



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Bulletin No. 21

From January 22 to 29, 2018.

www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

The siege of freedom of expression grows



Arbitrary arrests have become an increasingly frequent practice by the State security organs, which without a judicial order detain people related to the media and review their equipment, this being an illegal practice that is intimidating and encourages the self-censorship. That is the case of Elvys Rondón, who is the director of the Líder 100.1 FM radio station in El Vigía, Mérida state, and was arbitrarily detained by Sebin officials.

This week also highlighted the harassment of journalists from Venezolana de Televisión, a public channel that is used to go against a sector of the country. During the program "Con el Mazo Dando", the constitutionalist of the illegitimate National Constituent Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, harassed the journalists Ibéyise Pacheco, Isnardo Bravo and Alba Cecilia Mujica for the statements they would have given on Twitter on the case of Óscar Pérez. In the program, Cabello had a billboard with a series of selected tweets; he was reading each one and responding with expletives the questions that the journalists made on their personal Twitter profiles.

In addition to the constant intimidation and persecution of those

who are critical of power, the information blockade is added through the cutting of the ABA internet service in various areas of the country by the state company CANTV. The interruption of the service has left without connection to neighbors of El Valle, Parque Central, La Candelaria, San Martín, El Paraíso, Montalbán and some sectors of San Agustín el Sur; it is mainly due to the dismantling of the telephone system at the hands of delinquency, the lack of maintenance and trained personnel to deal with the breakdowns reported by subscribers, among others, with the State as responsible for guaranteeing the restoration of the service.

 [READ MORE IN SPANISH](#)

Foro Penal Venezolano - www.foropenal.com/

Minci worker sent to Ramo Verde



The Non-Governmental Organization Foro Penal Venezolano keeps a record from January 1, 2017 until January 25, 2018 of 12,070 people that has been arbitrary detained. Of that group, 272 people are still detained for various reasons. 774 civilians have been brought before military courts, of which 135 are still deprived of their liberty. From January 2014 to date there is an accumulated history of 1,316 political prisoners, from whom the freedom has been achieved, under various modalities, by 1,072 people.

Until April 2017, we registered 117 political prisoners. Today, the number of political prisoners in Venezuela,

certified by the OAS on the basis of data provided by this organization, is 224 people. In addition, 7,178 people remain unfairly subjected to penal proceedings under precautionary measures.

The case of Jameson Jiménez stands out. He disappeared during the first days of January of this year after his day of work at the Ministry of Communications (Minci), where he worked as a designer, then he was "rescued" and subsequently arrested again by the General Directorate of Military Intelligence when he was preparing to leave the country. Being a civilian, he was presented before the military courts on January 23, 2018 (when the legal deadlines for doing so had expired) and he was deprived of his liberty for the alleged commission of the crimes of treason, military rebellion and theft of National Armed Forces assets, all offenses provided in the Organic Code of Military Justice. He was also detained in the military prison of Ramo Verde (CENAPROMIL).

 [SEE MORE IN THIS VIDEO](#)

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org/wp/

Can Maduro run for re-election to the Presidency?



At a time when the National Constituent Assembly (ANC) decided to call presidential elections for the first quarter of this year (April 30 as limit), usurping functions of the National Electoral Council (CNE), it is important to answer the question about if the head of state is Venezuelan by birth or if he holds dual nationality, he resigned from the non-Venezuelan one, since the legality of his application for re-election in office depends on it. The doubt on the true nationality of the president of the Republic, Nicolás

Maduro, was never cleared with strong arguments, because the birth certificate of the president as main evidence has never been shown.

According to the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), folded to the interests of the government, Maduro is fully qualified to occupy the chair of Miraflores and, therefore, can opt for a second term (2019-2023). By means of sentence N° 907 of October 28, 2016, when resolving an appeal -invented by the constitutional judge- it was declared that Maduro "is Venezuelan by birth". This ruling, despite his tenacious attempt to clarify the nationality of the president, leaves more confusion just when he ends up saying with certain juggling that his birth certificate is an "incontrovertible" document (figure that does not exist in Law), with that seeks to avoid any controversy.

But according to the TSJ in exile, Maduro is an illegitimate head of state, so that he could not even repeat in office because his place of birth is not specified. In this regard, it agreed to a precautionary measure in which the President is ordered to show "to the people (...) a certified copy of his birth certificate in Venezuela; as well as the proof of having renounced any other nationality that he may have had before his candidacy for the Presidency of the Republic." In the same way, he ordered the Armed Forces and the CNE authorities to collaborate with their investigations to determine whether or not the president was born in our country.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH**

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

President Maduro celebrates 700 days with ultra-powers with the consent of the TSJ



In what constitutes the first sentence issued by the Constitutional Chamber in 2018, the Supreme Court of Justice endorsed the seventh State Decree of Exception and Economic Emergency issued by President Nicolás Maduro with which he will be able to continue exercising for the next 60 days, extendable for another 60, powers such as modifying budget items, raising the Tax Unit and signing contracts of national interest without having the approval of the National Assembly, as mandated by the Constitution.

Although the constitution only allows the country to remain 120 days under a State of Exception, since January 2016 the highest court has given its approval to 7 decrees and 6 extensions that have meant 700 days of ultra-powers for Maduro.

