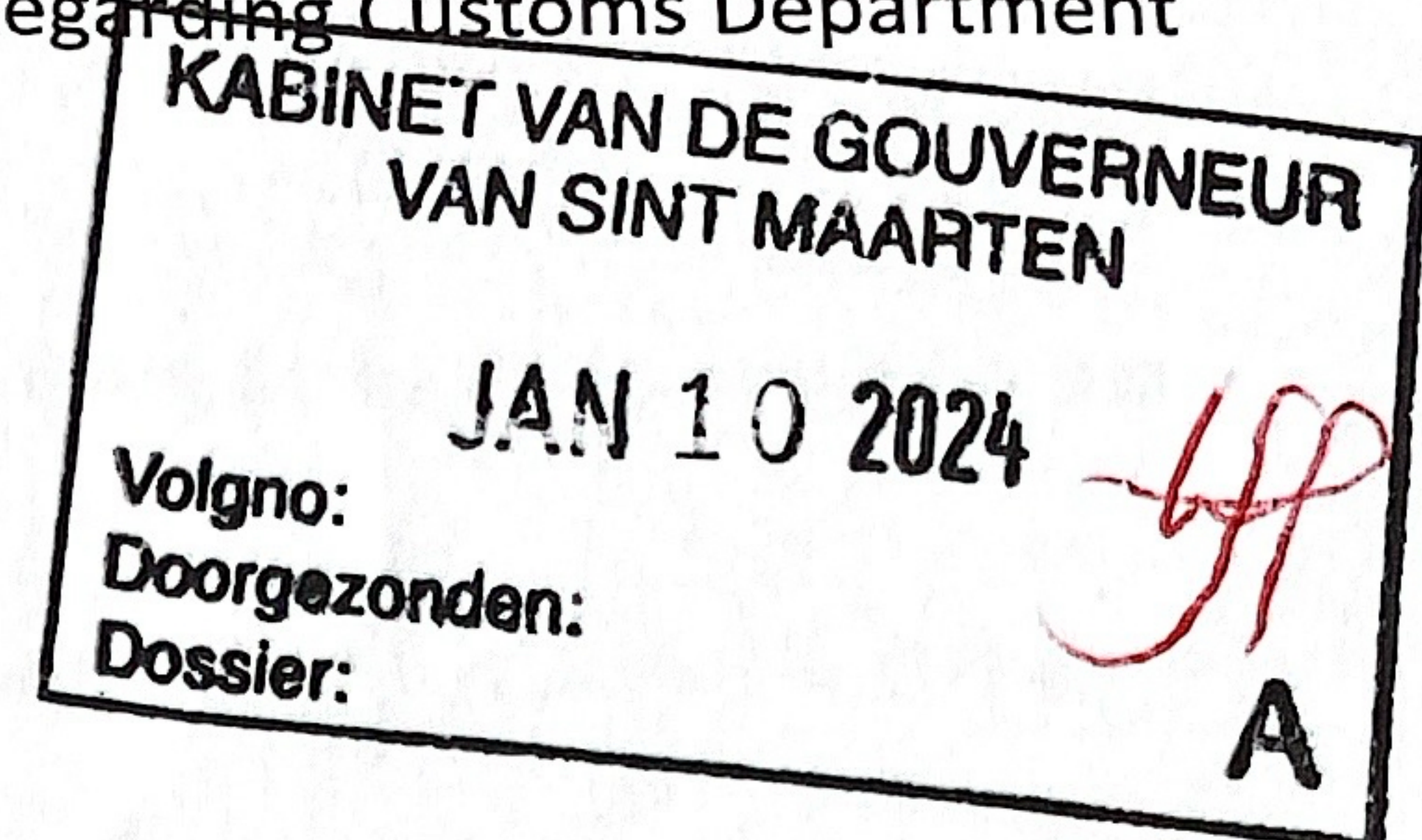


Subject: Urgent Appeal: Discontent and Request for Intervention Regarding Customs Department Leadership

January 8, 2024

Governor Ajamu Baly Office of the Governor Sint Maarten

Copy to the Council of Ministers



Dear Governor Baly and Esteemed Members of the Council of Ministers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to express the collective discontent of the customs officers regarding the appointment of Mr. Franklin Bernadina as the Interim Head of Customs and to urgently request his dismissal from the position of temporary Acting Head of the Customs department of Sint Maarten.

Our concern is the consistent defense of every irresponsible decision made by Mr. Franklin Bernadina with the statement: "the Minister of Justice Anna Richardson is aware of the decision." This raises questions about the decision-making process within the Ministry and the accountability of leadership.

