



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Bloque Constitucional

Judicial Precedent and Civic Participation



Within a citizen-centered Justice System, the figure of Judicial Precedent must be deemed as a general rule to be considered in subsequent decisions and similar cases; it cannot become a pretext, a mean for flouting the Law.

In Venezuela, it currently happens that sentences emitted by “justice” courts have come to be an instrument to restrict citizens’ rights, especially political rights such as

acceding information, meeting, and protesting; as well as the rights to vote in free and universal elections, to associate with political purposes, and to validate political parties. An instrument that has been used even for eliminating parliamentarian’s immunity, and autonomy of the National Legislative Power, one of the Public Powers of the State.

A really legitimate citizen-centered Justice System must be widely and deeply participative, in order to avoid that the interpretation of the Constitution becomes a matter for judicial elites. Much on the contrary, that is a task to be accomplished by attending the social reality decisions are taken within, ever submitted to the Maximal Norm. In fact, citizens hold the right to participate freely in all public affairs; and to obtain guarantees for practicing Human Rights. In a truly Democratic State of Rights, citizens have to be subjects -not mere objects- when it comes to constitutional interpretations, for avoiding the formation of closed judges’ domains. An active social participation will allow not only acceding the Justice System and defending fundamental rights, but also engaging with a straight administration of Justice.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Transparencia Venezuela verifies the cross of SAIME’s users for getting a passport

Between February 2017 and August 2018, Transparencia Venezuela has collected 195 denunciations of outrages against the Right to Identity, occurred in Administrative Service for Identification, Migration, and Foreigners (SAIME). It goes further than a simple figure: they are 195 stories of victims of a State that does not comply with its duty of providing people their identification documents, which are indispensable to move outside Venezuela.

Many testimonies of such a disrespect are never known... nor they will, because the affected persons do not have the means nor the initiative for exacting a reply from the authorities.

Our team spent 12 hours in the SAIME’s Office, attempting to put



through the situation of a woman that needs to leave the United States for visiting her son, who is ill in Canada. For 22 months now, she has been tumbling, trapped within the messy tangle SEBIN has become. Our attempt was in vain. The answer they gave us was: “she has to wait for her passport to be issued”, as if nearly two years of waiting were not enough time! It is all the same for those who are abroad -like this lady- and for

those who are in here, in Venezuela domains. At the main headquarters of SEBIN, they do not care about human needs, pains, emergencies, nor despair! This is a sort of devaluing progressively the citizens’ condition. And it worsens by the hour!

We insist: SAIME must improve via making its platform better, via eliminating useless formalities, via strengthening attention to the users, via publishing on time its procedures and requirements, via solving irregularities efficiently, via accounting publicly for its actions, and via working jointly with civil society’s organizations.



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Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoaljusticia.org

Acceso a la Justicia presents 2017 annual inform

In the middle of a complex humanitarian emergency, derived from bad policies of the national government and from the accumulation of power by unconstitutional means, Acceso a la Justicia presents the annual inform corresponding to 2017. Along last year, this NGO documented and analyzed important processes and decisions occurred within public power, especially those



concerning the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), National Electoral Council (CNE) and fraudulent Constituent National Assembly (ANC), all of which affected gravely warranties and rights constitutionally endorsed, to the point of making Nicolás Maduro's regime be known as a modern dictatorship.

The inform treats the convocation to ANC, done by the president of the republic without previously consulting people via referendum; and the election of constituents in an electoral

process plagued by irregularities, that trampled popular sovereignty. Another form for accumulating power has been the unlimited extension of the State of Exception, which has been in force for two years and a half already, although it should not last longer than 120 days, according to our Magna Carta, when it is declared for economical reasons. TSJ deemed as constitutional such situation, never approved by National Assembly (AN) and never notified to the international community, concerning the limitations of warranties.

Acceso a la Justicia registered at least 76 sentences of TSJ that violate venezuelans' human rights, 33 of which were directly addressed against AN, only because it is mostly opposed to the government. As a result, it is found a complete annulment of the Legislative Power, since the Executive and the Judicial Powers –as well as ANC– usurp its functions. In addition, Acceso a la Justicia collected 43 verdicts that prove the use of the judicial system against any public official who may assume actions to vex the government. Such were the cases that involved 17 opposing mayors, and the state of Miranda's governor, Henrique Capriles.

 **READ THE COMPLETE INFORM HERE**

PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

Cease harassment against union leaders

In the last 15 days, two well known union leaders have suffered harassment from the security corps. They are Rubén González, secretary of a labor union in the State enterprise Ferrominera del Orinoco (Sintraferrominera), in Bolívar and Carlos "Chino" Navarro, president of Central de Trabajadores Alianza Sindical Independiente de Venezuela (ASI Venezuela).

Pursuing Rubén Gonzalez is to impede the workers' claim for the accomplishment of their collective convention. González was in prison for more than one year, after passing



through a long judicial process for calling on a strike.

Harassing Carlos "Chino" Navarro is to avoid his denunciations about the negative effects that Maduro's "big pack" ("paquetazo") means to the

workers' sector. Navarro has been followed for several days by –supposedly– officials of Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN); and he solicited an investigation at the Attorney General's Office, in Caracas. This unionist blames in advance the government for a possible personal misfortune. The Right to demand for Rights is not an offense: cease harassment against union leaders!

