



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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

## Maduro starts not accomplishing agreements with Michelle Bachelet



According to information provided by High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, among the agreements obtained with Nicolás Maduro's regime, one is this: "The government has also accepted that my

team may enjoy full access to detention centers for monitoring conditions and talking confidentially with inmates".

Up to date, despite the assassination by tortures –as denounced by lawyers and relatives– of Corvette Captain Rafael Acosta Arévalo; and despite other insistent denouncements about tortures in General Direction of Military Counter-Intelligence (DGCIM); Bachelet's officials have not been permitted to enter any detention center.

We must add now that both, the Attorney General and the Ombudsman –imposed by Constituent National Assembly (ANC) – have acted submissively before Maduro and his government team. They do not dare to raise the prohibition of entering jails and detention centers, like DGCIM and headquarters of Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN). This is to get an approximate idea on how repressive corps are free to mistreat prisoners, and to keep those installations in terrible conditions –a total disrespect to human dignity.

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

## Venezuelan migrants and refugees according to OEA's inform

The most recent inform of the Organization of American States (OEA) underlines that, up to June 2019, at least 4MM venezuelans "have escaped the country". Although they do not run away from an armed conflict nor from a natural disaster, their displacement is forced by a complex humanitarian emergency, as never seen before in our continent. A situation due to the scarcity of aliments and medicines; the economical collapse, with a 10.000.000% hyperinflation; the general and systematic violation of Human Rights, via persecutions, repression, social control, and lese humanity crimes; the permanent fails of public services –electricity, drinking water, domestic gas–; and a violence index that reaches 81 homicides for each 100.000 inhabitants. If nothing stops and reverse this situation, the number of migrants and refugees will go on increasing, probably at 5.3 MM / 5.7 MM by the end of this year; and, in 2020, at 7.5 MM/ 8.2 MM.

Data reveal that there are multiple barriers for obtaining an adequate protection abroad. On one hand, a very low economical cooperation: by the end of the first semester 2019, only US\$ 158 MM were collected, which means 21% of financial requirements within the region –a shortage of US\$ 579.5 MM. That is: for each Venezuelan migrant or refugee there are less than US\$ 100– a strong contrast against sirians, whose financial amount per refugee is over US\$



5.000. On the other hand, OEA's inform states that it is essential, easing actions in order to grant permanent protection to Venezuelan migrants and refugees, in order to offer them options to integrate receptive nations and to reduce their expositions to risks, such as persons trafficking, forced recruitment, sexual and labor exploitation, statelessness, and discrimination.

A majority of forcedly displaced persons clearly stand for being qualified as refugees, as established in the Declaration of Cartagena: it reaffirmed essential the 1951 Convention; and added subjacent causes for a forced movement within the region– including "people who have escaped their countries because their lives, security, or liberty are menaced by general violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of Human Rights, and any other circumstance that may have altered public order". Such has been incorporated in legislations of 15 countries in the region: Argentina, Belice, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Certainly, countries can question their responsibilities concerning venezuelans, based on interpretations of their national laws. Yet, it is undoubtful that venezuelans comply exactly with the conditions comprised in Declaration of Cartagena's definition of a refugee.

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

After three years we scream: Liberty!

From September 1st, 2016 to June 29, 2019, 59 Colombian citizens were the victims of an illegal and arbitrary detention, which had the one and single purpose of permitting Nicolás Maduro to maintain a victim-like speech before a supposed coup d'état against him.



The story of these citizens is a perfect sample of how Venezuelan justice in nowadays, apart from showing how weak it is, Venezuelan State's commitment with Human Rights. Along almost three years, three *habeas corpus* were solicited before different Courts in Caracas, due to the case being a forced disappearance kept in silence; a sentence for release and full liberty was obtained from Control Court 27th -November 21st, 2017- but it was never accomplished; a caution measure was

granted by Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (CIDH); United Nations' (ONU's) Work Group on Arbitrary Detentions emitted a petition of liberty for the prisoners; and their relatives had meetings with Michelle Bachelet's technical team and with Bachelet herself, when she visited Caracas.

Summarizing: everything juridically possible for obtaining liberty in this case was done. Now, we think it is

fair and convenient, congratulating International Amnesty (Amnistia Internacional) for making visible these facts all the time; and also to Sergio Aranguren and Foro Penal, for their joint work with Defiende Venezuela in defending those Colombian men and women in both national and international spaces -because they never should have lost their liberty.

## CIVILIS Derechos Humanos - [www.civilisac.org](http://www.civilisac.org)

Most persons escaping Venezuela have the right to international protection for preserving their lives



In the good old days, Venezuela gave shelter to thousands of refugees. Nowadays, Venezuelans who find themselves obliged to abandon their homes and their country are more and more by the day. A high number of them need international protection.

Many venezuelans who comply with the requirements to be

considered as refugees do not solicit international protection via asylum procedures. They'd rather opt for other legal forms to stay in receptive countries, because they are easier to obtain and permit an access to work, education and social services. However, hundreds of thousands of venezuelans are still illegal and irregular migrants, with no documents nor permits to stay in the countries they are in -or going to. Therefore, they cannot accede basic services nor exercise their rights.

Sociologist and Human Rights and Refugees defender Ligia Bolivar says that both, transit countries and destination countries, are obliged to protect refugees.

**protecting refugees that escapes Venezuela?**

-It is very precarious. Most receiving countries do not recognize people escaping Venezuela as refugees, but as migrants. When you request from these persons a passport in force for more than six months; a visa; and, furthermore, a police record officially noted; you are establishing conditions valid for an immigrant, not for a refugee.

