Maduro is escalating the pressure on López in prison in a variety of ways. In the early morning hours of October 26, soldiers stood on the roof of the prison and tied ropes to large bags of feces and urine and swung them down, smashing the bags against the barred windows of their cells, covering each of their cells completely with excrement. At the same time, both water and electricity were cut off to the cells so it was impossible for them to clean up. They were only turned back on 12 hours later.

This gross misconduct by prison officials, ordered by prison warden Homero Miranda, is as disgusting as it is outrageous and illegal. It also by equal measure shows exactly who Nicolas Maduro is and how desperate he has become, observed Jared Genser, international counsel to López.

López continues to be held in solitary confinement and has been informed that no visitors will be allowed until he stops banging on his cell in protest of his mistreatment and yelling his political views, which are both legitimate forms of opinion and expression, protected by international law. It has now been three weeks in 24/7 lockdown without being allowed any visitors. His wife, Lilian Tintori, was yesterday again denied access to Ramo Verde prison where she had come with their infant son. López has been in solitary confinement throughout his incarceration, including six two-week periods without access to visitors.

The next trial date is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th.

Contact:

Jared Genser (English)
jgenser@perseus-strategies.com
+1 202 320 4135

###