



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



PROVEA - www.derechos.org/ve

Provea: ONU's High Commissioner for Human Rights in Venezuela

17 years we, Venezuelans, had to wait for receiving the visit of a top-level official related to Human Rights. In 2002, after the coup d'état in April, Cesar Gaviria visited us, as the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OEA), for verifying our social and political situation and denouncements of violations against Human Rights. From that moment on, the door remained closed to independent points of view. Only the pressures by many social sectors in our country could achieve the presence of Michelle Bachelet in Caracas.



also produced a third one, which will be divulgated on coming July 5. Expectations for the visit of the H.C Bachelet relate with the possibility of this being the beginning of a joint work plan with authorities in order to improve some specific situations of violations of Human Rights. Among other things, it has been proposed, installing a standing office of the ONU's entity in our country -victims would have a fast and direct mechanism for denouncing and communicating permanently.

We, at NGOs, have constructed a fluent work relationship with the Technical Team of the Office of the High Commissioner that was appointed for Venezuela. They are responsible for two especial informs; and have

Before leaving the country, Bachelet is expected to announce work agreements established with Nicolás Maduro. It will be for Venezuelan society, especially for NGOs pro Human Rights, watching over and make such agreements be accomplished.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org/ve

Effects of the visit of High Commissioner to Venezuela

Michelle Bachelet's arrival to Venezuela was expected months ago, particularly since March 11-22, when a group of experts of her Office visited us for evaluating the matter technically. Experts had reunions with diverse actors, and were able to verify the grave Venezuelan situation. The group also examined if conditions in Venezuela were appropriate for a high level visit to our country, other objective of the exploratory mission. Among such conditions: freedom of displacement nationwide, access to all the parts involved, and a guarantee of security and no reprisals for persons who cooperate with the experts. In this visit, most of these conditions were unaccomplished.



the Council of Human Rights. Next September, Bachelet will render an oral up-dating report on the situation of Human Rights in our country -the case Venezuela will go on being included in the international agenda.

What is it to happen after the visit? In the first place, for complying with the mandate, the Office of High Commissioner is obliged to present a final inform about Venezuela before the United Nations' Council of Human Rights. This will occur in a session with 47 countries participating in a deep discussion over the investigation. It is fundamental, pointing out that the High Commissioner's mission concerning Venezuela will not end with her visit to our country, nor with the presentation of the inform before

It is also important to keep in mind that the existence of a technical team of professionals, who have followed up closely for years everything that has happened in Venezuela -supported by informations provided by civil society's organizations-, will allow the presentation of an exhaustive inform with sufficient and necessary data, for assuring that the States in the Council of Human Rights may take measures and actions. Finally, it is convenient, reminding that all this is the result of many years of hard work by civil societies organizations, which generate independent information in a country without official data available are still alive and functioning.

Codevida - www.codevida.org

Codevida expects Bachelet's exhortations to relief venezuelans' pains

The High Commissioner for Human Rights of United Nations, Michelle Bachelet, visited Venezuela to comply with the mandate of the Council of Human Rights, issued last year, in September, after being approved in a historical voting session. The States members voted for realizing an exhaustive inform of the situation in our country.



"Bachelet's visit was insistently requested by us (civil society), it is great opportunity for her to verify what currently goes on in Venezuela. Not only Bachelet has worked on the inform, there is a group of specialized technicians, who know our country well since a long time ago. All our organizations of the civil society have sent their reports on the situation of human rights in our country", explains Francisco Valencia, director of

Codevida.

Valencia remarks what is, for him, the most important thing to happen after Bachelet's visit. "I hope there will be quite considerable exhortations. The complex humanitarian emergency is causing the deaths of hundreds of venezuelans. The most alarming is the case of persons in dialysis: in two or three years, 5.000 of these persons have died. At hospitals, children die

everyday, due to the lack of essential medicaments, medical equipments, and infrastructure. Such is already known by technicians that have come to Venezuela before Bachelet. Let's remind that she is a pediatrician, she must have a special sensibility before health issues. Being the High Commissioner, she has a major responsibility. Lives of many venezuelans depend on what happens next; and that includes political prisoners, and the sanitary system as a whole. People are suffering consequences quite a lot. The present health situation means irreversible harms to the population".

