

Spain requested to extradite a Venezuelan colonel suspected of crimes against humanity to Argentina

Justice for Venezuelan victims could take a historic step forward: an extradition request currently being processed in Spain opens a key avenue for advancing Argentina's investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed during the 2014 protests in Venezuela.

The request stems from a universal jurisdiction case filed in Argentina's federal court, which is investigating former colonel of the Bolivarian National Guard of Venezuela (GNB), Ephraín Enrique Verdú Torrelles, who is reportedly in Spain and is accused in Argentina of murder as a crime against humanity.

The case was initiated in June 2023 based on a criminal complaint filed by InterJust's team against 14 GNB officers for alleged crimes against humanity committed in Venezuela. One of the victims represented by InterJust is Rosa Orozco, mother of Geraldin Moreno Orozco, a 23-year-old student and indoor soccer player killed by GNB agents in February 2014 in the state of Carabobo while participating in a demonstration.

"I have been fighting for over 12 years to ensure that Geraldin's death does not go unpunished," said Rosa Orozco. "Every legal step forward, like this one, is also a recognition of her life, her dreams, and the right of Venezuelan victims to obtain justice."

In February 2026, after receiving information from InterJust indicating that Verdú Torrelles was in Spain, the Argentine judge issued an extradition order. Subsequently, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally transmitted the request to the Spanish authorities. In March 2026, the Spanish Council of Ministers approved the continuation of the proceedings, which are now before the Central Investigating Court No. 2 of the National Court.

"For Venezuelan victims, it is the first real chance to see an alleged perpetrator of crimes committed against them brought to justice," said Ignacio Jovtis, Director for Latin America at InterJust. "It would end years of impunity and serve as important reminder that there should be no safe haven for those responsible for international crimes."

InterJust urges the competent authorities in Spain to cooperate fully with the process and grant the extradition request in accordance with the law, thus ensuring that Argentina can proceed with the trial of the accused with full respect for due process and judicial safeguards.