



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Bulletin No. 71

From January 28 to February 4, 2019

www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Christian Zerpa, the magistrate in Electoral Hall that annulled political rights



On January 6, 2019, mass media informed that magistrate in Electoral Hall -Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) -, Christian Tyrone Zerpa, had ran away from our country with his wife and their two daughters, and headed to the United States, where he stated his non-recognition to the government of Nicolás Maduro, because the elections held last May 20, 2018, were not free. Besides, he revealed that his appointment as a magistrate in TSJ was ordered by the chief executive, through his wife Cilia Flores, on the basis of his “loyalty” to the revolution. Zerpa -who was also a deputy to National Assembly (AN)- justified his desertion as caused by the risk of

being prosecuted and imprisoned by the autocratic government; and affirmed that, during his performance in our country’s maximum court, he did not violate Human Rights.

Zerpa’s statement is an evidence of the poor professional profile and suitability of the lawyers that act today as magistrates in TSJ; above all, of those called “magistrates express”, namely those who were appointed illegitimately three years ago (Official Gazette #40.816, December 23, 2015) by AN, at that moment predominantly pro-governmental. By then, the outgoing members of the Venezuelan Parliament did not comply with the constitutional requirements, nor with the legal lapses for their selection, which meant an open fraud against our Magna Carta.

It is convenient, remembering that this magistrate and deserter was one of the principals in TSJ’s Electoral Hall, which ordered the separation of four deputies for the state of Amazonas

(sentence 260, December 30, 2015). Moreover, Zerpa’s political militancy was questioned by Acceso a la Justicia, among other reasons, because he performed in high directive positions within the Executive Power, apart from having been elected as a deputy supported by the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) for the legislative period 2010-2015. Besides, he validated Maduro’s convocation for electing the fraudulent Constituent National Assembly (ANC); he legitimized May 20, 2018 antidemocratic presidential elections; and -last but not least- he annulled the student elections at Carabobo’s Central University, and imposed the pro-governmental candidate. Now, we ask: did Zerpa violate or not Human Rights in Venezuela?

 **READ MORE IN
SPANISH HERE**

PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

35 persons murdered during January 2019 protests



Provea and Observatorio Venezolano de Conflictividad Social -Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict- have registered at least 35 persons murdered in the context of diverse manifestations held in Caracas and in other Venezuelan cities between January 22 and 25. These deaths were caused by bullets, and most of them in situations that implied repression by public order forces and

paramilitary groups. In only five of the cases, armed civilians were possibly responsible.

Provea rejects these new deceases of venezuelans during protests; and iterates an alert on the grave risks confronted by manifestants -perils of death and against physical integrity -due to the actings of elite bodies like Especial Actions Force (FAES) and Bolivarian National Guard’s Command Counter Kidnapping and Extortion (CONAS). These organs are not competent to deal with manifestations; and they do not count on the adequate equipment and training for managing street events properly, according to the principles of progressive and differentiated use

of force.

The deceases of these 35 venezuelans rise up to 250 the number of victims in protests since Nicolás Maduro assumed Power in 2013- Since April that year to the present day, disproportionate use of force by public order officials has repeatedly happened; and that is so in routine activities against common delinquency as in those related to manifestations. Maduro’s response to social conflict has been a constant demonstration of authoritarianism, to stimulate abuses against Human Rights.

 **READ MORE IN
SPANISH HERE**

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org.ve

Our empowering work in parish La Dolorita



Cepaz is currently undertaking an intervention in parish La Dolorita, focusing –on one hand– on generating and strengthening women base groups, conscious about their rights, for acting orderly at demanding them where they live in. On the other hand, our intervention aims at creating a movement with its own voice. In other words: after gaining experience progressively at the first stage –generating and strengthening local

women base groups– we will convoke other feminine entities in Municipality Sucre and in the state of Miranda, since they equally fight adversity; but are presently isolated. The idea is integrating a movement of women with its own autonomous voice, in order to defend feminine rights –at first, in their immediate environment; later, in progressively wider spaces.

Our project's name is “Accompanying, organizing, and strengthening base groups of women, focusing on their human rights, in parish La Dolorita, Municipality Sucre, state of Miranda”. We distinguish three types of addressees: teams of animators-promoters; local base groups of women; and a net of base groups.

Our developmental objective is forming a movement of women with its own voice, capable of inciding in

public policies at a local level. According to the aforesaid, we aim at an overall desirable change, which is to make our participants be capable of diagnosing situations and problems, when public reality violates their rights; capable of creating permanent spaces for meetings, under rotating direction; capable of identifying diverse adequate channels and procedures, in order to demand their rights; and capable of going on by themselves, assuming progressively new responsibilities, and increasing their abilities for sustaining their own processes.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Is Venezuela going back to OAS/OEA?