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Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

What is the High Commission of United Nations for Human Rights (OACDH)?

The Office of the High Commission for Human Rights is the principal entity of United Nations concerning Human Rights. It figures into the Secretary of United Nations, and its headquarters are in Geneve, Switzerland; but it also has an office in New York.

OACDH works according to a mandate received from the General Assembly, resolution 48/141; the United Nations Charter; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and other consequential instruments on Human Rights: the Declaration and Programme of Actions of Vienna, approved by the World Conference on Human Rights (1993); and the Final Document of the World Summit Conference (2005).

For fulfilling its mission, OACDH: 1) will give the priority to the most urgent cases of violations of Human Rights,



wether acute or chronic, particularly those that put at risk people's lives; 2) will focus its attention on persons who are in risk and are especially vulnerable in multiple contexts; 3) will pay identical attention to exercising rights, whether they refer to civil, cultural, economical, political, or social aspects -including the right to development; 4) will measure the results of its work by the benefits that actions may

produce and their accumulation in favor of individuals worldwide.

Operatively speaking, OACDH works with governments, parliaments, tribunals, national, institutions, civil society, regional and international organizations, and ONU's system, in order to develop and strengthen capabilities of protection of Human Rights, according to international standards.

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

What Michelle Bachelet did and did not do during her visit to Venezuela

Our country is immersed in a crisis of such huge proportions, that United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, visited us. Along her stay, she must have weighed up the gravity of violations of Human Rights committed, yesterday as much as today, by those who exercise power de facto, though accepted to receive her.



Bachelet has a fundamental role to play in defending Human Rights in our country, taking into account that informs collected by her Office point out violations of Human Rights and lese humanity crimes. Nevertheless, she should have requested to be taken to any hospital, where she could have witnessed infamous conditions around patients –survivors? –; hospitals where she could have got first hand information about daily deceases, because of the lack of medical inputs and an adequate assistance. She should have gone to any city or small town anywhere the countryside; she should have had reunions with nurses, teachers, students; she should have visited a public school, over here, in Caracas, and she would have verified –at first sight– the famish look of boys and girls, attending those “study centers” with the illusion of acquiring knowledge. It would have been sufficient for her, having talked with

mothers, holding their babies in their arms and begging for attention at any emergency post in our country. In fact, she would have verified that our country is itself an emergency, a humanitarian emergency: a scholar, labor, social emergency. Thus, she would understand better the reasons for the going-like-a-shot-out-of-the-country of 4 MM venezuelans, presently wandering around the world –some of them luckier than others– or simply dying on the roads to Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador.

Michelle Bachelet's competences are related to only Human Rights, of course; civil, political, economical, social, and cultural rights.

Expecting her inform to include political opinions is only that: an expectation. However, once she has verified in situ, if she confirms any of the many barbarous realities we endure today, that will have a political effect and duly influence countries that have kept a “doubtful” position about our present crisis. Above all, Michelle Bachelet's coming declarations on the gravity of violations of Human Rights in Venezuela, jointly with the installation of a Technical Commission to follow up systematic violations of Human Rights in our Country, will certainly be of a major importance for our future.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Denouncements of Acceso a la Justicia before Bachelet



The High Commissioner of United Nations for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, visited our country to have numerous meetings, one of them with NGOs pro Human Rights. Once more, Acceso a la Justicia iterated denouncements made about Venezuelan Judiciary, especially about

its maximum authority, Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) –an actor with a key role on the road to autoritarism.

Since 2015 parliamentary elections, a state de facto has been installed in Venezuela, and TSJ has played a starring part. Judicial Power's maximum authority has distorted its functions, becoming the repressive right arm of the present political regime.

TSJ is doing as a façade to the regime, for making people believe that the government complies with the Constitution, and with the international mandates on Human

Rights. The total absence of control on Power has driven our country to an institutional break, so big that the State has not any longer neither the will nor the capability for attending the needs of the citizens. Venezuela is the living evidence of this: if there is not judicial liberty in a country, nor State of Rights, nor Democracy, the free exercise of Human Rights gets to be null and ineffective.