We, the customs officers, respectfully demand the Ministry of Justice to reconsider and withdraw the decision to remove Mr. Bernadina as the Interim Head of the Customs department immediately. The capability and qualifications of Mr. Bernadina are, in our view, questionable and his continued presence in this role poses a significant risk to the effectiveness and morale of the Customs department.

The basis for our request stems from a series of concerns and observations pertaining to Mr. Bernadina's performance, including:

1. **Poor Work Ethics:** Mr. Bernadina has consistently demonstrated a lack of commitment to his professional duties, reflecting negatively on the work environment within the Customs department.
2. **No Management Skills:** The absence of effective management skills has resulted in a disorganized and inefficient work atmosphere under Mr. Bernadina's leadership.
3. **Not Trustworthy:** Trust is a cornerstone of any leadership role, and regrettably, Mr. Bernadina's actions have raised doubts about his reliability.
4. **Unaccountable:** Mr. Bernadina has shown a reluctance to take responsibility for his decisions, leaving the customs agents without clear accountability.
5. **Lack of Integrity:** The customs agents have observed instances that call into question Mr. Bernadina's commitment to upholding the principles of integrity expected in a leadership position.
6. **Poor Decision Making:** Mr. Bernadina's decision-making has been consistently subpar, adversely affecting the operational effectiveness of the Customs department.
7. **Favoritism/Nepotism:** Concerns have been raised regarding favoritism and nepotism under Mr. Bernadina's leadership, compromising the fairness and impartiality of the department.

8. ****No Empathy:**** A lack of empathy towards the concerns and well-being of the customs agents has created a hostile work environment.


9. ****Unprofessional:**** Mr. Bernadina's unprofessional behavior has tarnished the reputation of the Customs department, impacting its credibility.

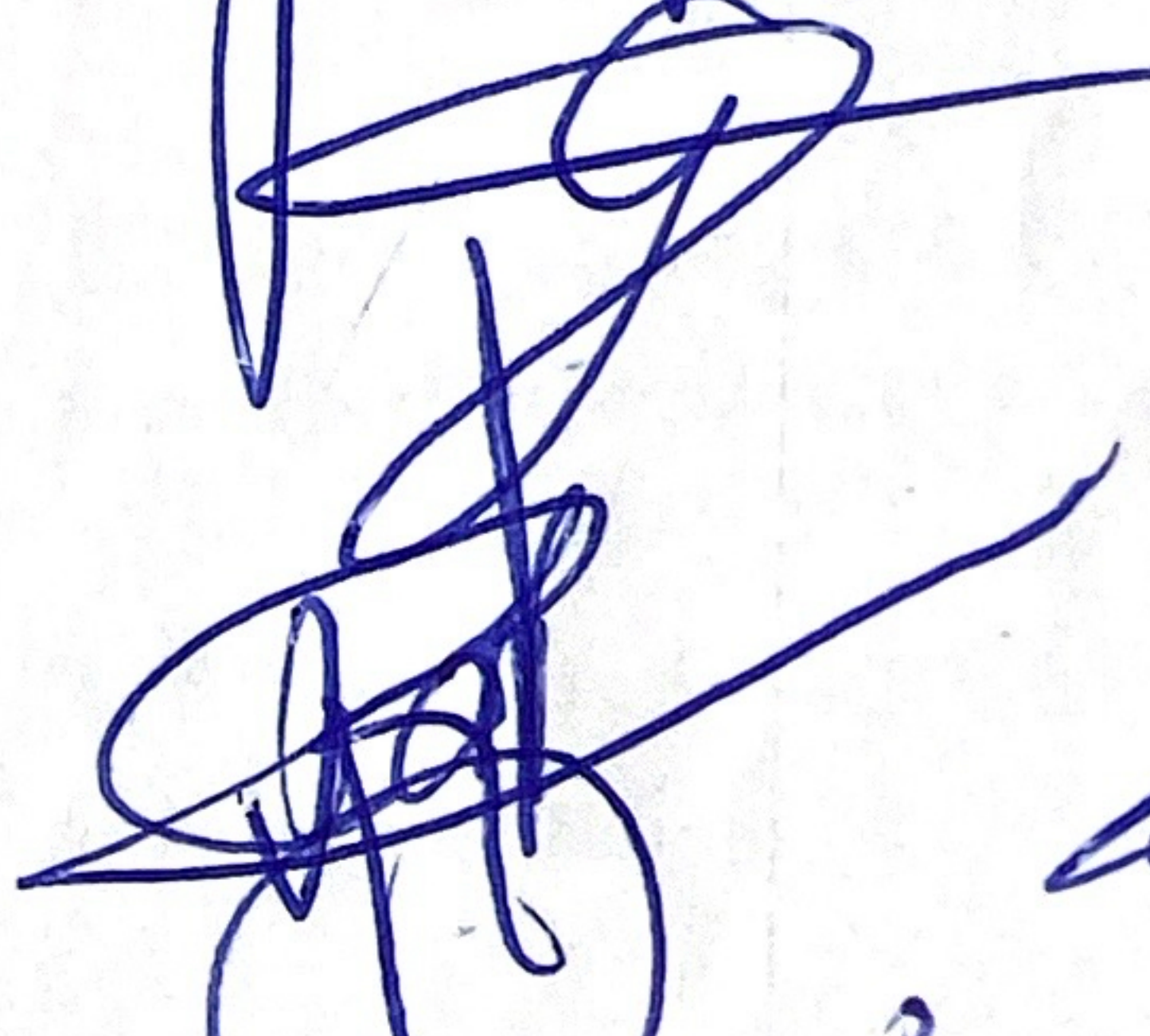
10. ****Unfairness:**** The customs agents have experienced unfair treatment under Mr. Bernadina's administration, contributing to a sense of injustice within the department.


