



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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[www.crisisenvenezuela.com](http://www.crisisenvenezuela.com)



**Codevida - [www.codevida.org](http://www.codevida.org)**

**“It exists, a very real humanitarian problem in Venezuela”**

Allow me to be quite clear from the beginning: it exists, a very real humanitarian problem in Venezuela”, assured Mark Lowcock, the Humanitarian Affairs coordinator, before the Security Council of United Nations Organizations (ONU). He also said there is a preliminary inform that enlists priorities, based on official and non-official available data; and it reveals that about seven millions of persons in the country need humanitarian assistance –just one quarter of the population.



“Humanitarian situation has worsened. Repeated blackouts have affected the entire country. Without energy, many hospitals struggle for realizing essential surgical procedures, and for maintaining intensive care units and dialysis treatments. Not only water supply is a problem, but also sewers systems. Economical deterioration has gone on, for the purchasing power of ordinary people has diminished more, which makes food even less available for many families”, stated Lowcock.

Besides, the humanitarian coordinator revealed that, within a context of a severe economical continuous contraction, it is estimated that 1.9 millions of persons require nutritional assistance, among them 1.3 millions of children under 5 years of age; preventable illnesses –tuberculosis,

diphtheria, measles, and malaria– have outbursted again, meaning 2.8 millions of persons in need of medical assistance 1.1 millions of children among them; 4.3 millions of venezuelans request drinking water supply for proper sanitary conditions, among them 17% of the poorest people, who count on that vital service only once every fortnight –or do not, at all.

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**PROVEA - [www.derechos.org.ve](http://www.derechos.org.ve)**

**Risk of catastrophe**



It is not an exaggeration, affirming that, in Venezuela, we are at risk of facing a humanitarian catastrophe. The complex humanitarian emergency we suffer now could be alleviated with the entry of help, but such would not solve our emergency. If it is not developed, an integrated policy of humanitarian measures, accompanied by recuperating public services and controlling both,

increasing inflation and unemployment, we could be at the edge of a large scale worsening of the crisis.

World Organization for Health (OMS) talks about being close to a catastrophe, when the harm, the loss of lives, and the deterioration of health reach levels beyond all possible abilities and ways to confront them; and, therefore, they require an extraordinary response from places faraway the affected population.

Nationwide blackouts and programmed –yet irregular – energy cuts in hundreds of cities in the country dramatically worsened the pre-existent drinking water crisis. The insufficient number of electricity plants for emergencies aggravates

the situation of health centers; and the water shortages obliges to suspend classes, affecting primary schools, high schools, and universities. The raising cost of aliments increases hunger and malnutrition in Venezuela’s homes. As a consequence of all this, threats to life and health night deepen, and eventually mean a higher number of persons deceased from starvation, lack of medical attention, and a severe deterioration of general health conditions.

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## Defiende Venezuela - [www.defiendevenezuela.org](http://www.defiendevenezuela.org)

### What are the consequences of Gustavo Tarre's recognition as the Venezuelan representative in OEA?



Before mentioning the consequences of such resolution, it is necessary, to remind that, on January 22, 2019, AN and president in charge of the Republic, Juan Guaidó, appointed Gustavo Tarre as the permanent representative of Venezuela before the hemispherical organism. And, on February 8, 2019, Guaidó, exercising an attribution granted by art. 7.2 of Viena's Convention on the right of a Chief Executive to undersign treaties; and according to art. 236.4 of our Constitution of the presidential functions; decided the State's will to annul the denouncement of OEA's Charter, presented on April 27, 2017.

The Permanent Council of Organization of American States (OEA) approved on April 9, 2019, a resolution on the situation of Venezuela, in which it decides "accepting the National Assembly's (AN's) appointment of Gustavo Tarre as a permanent representative, until new elections are realized and there is a democratically elected government". Furthermore, OEA's Permanent Council assigns to the Secretary General "for transmitting the text of the resolution to the Secretary General of United Nations".

