

**LILIAN TINTORI DEMANDS MADURO REGIME PROVIDE PROOF OF LIFE
FOR LEOPOLDO LÓPEZ**

The opposition leader and prisoner of conscience has been in isolation for over 120 hours

Ramo Verde – The wife of Leopoldo López, Lilian Tintori, demands the regime of Nicolás Maduro provide proof of life for the Venezuelan opposition leader and prisoner of conscience, after the authorities of Ramo Verde denied entry of lawyers and family members to López's military prison for the fifth consecutive day, leading to more than 120 hours of total isolation for the political leader.

Tintori said, "To Nicolás Maduro: Leopoldo López, since 2 in the afternoon on Friday, has been isolated and we have no information on Leopoldo, it's been 120 hours without information. They won't allow family members to enter, they won't allow the lawyers to enter, and they won't allow me to enter; we demand proof of life for Leopoldo because at this time he is being held and is a hostage of the Republic. Proof of life where Leopoldo's voice can be heard and his face can be seen. Only with this will we know whether Leopoldo is okay."

Lawyer Gustavo Velásquez also confirmed this through his Twitter account, saying: "For the third day they have blocked us, his defense lawyers, from seeing @leopoldolopez. Neither the family nor we the defense lawyers have had any information on him for the past 5 days"; he had already denounced the continuation of this situation on Monday and Tuesday.

This past weekend, Tintori and Antonieta Mendoza, wife and mother respectively, had made public through social networks the refusal of the authorities at Ramo Verde to permit access either for them or for López's young children.

Leopoldo López, leader of the opposition party Voluntad Popular, in recent weeks sent insistent messages to the Venezuelan people reiterating the importance of active and peaceful protest in the streets as a mechanism to achieve change in 2016, especially the protest to Miraflores, at the same time affirming that conditions to establish a true dialogue with the Venezuelan regime do not exist.

The increasing isolation of López comes at a time that the regime of Nicolas Maduro has called on the Venezuelan opposition to participate in a dialogue process. López's party, Voluntad Popular, has rejected the dialogue, as the necessary conditions for dialogue-- such as the restoration of the right of Venezuelans to choose their own representation, the cessation of persecution and political repression, as well as the opening of a humanitarian channel to allow the entry of food and medicine to address the deep crisis afflicting Venezuela-- still do not exist.

Under this context, this Tuesday, López's political party was accused of being a "terrorist organization" by Nicolás Maduro, who then ordered the Venezuelan Courts to give to VP

National Coordinator Freddy Guevara the same "medicine" applied to Lopez in 2014 [arbitrary imprisonment]. "This man will not be saved from imprisonment, I will use all my powers to make sure that the full weight of the law is applied to him."

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