We kindly request your urgent attention to this matter and appreciate your efforts in ensuring the well-being and effectiveness of the Customs department.

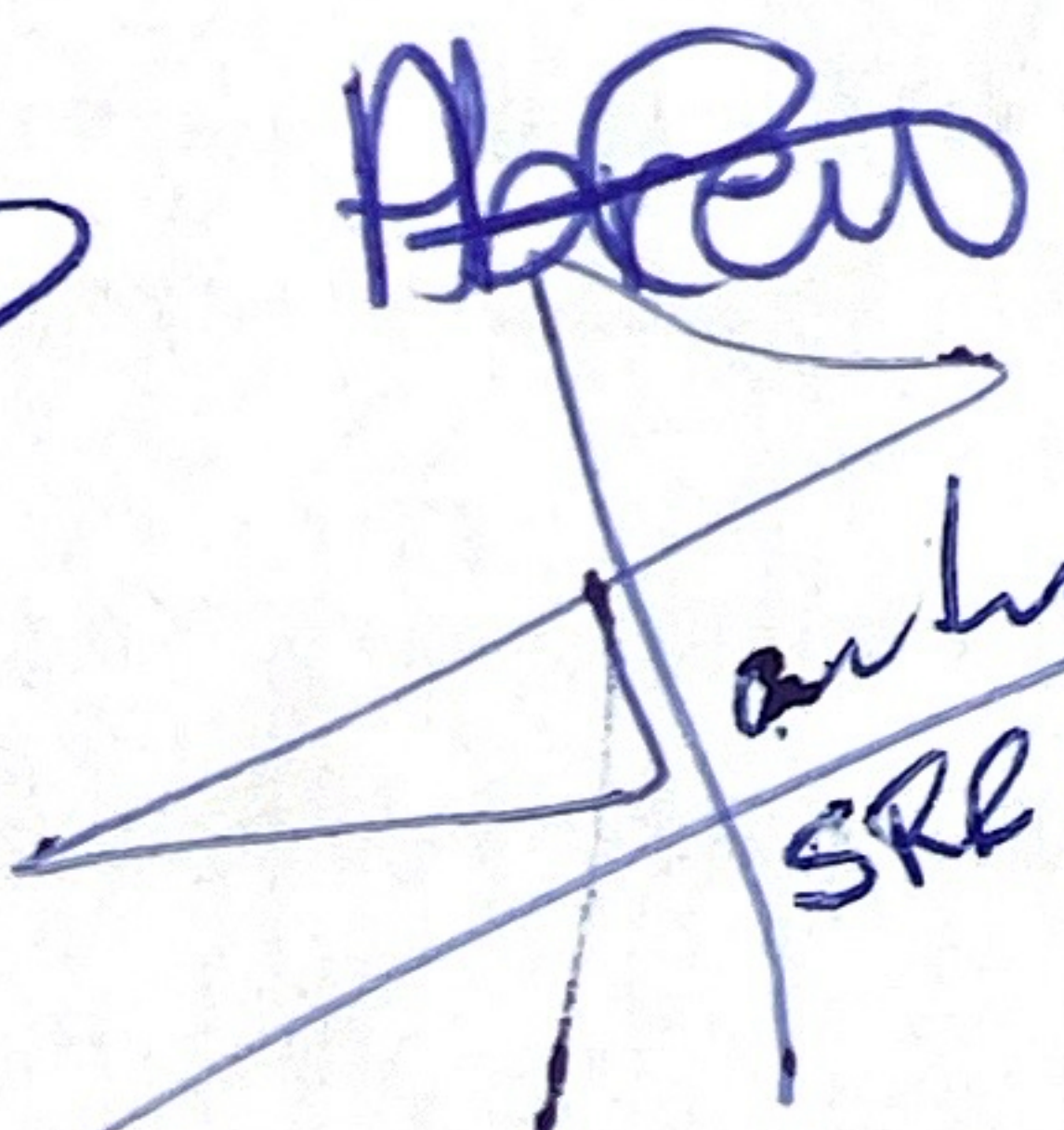
Sincerely,

Customs Officers of Sint Maarten
Signatures:


J. Garcia

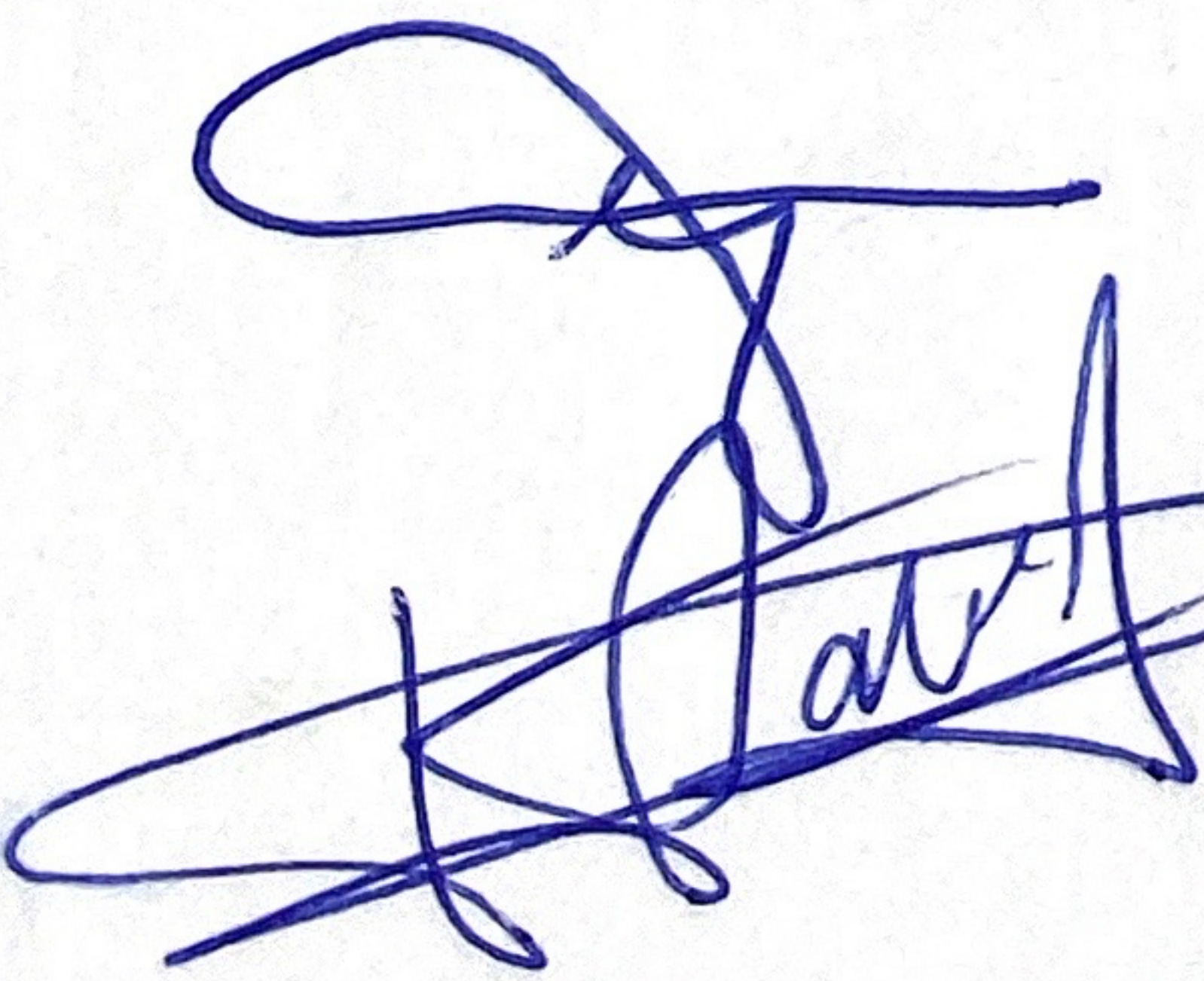

M. Davis