Thus, via OEA's Permanent Council's decision, we find two facts: first, OEA recognizes Juan Guaidó as the president in charge of Venezuela; second, his solicitation of annulling the 2017 denouncement very probably will be valid and juridically compulsory. So, there is now a possibility for Venezuela not stopping as a member of Inter American Court of Human Rights (CIDH); and that will satisfy demands presented by our civil society's organizations before that organism along the last months.

## Bloque Constitucional - [www.bloqueconstitucional.com](http://www.bloqueconstitucional.com)

### Recuperation of institutionality of a democratic State of Rights

Bloque Constitucional has insisted on these texts of our Constitution: Title VIII, "On protection of the Constitution", more specifically on Chapter I, "On the guarantee of the Constitution"; and on arts.333 and 350, which establish the duty and the right to recuperate the validity of Constitution, in case of a derogation de facto and in case of usurpation of authority.



derivate-, is the entity appointed by constitutional art. 5 for adopting extraordinary measures, in order to ease the reinstitutionalization of the State of Rights.

Bloque Constitucional's criterion is that arts.333 and 350 imply the faculty of not recognizing usurpation of power by a government de facto, which happens only when the absence or the lack of institutionality of the State of Rights allows it to happen. In those cases, our Constitution permits exercising a form of popular control, in order to reestablish the validity of the Magna Carta. National Assembly (AN), as the genuine representative of popular sovereignty -from which all of State Powers

Precisely because it complies with that; and because it is the only legitimately able entity at the moment; AN produced and published last February 5, 2019, a temporary Statute, for providing a political transition to democracy with a juridical base; as well as the establishment of a transient government and the realization of competitive free elections. As a constitutional normative act, the Statute foresees an exceptional and temporary regime, a form of not-recognizing usurped authorities, and a mean for guaranteeing the process of reinstitutionalization of the State of Rights -a way to democratize our political system and to get rid of dictatorship.

## Acceso a la Justicia - [www.accesoalajusticia.org](http://www.accesoalajusticia.org)

### The Afiuni case: a new scratch against autonomy of Judicial Power

Saying that Judicial Power in Venezuela is not autonomous is no news, since that statement is backed up by hundreds of samples. Yet, today we must underline the most unbeatable evidence of such reality: the case of judge María Lourdes Afiuni.

Penal process against Afiuni has had plenty of contraventions to the right to due process: postponements; changes of judges and of detention centers- first of them, Venezuelan Institute of Feminine Orientation (INOF); later, her own house-; grave denunciations of having been raped and tortured... All of these facts were denied before United Nations' Committee for Human Rights by Attorney General at that moment, Luisa Ortega Díaz.

To such a terrible situation, add up that almost ten years after the process started, last March 21, 2019, a definitive first instance sentence was finally emitted, and it condemns Afiuni to five years imprisonment for corruption, misfeasance, and favoring authority.



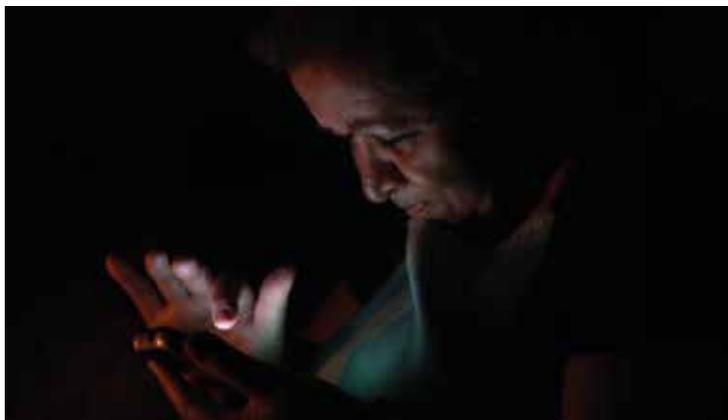
The sentence has not been published, its motivation is not known yet; but indeed it has filtered out via different sources -including an audio recording of Afiuni herself-that, in the act of the hearing on trial, Public Prosecutor could not prove that she received money or any other economic benefit.