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**

CIVILIS Derechos Humanos - www.civilisac.org

“We must show the spot of light at the distance, to keep people standing and withstanding”



Rigoberto Lobo is a graphic designer, an activist on human rights, and a member of PROMEDEHUM, and NGO in the state of Mérida, which monitors manifestations and accompanies victims of violations to human rights. Lobo started working as a defender during 2014 protests, when he linked Universidad de los Andes (ULA) for helping as a

protector to the victims, and for realizing academic work in the street. He is a sample of the new activism that appeared during student protests.

—What is the role of defenders in our country’s situation?

—Essentially, it is the search for the truth; raising voices for the victims who have been silenced; becoming a connector among people; accompanying persons who have been diversely victimized by the violence of the government, in order to support them in their fair demands, and to maintain hope in justice. Everybody is a potential activist. In the harsh moments we are passing through, we must show the spot of light at the distance, to keep people standing and withstanding.

—What is next?

—Just as my father once told me

—and maybe I did not quite understand at that time—, we must go on working, that is the next! We have to invent and re-invent daily, for overcoming adversities, for detecting new lights, for living here and now, for enduring difficulties, for being creative. We must find an inspiration in everybody nearby, in all the persons around us, in order to feed hope. It is indispensable to understand that solidarity is our greatest strength; that the country, even sick as it is now, is still alive, and intends to stay alive, just like life itself. As citizens, we have to believe that hope is life itself, struggling to defend itself!

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CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org.ve

Venezuela: Due Process and Human Rights



Venezuela is a Democratic Social State of Rights and Justice. Therefore, the government must comply with its function as a guarantor and protector of the administration of Justice, which includes the fundamental Rights to Individual Liberty and to Due Process.

Due Process figures into the progressive development of Fundamental Rights, and it is specifically mentioned

among Individual and Civil Rights. The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela establishes on Art.49 the Right to Due Process, as a constitutional guarantee for enjoying and practicing Human Rights.

Multiple violations of Due Process, within the framework of political pursuit patterns, are now systematically committed. Revising cases along 12 months ultimo, we found an evident worsening of judicial pursuit against political dissidence. We call out the Judiciary to respect the Right to Due Process, being as it is the guarantor and protector of the administrator of Justice.

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Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Caracas's transport workers: have a card, have no solution

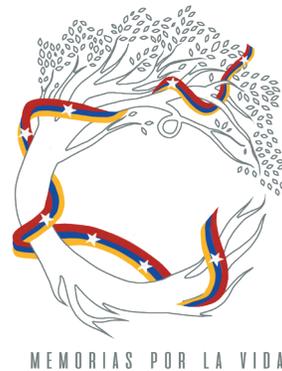
According to a presidential decree, gas will enjoy a subsidy via Fatherland's Card (Carnet de la Patria) and those who do not have it, will pay for fuel at international prices –a tariff yet to be determined. According to Minister of Transport, Hipólito Abreu, by August 15 over two million venezuelans had registered in National Census of Transport (CNT); in turn, a team of Memorias por la Vida, which went through Caracas during the last two weekends, reported that the majority of our transport workers reject this peculiar government's control measure.

Alberto Guzman, 46, drives on the route Boleita –Los Chorros 20 years ago. He thinks that the raise in transport fares will not benefit drivers nor users. “The raise will disappear under hyper-inflation”, he complains. He already had his fatherland's Card because he was forced to get it, in order to receive a monthly box from the Local Committee of Supplies and Production (CLAP) in Petare,



where he lives. He does not believe in subsidies nor in other Nicolás Maduro's promises, because he knows he will go on spending more than half his income on his vehicle's maintenance.

Unión de Conductores de Antímamo is a public transportation line of buses that covers a route from El Silencio –Caracas downtown– to Antímamo –southwest of District Libertador– and still charges only Bs.S 0,15. Vicente Palacios, a 31 year-old driver, earns around Bs.S 20-40 per day. He feels frustrated: with such an earning, he can buy only 15 eggs for the three kids he has at home. He is concerned about the future of the Public Transport sector. He explains that the bus he drives requires 18 liters of oil per month, each one costing Bs.S 250 (Bs.F 25.000.000), which equals 4.8 minimal salaries in force (Bs.F 5.190.000). Just 30 buses of this transportation line are currently operative, out of a fleet of 450 vehicles.



Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Journalists prevented from informing about Orinoco River's flood



Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) detained for more than four hours a team of news reporters of El Nacional Web, when they intended to arrive at Puerto Ayacucho, state of Amazonas, for documenting the Orinoco River's

flood –an emergency that affects a vast part of the country.

The journalists, jointly with members of some organizations for the social development, who would deliver food and other items to the victims of the event, had to turn back before arriving the place. “They are journalists, they cannot go ahead. I have orders from my general, who says they are not authorized”, argued Sergeant Jaime Rodríguez, an officer in Cunaviche's detachment.

According to Sgt. Rodríguez, the order was given by Major General Federico Guzmán Bornia, who is the commander of the Operational Zone for Integral Defense (ZODI) #31, sited in the state of Apure. M.G. Guzmán Bornia prohibited the passing of mass media, as a way to avoid the diffusion of news related to the happening.

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