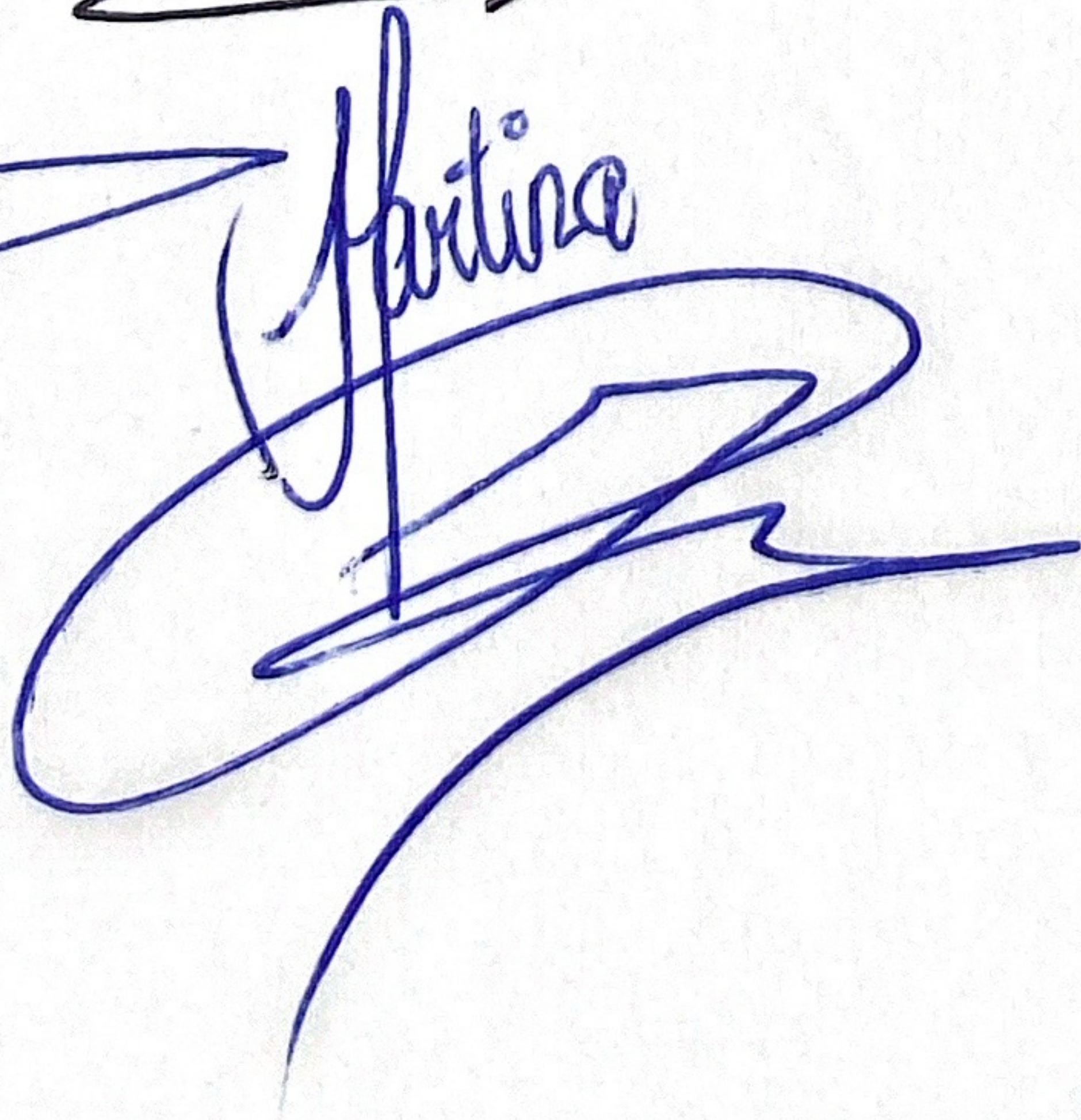

A. Randell


SRE. BERNADINA


A. Higgins






M. Maduro