Among many irregularities in this case, remarkable are the ones committed by the entity headed by Tarek William Saab, who -not having evidences to prove corruption -charged Afiuni with "spiritual corruption", not foreseen in any legal norm. This means that, from sentences against Afiuni ahead, offences are not anymore those established in our Penal Code, but those that the arbitrariness of Venezuelan political regime points out to be.

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## Espacio Público - [www.espaciopublico.org](http://www.espaciopublico.org)

### March: between blackouts and detentions



Third month of this year closed with 133 violations of freedom of expression, which correspond to 62 cases; and among them, intimidation and censorship are particularly remarkable. Focus is on journalists and mass media, victimized by State institutions, security corps, officials, and groups of violent civilians.

Cyphers of this first trimester show a noticeable increase in the number of those violations, summing up to 204 cases that include 420 violations. Other 60 refer to press workers who were detained arbitrarily. Data of the first trimester are multiples of those of the same period last year: they are almost three times higher (from 72 to 204), 183% more; whereas the number of cases raised up to 259% (from 117 to 420).

Due to the electric fails, radio bases of services operators were perturbed and/or resulted non-operative, which impeded Venezuelans to access Internet. According to VE Sin Filtro's reports, only 26.5% of Internet Intel's test-traceroutes are completed. The same source informs that traffic to Google dropped 82%, in comparison to figures of previous days.

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## Fourth OEA's resolution about Venezuela in 2019

On April, 2019, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OEA) discussed –for the fourth time this year– on the political, economical, and social crisis Venezuela is immersed in. That session was solicited by permanent missions of Colombia, Argentina, Brasil, Canada, Chile, Paraguay, and Perú. During the meeting, OEA sanctioned a project of resolution on Venezuela, in which they “accept Venezuelan permanent representative Gustavo Tarre Briceño, appointed by the National Assembly, until new elections are held, and a democratically elected government is appointed in Venezuela”.



situation. Both, national and international recognition favors National Assembly, whereas competences of Executive Power are deemed as usurped by Nicolás Maduro. As an evidence: Nicolás Maduro's representatives participated and voted the resolution.. unfavorably, of course.

This historic decision definitively left Nicolás Maduro's delegates out of OEA from that date on, and they will be not recognized as diplomatic representatives any more by the maximum regional organism. Through this resolution, OEA tacitly recognizes the existence of a duality of powers in Venezuela, since the acceptance of Gustavo Tarre within the organism is accomplished under the figure of representative of the National Assembly of Venezuela, not of the government, given the Venezuelan political

One fundamental point in the acceptance of the Tarre Briceño as the AN's representatives in OEA was the polemical way-out process, solicited by Nicolás Maduro on April 27, 2017, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially announced Venezuela's retirement from OEA. We at Cepaz iterate our rejection to that unconstitutional exit, intended by Maduro's regime before the inefficiency and invalidity that are usual in their actings. Such a decision alters leading principles of Venezuelan State's international relations, and also alters progressiveness of human rights.

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## Foro Penal - [www.foropenal.com](http://www.foropenal.com)

### Bachelet must have direct and independent access to political prisoners

By April 12, 2019, Nicolás Maduro's regime had arrested arbitrarily 14.639 persons in Venezuela, according to records of Foro Penal. 847 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January 2014 up to date, we have accumulated 2.880 political prisoners. Full liberty or release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 1.969 cases.



unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

.As for the recent affirmation by United Nation's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, we at Foro Penal exact that, if she finally visits Venezuela, she must be allowed a direct access to victims of repression, without any form of supervision or surveillance by Venezuelan government. Bachelet

By April 2014 we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. Today, the cipher –certified by OAS/OEA on April 8– is 911, 107 of them being women. Besides, 8.244 persons are

should also be permitted a direct contact with political prisoners; and these should be granted that they will not be objects of retaliation or abuse, as a consequence of telling the high official the facts they undergo.