

Cilia Flores asks to join Maduro's motion to dismiss the indictment

United States v. Maduro Moros et al. · S.D.N.Y. No. 1:11-cr-00205

Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein · Docket entry #293 · Filed 2026-03-03 · Filed by: Defense

What happened

Cilia Flores's defense filed a memorandum asking the judge to let her join co-defendant Nicolás Maduro's motion to dismiss the indictment. The filing argues that the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) had authorized Venezuela's government, on January 9, 2026, to pay Flores's legal fees, but revoked that authorization on February 28, 2026, two days after Maduro filed his own motion raising the same funding issue. The defense argues the revocation looks retaliatory and interferes with Flores's right to counsel of her choice.

What it means

The defense argues that, as with Maduro, the U.S. government is now blocking Venezuelan government funds meant to pay Flores's legal fees, which it says violates her Sixth Amendment right to counsel of choice and her due process right to present a defense. Flores is not raising new legal arguments, but asks that her case be decided together with Maduro's for judicial economy. If the dismissal motion is denied, her attorney, Mark Donnelly, alternatively asks for leave to withdraw from the representation.

What happens next

According to the filing, the government's opposition to the dismissal motion was due no later than March 13, 2026, and the defense reply no later than March 20, 2026.

Key passages from the filing (verbatim)

"On Saturday, February 28, 2026, less than 48 hours after Mr. Maduro filed his above referenced motion to dismiss based on OFAC's interference with his ability to fund his legal defense, OFAC abruptly amended the license for Mrs. Flores de Maduro."

Page 1 — Shows the timeline the defense uses to argue the revocation was retaliatory.

"Like Mr. Maduro, Mrs. Flores de Maduro lacks personal financial resources to pay for her legal defense."

Page 2 — The defense states Flores cannot pay her legal fees without Venezuelan government funding.

"This action interferes with her Sixth Amendment right to counsel of choice and her Due Process right to present a defense, exactly as it has done to Mr. Maduro."

Page 3 — Summarizes the filing's core constitutional argument.

"the government will file an opposition no later than March 13, 2026, and the defense will file a reply no later than March 20, 2026"

Page 3 — States the agreed briefing schedule for this motion.

Docket text (official, in English)

MEMORANDUM in Support by Cilia Adela Flores De Maduro re 292 MOTION to Dismiss the Fourth Superseding Indictment.. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit A- Declaration of Henry Rodriguez Facchinetti, # 2 Exhibit B- Declaration of Cilia Adela Flores de Maduro, # 3 Exhibit C- Declaration of Mark E. Donnelly)(Donnelly, Mark) (Entered: 03/03/2026)

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