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Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Transparencia Venezuela: Bachelet: Major corruption is responsible for the crisis



The crisis Venezuela has suffered in the last years, which has ended up as a complex humanitarian emergency, is a direct consequence of corruption. This was denounced by Transparencia Venezuela before United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, while she was in Venezuela.

Our NGO remarked that, according to the Controlling Commission of National Assembly (AN) of Venezuela, along the managements of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro more than US\$ 300 billions were embezzled. Those cases remain impune in our country, whereas tribunals of other six nations have processed over 100 persons charged with corruption, for robbing around US\$ 13 billions.

Transparencia Venezuela stated that, at governmental high levels, a structure for theft was created, and it undermined every single sector –a major suffering for venezuelans. The counter-weight system was eliminated. Contracts were granted without a bidding process. Governmental

opacity was consolidated: appointments for public positions were for loyalty, nor for merits; and so were promotions, even when those promoted were involved in corruption. In addition, an international net was knitted for money laundering, in which are involved governments, enterprises, criminal organizations, and individuals in, at least, 63 countries.



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REDUNI - www.redunivenezuela.com

Bachelet and the persecution of university leadership

Luis Alejandro Yaguarate was elected university advisor of University of Carabobo (UC) in November 2018, within an electoral process for student representatives. Elections were openly harassed by the government of the state of Carabobo. Despite the fact that interfering was electorally defeated, governmental pressures have not ceased. UC's Federation of University Centers was violently taken by pro-official groups on June 7, 2019. Once the site was recovered, Luis Yaguarate was cited by the police for declaring. He was arrested, then released, and then imprisoned again. By June 20, one week after his detention, he was granted a caution measure that permitted him to be released--- once more!



and the legitimate defense of university autonomy is therefore unmercifully attacked, for dominating all free thinking centers. In a normal country, participating in political students events does not imply the risk of being imprisoned; but Venezuela is not a normal country, quite certainly. Despite that, students go on participating, getting totally involved at defending their Houses of Superior Studies, even at the risk of their liberty... and lives!

Concerning the visit of High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Organization of United Nations (ACNUDH), Michelle Bachelet -who was an active participant in students politics and suffered totalitarian rigors raw flesh-, Red Universitaria for Human Rights invites the Commissioner to verify the ruinous state of Venezuelan autonomous universities, as a deliberate result of imposing a totalitarian project –and seemingly it will not stop, until annulling the spirit of each one of these Houses of Liberty.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

One more year of Venezuela starring in cases of torture

22 years have passed by since United Nations' General Assembly decreed June 26 as the World Day for Support to the Victims of Torture. Nevertheless, lawyer Tamara Suju, specialized on Human Rights, assures that tortures have increased in Venezuela; and the first trimester 2019 "is the hardest and most cruel". According to the Specialized Center for Latin American Studies (Casla), "Venezuela is a huge concentration camp in the open, where inhabitants are submitted to all sorts of arbitrariness, systematic repression, and State terrorism".



organization documented 40 new cases of torture, including minors -both sexes-, civilians and military. Casla presented before International Penal Court (CPI) an inform, in which are registered 600 cases of torture by Nicolas Maduro's government.

Suju pointed out that, by the end of 2018, 38.7% of tortured persons were civilians, and the rest were military. Besides, she specified that 11 cases were executed by Cubans.

With such affirmations, the expert shows that, in Venezuela, it is not accomplished, what is established in the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane, or Degrading Treatments and Punishments, that came into force on June 26, 1987.

In the first two months of 2019, the international

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Bachelet committed to work for the liberation of political prisoners



845 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January 2014 up to date, we have accumulated 3.146 political prisoners; full liberty and release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 2.461 cases.

By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. Today, the figure for that category of inmates is 685, 51 being women. Besides, 8.709 persons are still unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

This week, it is most remarkable the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of United Nations, Michelle Bachelet, who had an encounter with relatives of political prisoners, and with victims of violations against Human Rights. Bachelet compromised to work for the liberation of political prisoners, and also to maintain -for three months, at least- a special watching mission in Venezuela.

By June 21, 2019, Foro Penal had registered 15.071 arbitrary detentions in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014.