On April 27, 2017, Venezuelan government denounced the Charter of the Organization of American States (OEA), via communiqué undersigned by Nicolás Maduro. On April 28, 2017, the interim Venezuelan ambassador in OAS, Carmen Luisa Velasquez, delivered the document to Secretary General, Luis Almagro. OAS's Charter establishes that the withdrawal of the denouncing State is effective when two years have passed by since the date of delivery to the Secretary General's Office; and once all obligations derived from the charter have been accomplished.

Last Tuesday, January 22, 2019, the National Assembly (AN) approved unanimously an Agreement that ratifies Venezuelan membership in OAS, by this mean declaring as

unconstitutional and null the denouncement signed by Nicolás Maduro. Besides, AN appointed Gustavo Tarre Briceño as a special representative before OAS, “and the purpose is coordinating with that entity about the necessary actions for the restoration of democratic and constitutional order in Venezuela”.

Apart from all the former, even if AN had not nullified the denouncement, Defiende Venezuela thinks Venezuela has never abandoned OAS, since OAS's Charter is a treatise that concerns Human Rights; and that means a hierarchy that requires an analysis of unconstitutionality by the Constitutional Hall of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), in order to be denounced. Besides, Venezuelan



State has not complied with the obligations –both, economical and related to Human Rights. Therefore, one of the two conditions for leaving OAS is unaccomplished; and Maduro's denouncement is consequently non valid or effective. For all the aforementioned, we are still juridically and politically a State member of OAS.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Not even children escape the violent repression of Venezuelan government

Nicolás Maduro's government has used innumerable times the concept of protection of the children's and adolescents' rights as an excuse, a pretext to cover attacks to his opponents, particularly mass media. But, as far as 2019 has passed by, not even this sector of the population is beyond repression.

Since January 21 up to now, 77 minors have been arrested for participating in manifestations.

Youngsters detained range from 12 to 16 years of age, which is -to start with- an illegality, according to the Organic Law for Protection of Children and Adolescents (LOPNNA). A reform approved in 2015 established in arts. 531 that only those who are over 14 years of age can be processed for supposed offences and, logically, be imprisoned. Those who are under 14, only can be objects of protective measures. Given this regulation, a good part of these detentions of minors were illegal; and, therefore, the police and military officials that executed these arrests, plus the attorneys and judges that validated them, should



be punished, meriting between six months and two years imprisonment (LOPNNA's art.268).

It is a sufficient reason for a scandal such detentions of children, but there is more: the mistreatment suffered by some of them stands as an evidence of the grade of deterioration of

police and military organisms in Venezuela. Our Constitution prohibits torture and any other type of cruel and degrading treatment. In addition, a Special Law on the matter -issued 2013- penalizes such offences with up to 25 years imprisonment and equal period of incapacitation to occupy public positions. Transparencia Venezuela demands the immediate release of children and adolescents arrested during January manifestations, as well as the punishment -according to the Law- of those who were responsible.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

Regime's brutal repression against manifestants all over Venezuela



Since January 23, 2019, a brutal repressive wave has been on, directed by Nicolás Maduro and officials of Especial Actions Force (FAES) and the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN), jointly with public prosecutors of the Attorney General Office and judges. Repression has stricken thousands of manifestants, especially in popular sectors and slums nationwide; and has left -up to now- a tragic balance of 40 murders

and over 800 persons arrested. Among these, there are 80 minors, including some suffering from delicate illnesses, and pregnant women. The majority of them have been submitted to tortures, degrading treatments, and illegal imprisonment.

By means of a communiqué, Bloque Constitucional de Venezuela addressed to all penal and military judges that have participated in these aberrations. We reminded them about their duty of preserving Constitution's integrity; therefore, their obligation to guarantee due processes and fundamental rights to all citizens. They must not obey the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) blindly, because that affects their autonomy; the least of all when it is totally illegitimate TSJ. They must not cooperate with the repressive organs of the State to

transform the right to protest into an offence. The position adopted by most judges -absolute silence- means not only cowardice or complicity, but also a lese humanity offence that could be considered by International penal Court (CPI).

This is why we exhort all those public officials to attend such cases of arbitrary detentions, disappeared persons, and incommunicado and tortured people. Cease postponing hearings, ordering apprehensions, and keeping granted caution measures for indefinite time. Last but not least: we exhort them to not processing civilians in Military Courts. We are still waiting for a reply from them.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

We are beholden to European Parliament for their efforts

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza thanks European parliament for their efforts, and applauds the resolution approved on January 31, 2019, in which they recognize Juan Guaidó as the legitimate interim president of Venezuela; solicit from the president of the European Commission the consequent recognition; ask for the accreditation of representatives, appointed by the interim government; condemn violence and repression in Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro's regime; rejects any violent solution to our crisis; iterate their total support to National Assembly (AN); second United Nations' proposition for investigating violent occurrences during these days; and call to the creation of a contact group, respecting the coming, free and fair elections to be held in Venezuela.



