



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Opacity of Venezuelan Government consolidated in 2017



If there is one thing that the Venezuelan Government has done really well along the past years, it is limiting the access to public information. 2017 was not an exception. Along last year, there was a worrying increase of the levels of opacity in different entities of Public Power; and that happened under the pleasing partial sight of the Supreme

Court of Justice, and the Office of the General Controller of the Republic. So states the most recent inform on corruption, emitted by Transparencia Venezuela.

A chapter is called “Opacity: a rule imposed by the High Governmental Levels”. It precises that, across 2017, no memorials nor accounts were published, to inform on the results of management in Executive entities. Not even ministries delivered their Annual Informes, corresponding to 2016. As for the National Budget Law for 2017, which was supposedly published via Official Gazette, it was never available. The Parliament, of the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the National Electoral Council are definitely in debt with transparency.

The Inform remarks that, during

last year, there was an increment of public servants’ lack of interest in giving a timely response to the requests for information, presented by citizens. Until August 2017, Transparencia Venezuela rendered 130 petitions of information at diverse institutions and entities of the Public Power (national, regional and municipal), obtaining only 14 replies, that is: just 11% of the requests were attended. Besides, TSJ failed against 99% of the cases of courses for protection, which were presented by diverse NGO’s, for demanding the access to basic information concerning health, inflation, importation of medicines, and public officers’ wages.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

CLEL summons journalist Brian Vidal, from elimpulso.com



A Special Commission of the Legislative Council of the State of Lara (CLEL), in charge of investigating communications emitted through broadcasted, printed and digital media, concerning the assignment and delivery of housing via the Plan “Locate your house”, summoned journalist Brian Vidal -elimpulso.com- after his reports of people who complain about the execution of the

forementioned Housing Plan in Barquisimeto, State of Lara.

In his work, the journalist affirms that, even not existing any official information related to the beginning of the Plan, one of his sources assured there are neighbors, “sympathizers of the rulers, that are collecting data around the locations of supposedly abandoned houses, in order to overtake them, starting June 2018”.

CLEL’s Special Commission explains that it summoned the journalist aiming his “explanation about the matter and his purpose when he published that information”. In the citation, CLEL presses on Vidal to attend the question; otherwise, he might be sanctioned under art.55, chapter VIII, Act on the Exercise of the Control Function of the Legislative Council of the State of Lara.

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Codevida - www.codevida.org

Civil society expresses worries after meeting with OPS



Members of Venezuelan civil society met with the director of Panamerican Office for Health (OPS), Carissa F. Ettiene, and informed her about the reality of the humanitarian emergency Venezuelans endure, and about the dramatic vulnerability of 300.000 persons -suffering from chronic illnesses- due to the absolute absence of high-cost medicaments in the Venezuelan Institute for Social Security (IVSS). Besides, they explained how the sanitarian public service is presently destroyed.

In turn, Ettiene stated: “We are working with the government and

other partners, all heading for assuring the continuous supply of medicines and other inputs to diagnose and treat persons that suffer illnesses, acutely as well as chronically”. She recognized, however, that they have not reached a specific agreement, up to now, about the quantity of medicaments OPS will send to us, about the necessary investment for sanitarian facilities, nor about the pathologies that will be covered.

For civil society, it is highly preoccupying that there is not official clarity over the needs of the most vulnerable population in this field, which might derivate in more deceases, if the government and the OPS do not act immediately. “The meeting with Ettiene was frustrating. I do not foresee in the short term a stronger cooperation of OPS, at least not beyond it has cooperated up to now. OPS will be co-responsible of

deaths to come, if it does not act at once before the humanitarian emergency”, said Francisco Valencia, director of Codevida, after the meeting with Carissa Ettiene. On his behalf, Minister of Health, José Felix Oletta, affirmed that a technical dialogue between OPS and the government has not existed at all for years: only a political dialogue. “We have been left unassisted”, he said. He also expressed his concern, before the reappearance of illnesses that are avoidable by vaccination, such as measles and diphtheria.



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PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

Death of adolescents because of corruption and a deficient control of weapons



A tragedy took place in social club El Paraiso, located in a middle-class sector in Caracas. It cost the lives of 18 people, according to official reports. This event added uneasiness to the anxiety presently endured by Venezuelan population.

The cause of the tragic human outburst of over 500 persons was the

explosion of a tear-gas artifact, supposedly activated by an adolescent. This points out the failure of the so-called state’s policy on the control of weapons in the country. Tear gas artifacts are to be used exclusively by the armed bodies of the state, especially police and the National Guard. Why, then, a youngster had such a device on him? Did he have more than the one he activated? It is probable that the adolescent got the bomb in the black market of weapons, which had been formerly identified by the National Commission for Disarmament. It has been proven that the police and military officers sell arms and ammunitions to common delinquents, by so doing they become main providers of inputs that strengthen

common delinquency in the country. Tear gas artifacts show once more their dangerousness, when activated within closed spaces.

