



## **CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY: “BRING EYVIN HOME!”**

*ASSEMBLYMEMBER BRYAN CALLS ON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO ACT ON PUBLIC SERVANT WRONGFULLY DETAINED IN VENEZUELAN PRISON*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Monday, February 6, 2023**

Sacramento— Today the California State Assembly passed House Resolution 11, introduced by Assemblymember Isaac G. Bryan (D-55, Los Angeles). HR 11 calls on the Biden Administration to act with urgency and negotiate the safe return of Eyvin Hernandez. Eyvin, a Los Angeles County Public Defender and community leader in the Assemblymember’s district, has been wrongfully detained by Venezuelan authorities since April of 2022.

“His life changed 10 months ago when he was on vacation in Colombia,” Assemblymember Bryan explained. Eyvin was travelling near the Columbia/Venezuela border when he found himself held at gunpoint, hooded, handcuffed, and transported across the border into Venezuela where he has been held in a high security prison.

The Assemblymember described Eyvin’s remarkable selflessness, using his legal expertise as a public defender to assist other detainees. “While [Eyvin] has been there, he’s kept a positive attitude. He’s kept hope alive and he’s inspired other U.S. detainees. In fact, he’s fought side-by-side to help secure the release of others, above himself, from Venezuela.”

“The Bring Eyvin Home Coalition is so grateful to Assemblymember Bryan for his leadership, commitment, ability to access pathways and build bridges to bring Eyvin home as soon as possible,” said Henry Martinez, Eyvin’s brother. “With people like Assemblymember Bryan and his colleagues in the California Assembly at the helm, pushing our government to do more and be better, we know that Eyvin will come home. We cannot wait for Eyvin to meet Assemblymember Bryan when he returns.”

Eyvin’s friends and family have been working tirelessly over the past months to press the federal government into action. In October, they secured a determination from the U.S. State Department’s Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs officially that he was wrongfully detained. Since then, Senators Padilla and Feinstein have requested that Secretary of State Antony Blinken prioritize Eyvin’s safe return. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass sent a similar letter to President Biden signed by 21 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

In the fight to bring Eyvin home, “it’s time for the state of California to do our part,” said Assemblymember Bryan.

HR 11 passed with unanimous support.

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