Un Mundo Sin Mordaza's president, Juan Rodrigo Diamanti, had a reunion with the president of European Parliament, Antonio Tajani. Diamanti expressed gratitude for the leading role of the European entity regarding the restoration of democracy in Venezuela. Furthermore, he solicited them to go on pressing, in order to achieve that the preliminary exam of the Venezuelan case in International Penal Court may advance to the next phase, investigation; and also that over 30 deceases and over 800 arbitrary detentions in the last days happen to be included as well.

Finally, in addition, Diamanti remarked the necessity of sending humanitarian help to Venezuela, due to the countless persons affected by the crisis.

Codevida - www.codevida.org

1.283 persons at risk of death for shortage of inputs in dialysis units

The shortage of inputs and materials for the treatment of dialysis in Venezuela has been intermittent along the last two years. In 2017 and 2018, 2.500 persons with renal insufficiency died, just because they could not receive continuous and on-time treatment for their chronic condition. 2019 is beginning with the same problem: 1.283 persons are at serious risk of death, among the 11.000 that depend on this therapy for surviving.

On January 30, two dialysis units stopped working in the state of Lara, which affected 480 persons among 1.500 patients in that entity. Every second day, inputs are sent from Caracas, but currently they do not have dialyzers nor dialikid lines nor concentrates (bicarbonate). In other 5 units, the treatment left is about to finish. Persons suffering this chronic conditions in Barquisimeto -Lara's capital city- denounce that, given the intermittence of supplies by Venezuelan Institute of Social Security (IVSS), their only option is applying half of each dialikid to every patient -although it should be a complete one per person. As for physiological solutions (iron, folic acid, vitamin B-12, poslot, eritroprojectine, and heparine), instead of administering all of them, they are using only heparine. Unfortunately, the situation in Lara is not unique.

In other five states, inputs finished by January 31st: Aragua, Carabobo, Cojedes, Mérida and Portuguesa. Patient Luis Orozco denounces that, in Maracay's Central Hospital, there are just 6 machines for attending 120

persons. In that health center, there are no dialyzers, concentrates, physiological solutions, injectors, gauzes, adhesives tapes, macro-droppers, nor gloves. Orozco himself has had no treatment for 8 days now, and starts swelling up and having difficulties at breathing, due to the overload of toxins in his body. In addition, at the Maracay Centro unit, all inputs fail to appear, which violates the right to health of 248 people. In two dialysis units in



Valencia, state of Carabobo, Freseniuns Santa Rosa, and the Urological Center, patients were warned that "there will be no guarantees for dialysis from February 1st onwards, because of a total lack of inputs", which will affect 264 persons. In turn, unit Diamerca, in the state of Mérida, does not count on dialyzers, bicarbonate, or

solutions for providing therapy to 71 patients. And in San Carlos, state of Cojedes, they ran out of inputs at Nephrological Center, where 4 of the 12 machines are out of order for the lack of spare parts, which affects 80 persons. In the same city, San Carlos, at the Central Hospital, other 20 patients are currently at risk.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Popular sectors are the most affected by repression in Venezuela

Between January 1st, 2014, and January 31st, 2019, Foro Penal has registered 13.936 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela. 816 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January 2014 to the present date, we have accumulated 2.477 certified political prisoners. Full liberty or release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 1.566 cases.



Penal. By January 20, 2019, the number was 273; but it increased dramatically, due to repression, since January 21st. Now, there are 91 women in this group of detained people. Besides, 7.713 persons are still unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners. Today, the cipher for this category of inmates is 911, which has been verified by OAS/OEA based on data provided by Foro

Repression has focused on the most humble sectors in the country, being the poorest people strongly affected. Particularly grave has been the persecution against minors: up to date, there are still 101 of them imprisoned.

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Silencing mass media does not change reality

Our political and economical crisis requires circulating, on time information about what is going on in our country. However, journalistic work was punished last week by the State, which is responsible for guaranteeing freedom of expression. Persecution against reporters and mass media violates national laws and international treaties on Human Rights; and we demand this right to be really protected, in order to favor well informed debates for taking decisions.



Maduro on January 23; the constant pressure exerted on the media for them not to mention Juan Guaidó as the president in charge -including threats of administrative sanctions; and the going off the air of an international TV channel.

Last week, 11 journalists were arbitrarily arrested. Some were Venezuelan and some were foreign correspondents, and one was just a driver. Temporary deprivation of liberty adds up to a wide range of restrictions to freedom of expression, which includes blockings of social networks; the ceasing of programs for discussing news; the shut-down of media that covered manifestations against

Journalistic practicing is protected by international standards related to freedom of expression. Attacking journalist means depriving citizens from their right to be informed. In a context where information is scarce, independent journalist stands as an alternative for feeding public debate with diverse points of view.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**