

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Visit Venezuela on Eve of 2-Year Anniversary of Leopoldo López's Arbitrary Imprisonment.

Dignitaries will address the National Assembly, then host two public events

Caracas – Today, Venezuelan opposition leader and prisoner of conscience, Leopoldo López, completes his second year of unjust imprisonment. In preparation for this unfortunate milestone, his wife, Lilian Tintori, announced on Monday the visit to Venezuela of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Lech Walesa, former President of Poland, and Oscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica. Additionally, Naomi Tutu, the daughter of Laureate Desmond Tutu, former Archbishop of South Africa, will also visit as part of the same delegation. The dignitaries arrived on Wednesday, February 17th.

“These Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and their family members’ visit to Venezuela on the eve of Leopoldo’s second year of imprisonment ratifies the messages of peace, hope, and reconciliation that Leopoldo and those of us who work on his behalf have carried to every corner of Venezuela, and also the world. Today, more than ever, the international community has its attention focused on the crisis that we Venezuelans are living.” stated Tintori. She added that, “they are here under the auspices of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning NGO, Amnesty International, and with the objective of recounting to us their peaceful and democratic struggles to overcome profound crises in Central America, Poland and South Africa. Their stories will inspire us all.”

On Thursday, February 18th, the dignitaries will address the National Assembly and then proceed to a press conference for international media at the Salón Miranda of the Federal Legislative Palace at 10:30am CCS. On Friday, February 18th, the dignitaries will participate in the “Forum for Freedom” organized by Amnesty International, *Observatorio de Prisiones, Acción por la Libertad*, and *Todos por la Libertad* at the Universidad Metropolitana at 2:00pm CCS. They will be joined by speakers: López’s domestic council Juan Carlos Gutierrez, prominent legal scholar Alberto Arteaga, former President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Carlos Ayala, and Amnesty International’s Carolina Jimenez. Prior to their participation with the “Forum for Freedom”, the dignitaries will meet with students and victims of human rights violations and repression.

To see a live-stream of the press conference at the Federal Legislative Palace at 10:30am CCS / 10am EST on Thursday, February 18th, click [here](#).

To see a live-stream of the “Forum for Freedom” at the Universidad Metropolitana at 2:00pm CCS / 1:30pm EST on Friday, February 19th, click [here](#).

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