Let us remember the misuse and abuse of those devices during April-July-2018 rebellion, when security forces fired them in and forwards residential constructions, affecting many persons of all ages. This government has accomplished a total failure, concerning control of weapons. Corruption spreaded in the Armed Force and Police Services cause tragedies, such as this one at social club El Paraiso. The rulers’ responsibility -by omission, in this case- is undoubted.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org/

NGOs (ONGs) impugned presidential elections at the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ)



NGOs Observatorio Electoral de Venezuela (OEV), Programa Venezolano de Educación/Acción de Derechos Humanos (Provea) and Acceso a la Justicia, attended last June 12 to the Supreme Court (TSJ), for presenting a litigious electoral course to impugn the results of May 20 presidential elections.

The course presented to the maximum court in the country echoes the cocktail of irregularities the elections were immerse in. The whole process was thoroughly criticized by

NGOs, as well as by other entities, both nationally and internationally, for considering that political rights were violated, and so were democratic principles and values, which are proclaimed in our Constitution and in Treats on Human Rights all over the world.

Despite a former course, introduced by candidate Henri Falcón, which was declared inadmissible by TSJ, we highlight the importance of the present impugnation, since it focuses on other grave violations, apart from the bribery committed through Carnet de la Patria. Those may be summarized in seven points: illegitimate intromission of Constituent National Assembly (ANC) within activities proper to the Electoral Power, such as convocating the elections, and anticipating the electoral process; illegitimate exclusion of candidates and political

organizations, which diminished the voter's right to choose freely; illegitimate composition of the National Electoral Council (CNE), and the absence of an authentic separation among Powers; violations of the constitutional democracy's basic principles during the campaign; illegitimate deviations when shaping the Electoral Census; irregularities along the electoral campaign and other arbitrarities during the act of voting; and the illegitimate oath-taking of Nicolas Maduro, as the culminating act of the electoral fraud.



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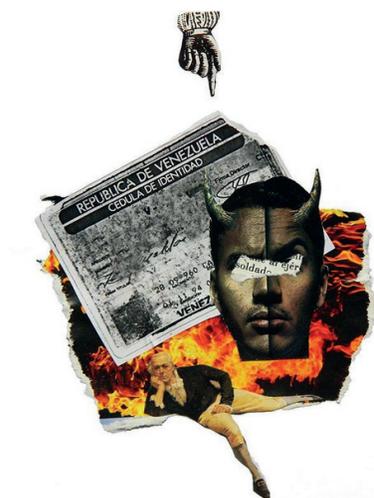
Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Observatory on Organized Delinquency warns about increasing trade of persons within migratory wave

Director of the Observatory on Organized Delinquency, Luis Cedeño, certified that the wave of Venezuelans who leave the country, due to the humanitarian crisis, is causing the presence and action of delinquent gangs along our boundary lines.

“There is a tendency to locate certain types of offences around the

He pointed out that, although the last inform of the Observatory does not depict thoroughly the real situation, OOD is watching closely this phenomenon, because “Venezuela passed from being a country of destination to being a country of origin”, as for traders of persons. It has been demonstrated that these nets of organized crime are adapting their operations, in order to match the migratory patterns of those who leave-i.e.: taking the same routes emigrants take when going from one place to another- aiming to submit victims to various kinds of modern slavery.



borders. We are witnessing how the economical crisis is generating these illegal activities (...) The fact that many persons go away for making a living in neighbor countries is a situation that somehow patronizes Organized Delinquency”, Cedeño stated.



MEMORIAS POR LA VIDA

Foro Penal Venezolano - www.foropenal.com/

72 civilians presented to military justice still in custody

Until June 19, 2018, Foro Penal Venezolano had registered 12.415 arbitrary detentions, since January 1, 2018, Foro Penal Venezolano had registered 12.415 arbitrary detentions, since January 1, 2014.

804 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. From those, 72 are still in custody, 6 of them being women. Since January 2014, we accumulate 1.534 political prisoners. Full liberty or release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 1.254 cases.

By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners. Today, the numbers for this category of inmates is 280, which has been certified by OEA, based upon data provided by Foro Penal. Besides, 7.300 persons are still unfairly submitted to judicial processes under caution measures.



CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org.ve

An international reality: epicenter of refugees



The complex political, social and economic situation our country is going through has derived a complex humanitarian emergency. Insecurity,

violence, lack of aliments and medicaments, and deficient public services, plus the progressive loss of purchasing power... All those factors impulse an unprecedented migratory wave.

Due to the continuous venezuelans' leaving towards other countries, the United Nations' High Commission for Refugees (ACNUR) appointed new headlines, for guiding governments that face the situation of persons who need international protection and humanitarian assistance.

According to data provided by Acnur, the number of venezuelans soliciting asylum mainly in American

countries-but also all over the world-since 2014 increased 2.000% during 2017. More than 94.000 venezuelans could follow procedures for refugees in 2017, whereas many others needing protection opted for other legal arrangements, which are faster to get and include the possibility of work, health, and education. Presently, Venezuelans citizens are in the fourth place of those who solicit protection abroad.

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