

Cilia Flores moves to dismiss charges citing sovereign immunity

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

Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein · Docket entry #324 · Filed 2026-09-02 · Filed by: Defense

What happened

Defense counsel for Cilia Adela Flores de Maduro filed a motion asking the court to dismiss Counts Two, Three, and Four of the Fourth Superseding Indictment against her, arguing sovereign immunity. The filing joins and adopts in full the memorandum of law previously submitted by co-defendant Nicolás Maduro Moros in support of his own motion to dismiss. Attached exhibits include a prior U.S. government suggestion of immunity in an unrelated case, letters from Venezuela's UN representative, and a State Department legal adviser letter on immunity of foreign officials.

What it means

The defense contends that, as a Venezuelan government official, Flores cannot be criminally prosecuted in U.S. courts for acts tied to her official role, under the doctrine of sovereign immunity that shields heads of state and senior foreign officials. This is a legal request, not a ruling; the judge still must decide whether to accept or reject the argument.

What happens next

The motion is noticed to be heard on November 17, 2026 before Judge Hellerstein, the same date already set for the next hearing in the case.

Key passages from the filing (verbatim)

"for an order pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12(b) dismissing Counts Two, Three, and Four of the Fourth Superseding Indictment as against her."

Page 1 — States exactly what relief the motion seeks.

"upon the Memorandum of Law submitted by defendant Nicolás Maduro Moros in support of his motion to dismiss (ECF 320-1), which Ms. Flores de Maduro joins and adopts in full"

Page 1 — Shows the motion incorporates Maduro's prior sovereign immunity arguments.

Docket text (official, in English)

MOTION to Dismiss for Sovereign Immunity. Document filed by Cilia Adela Flores De Maduro. (Donnelly, Mark) (Entered: 09/02/2026)

Online version: <https://mailcilita.com/caso.php?d=maduro-sdny-e324>

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