



BREAKING NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday 15 February, 2019

## **HIV service agency in Venezuela stormed by police, lifesaving HIV treatments confiscated**

The police have stormed the offices of Fundación Mavid, a HIV service organization in Venezuela, and confiscated donated HIV treatment, infant formula and other essential medicines destined for people living with HIV in that country.

They have also detained 3 human rights advocates that worked in Mavid. No charges have yet been laid.

“We are scared for the safety of our activists and call upon the global community to help us – not just us, but the people of Venezuela living with HIV” says Alberto Nieves, Executive Director of Acción Ciudadana Contra el SIDA (ACCSI).

Mavid’s president, Eduardo Franco (also the secretary for the network of people living with HIV in Venezuela) and Alberto Nieves have publicly denounced the stock outs of HIV treatments in the country and the barriers erected by the Maduro regime to distribute what little treatment exists in Venezuela.

“We need the UN system, NGOs around the world and all people living with and affected by HIV wherever you live to publicly condemn the human rights violations in Venezuela” says Mary Ann Torres, Executive Director at ICASO.

“We stand in in solidarity with the thousands of people living with HIV that continue to wait for their treatments and advocate for their right to live” expressed Carlos García de León, member of ICASO and Gay Latino.

---- ENDS ----

For more information contact:  
**Mary Ann Torres, Executive Director**  
**+1 416 419 6338**  
**[maryannt@icaso.org](mailto:maryannt@icaso.org)**