In the dictum, presented as a joint paper by the seven members of the Constitutional Chamber, the highest court justified its decision affirming that the country is experiencing situations of "extreme seriousness" and that the "ordinary means" available to the State are "insufficient" to face them. However, two years after the first decree was issued, problems such as scarcity or rising prices have only worsened, to the point that economists believe that Venezuela ended hyperinflation in 2017.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH**

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

280 thousand children could die in Venezuela due to malnutrition in 2018



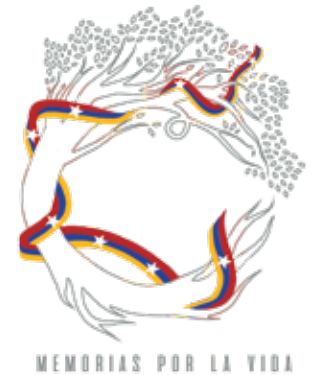
The serious economic situation in the country has had a profound impact on infant feeding, generating alarming rates of malnutrition among Venezuelan children. According to reports by the NGO *Cáritas de Venezuela*, between 5 and 6 children died every week during 2017 due to severe cases of malnutrition. Added to this, at least 33% of the child population has growth retardation, what nutritionists like Susana Raffalli reiterate is a damage that cannot be

reversed. Based on these surveys, the organization estimates that 280,000 children could die from this cause during 2018.

Cáritas de Venezuela informed that even though in 2017 they helped little more than 3 thousand children with malnutrition due to the deteriorated situation of the country, at present their inventories of supplements are exhausted and they do not know how or when they can be replaced to continue helping, if possible, to people who need it.

The National Survey on Living Conditions in Venezuela (*Encovi*) 2016 determined that the Venezuelan food purchase pattern changed with the replacement of chicken and meat with tubers and vegetables. The conclusions of the study showed that 9.6 million Venezuelans eat 2 or fewer

meals a day, and 74.3% of the respondents said they lost between 8.7 and 9 kilos in an uncontrolled manner during the year as a direct result of the regulations of products of the basic basket that have fostered a parallel market in which goods are offered for triple the official price.



PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

Venezuela: 15 years, 10 massacres, 177 murdered

The El Junquito Massacre is not an isolated incident. It is the direct consequence of the institutionalization of the excessive use of force and extrajudicial executions in the framework of police and military action in the work of citizen security, and it is a clear message -in the middle of the assumption of State terrorism to placate the social discontent- to those who express their rejection of the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro. The government has abandoned all vestiges of decency before the national and international gaze, murders and violates human rights of its political opponents and the population in general.

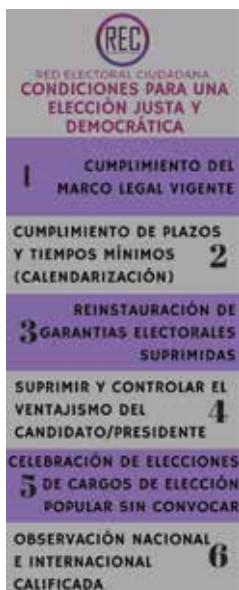


Between 2003 and 2018, Provea counts at least 10 massacres committed by agents of the public force, in which 177 people were killed. The majority of these deaths have been the result of extrajudicial executions in the

context of citizen security operations in poor communities and in jail prison sites. So far, the massacres registered since 2003 had a common characteristic: they had been carried out in the context of citizen security operations to combat crime, none of them related to procedures for confronting political dissent or controlling public demonstrations. The El Junquito Massacre inaugurates the Bolivarian project and the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro in this field and puts it on a par with the repressors of the Venezuelan and Latin American past, who have been denounced so much by those who govern today.

These serious violations of human rights are characterized by the militarization of citizen security, tolerance of abuse, impunity, the emergence of State terrorism and the irregularities and omissions of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ombudsman's Office.

Civil society organizations demand electoral conditions to recover democracy in Venezuela



Facing the irregular announcement of the National Constituent Assembly on the convocation of the presidential election, and against an aggravation of the crisis that the country is going through, the Citizen Electoral Network (REC) demands conditions to recover confidence in the vote and citizen participation as mechanisms for the return to the democratic path and governance in Venezuela.

During 2017, the different organizations that are part of the REC denounced the systematic and progressive deterioration of the electoral guarantees in Venezuela. The election of the constituents, governors and mayors marked a deep deterioration in the guarantee of the rights of the citizens and were evident signals of a biased behavior of the electoral referee in favor of the party of government in office.

From the Electoral Citizen Network and civil society organizations, we propose six basic conditions for achieving fair and democratic elections: 1) Compliance with the current legal framework; 2) compliance with deadlines and minimum times for electoral processes; 3) reinstatement of electoral guarantees suppressed in the 2017 process; 4) suppress and control the advantage of the candidate / president; 5) holding elections for popularly elected offices without convening, and 6) qualified national and international observation.

 [READ MORE IN SPANISH](#)

Humanitarian Action Program has distributed 38 tons of aid

12,226 direct donations of medicines and other 10,667 by means of partner organizations, have allowed the Humanitarian Action program of Codevida to make donations for people with different health conditions, as well as 1,624 antiretrovirals.

These donations are made through the telephone service National Information Center, of Acción Solidaria, through which applications are registered. The great support of Venezuelans who have emigrated, living in 48 cities in 17 countries, has allowed those of us living in Venezuela

to distribute 38 tons of medicines between June 2016 and October 2017.

17 public entities and 26 civil society organizations are among the beneficiaries of the Humanitarian Aid Network. We have also sent medicines to 25 indigenous communities and have a regular cooperation relationship with organizations that serve permanently to 5 indigenous communities.

 [READ MORE IN SPANISH](#)