-What is the situation as for

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## Transparencia Venezuela - [www.transparencia.org.ve](http://www.transparencia.org.ve)

### US\$ 3.7 MM were destined to Venezuelan electric sector before the mega-blackout

Two months before Venezuela suffered the worst blackout in our history, Nicolás Maduro's government destined nearly US\$ 4 MM to some supposed investment projects in the electric sector, according to a decree of additional credit published in Official Gazette #6.420, on December 28, 2018.

According to decree #3.730, US\$ 437.535 were addressed for rehabilitating the first 6 units of the House of Machines 1, in Hydro-electric Central "Simón Bolívar", in Guri's Dam, just where the fail of March 7, 2019 began, leaving more than 90% of the country in darkness for at least 22 continuous hours -and is still provoking long interruptions of energy today.



Other US\$ 3.33 MM were destined to provide and install a 400 Kv underwater cable in Maracaibo Lake, state of Zulia -one of the most affected states by blackouts- where citizens suffer due to the very hot climate. Their life quality has been deeply deteriorated.

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## Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - [www.sinmordaza.org](http://www.sinmordaza.org)

### Bachelet's visit: a look in detail at violations of Human Rights in Venezuela

Michelle Bachelet United Nations' (ONU's), High Commissioner for Human Rights, finished a list in detail of violations against individual dignity of persons, as a result of her visit to Venezuela. She and her team interviewed 558 persons. Thirteen days after her meeting diverse situations of vulnerability in our country, there were two new cases of torture and misfeasance by the State's security organisms: the death of Captain Acosta Arévalo, who was in police custody; and the aggression against teenager Rufo Chacon, who received a discharge of 52 small shots in his face as he was protesting for fails in domestic gas service.



establishes in her document. ONU's representative also gives a series of recommendations for ceasing, overcoming, or preventing violations of Human Rights. Besides, Bachelet exhorts Maduro to undue military groups; to create a system for investigating extrajudicial executions; and to maintain a permanent office of ONU's High Commissioner in

Venezuela.

Extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, torture against Nicolás Maduro's government's adversaries, multiple cases of corruption, decadent health and alimentation systems, forced migration, and violations of freedom of the press are some of the categories Bachelet

The over growth of irregularities committed by the State has produced uncountable denouncements before international organism, where occurrences in Venezuela have been formally exposed. We, Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, want to recognize Bachelet's work during her stay in Venezuela. We also iterate our commitment with defense and protection of our citizens' rights, constantly violated by a system that does not respect those who think differently.

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

### Blunt Inform by High Commissioner for Human Rights exposes very grave violations of Human Rights in Venezuela



By July 5, 2019, Foro Penal had registered 15.092 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela, since January 1st, 2014. 848 civilians have been presented

before Military Courts. Since January 2014 up to date, we have accumulated 3.161 political prisoners. Full liberty or release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 2.537 cases.

By April 2014 we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. Today, by July 1st, 2019, the figure for this category of inmates is 624, 50 of them being women. Besides, 8.767 persons are still unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

The blunt inform of United Nations'

(ONU's) High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, outstands among this week's news. It is an exposition of the extremely grave violations of Human Rights occurred in Venezuela; and it recognizes the existence of murders for political reasons, arbitrariness detentions, tortures, and forced disappearance of persons -all of that comprising into a State's policy addressed to neutralizing dissidence and any critical voice against Power in Venezuela.

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

### Let us not normalize torture in Venezuela

It is a simple fact: torture exists in Venezuela. It is not a matter of isolated cases, due to excess committed by individual policemen acting by their own will. If it were so, we, Provea, would not have accounted 488 cases between 2013 and 2018, cases that show how barbarity and arbitrariness characterize treatments with prisoners, ranging from common offenders to political adversaries. Besides, it is not easy at all, denouncing these atrocities, for they are committed by the same authorities that are supposed to investigate them.

Since the beginning, the case of Corvette Captain Rafael Acosta Arevalo symbolizes arbitrariness, which is ruling us today. On June 21st, 2019, Acosta Arevalo was detained by unidentified armed individuals. His relatives and lawyers did not know his roundabouts, which shapes another crime: forced disappearance of persons. Different communications by governmental entities do not include this fact; they just say that investigation focuses on the Captain's death -as if his forced disappearance had nothing to do with it.

As told by Alonso Medina Roa, advocate of Rafael Acosta Arevalo: on June 28, seven days after his disappearance, the Captain was presented by members of



General Direction of Military Counter-Intelligence (DGICM). He was in a deplorable state: he could not walk, he hardly could ask for help. Acosta Arevalo showed evident physical signs of torture. None of these things appear in official communications; only one refers that the officer "fainted".

Those involved in his death will be charged with "pre-terrestrial international co-causal homicide", which is an obvious manoeuvre to leave this murder impune. Victimizers are not charged with torture, punished by law with up to 25 years imprisonment, although that is the real crime committed. In addition, this judicial figure implies State's responsibility -and now we understand the reasons why authorities intend to cover this offence and avoid using the right words. All clues lead us to think -sadly enough - that Captain Acosta Arevalo was tortured alive and is tortured again now, through an imputation that tends to protect his victimizers.

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## REDUNI - [www.redunivenezuela.com](http://www.redunivenezuela.com)

### Kidnapped university elections

The principal universities in our country establish the realizations of yearly student elections for two types of organs. The first one is the governing organ, integrated by the Federations of University Centers and students centers. The second one -called co-governmental- is integrated by the University Council, the Faculty Councils, and the School Council. The totalitary regime, quite aware of the importance of these entities; and of the importance of a renovated student movement in demanding their rights; has tried to impede student elections in autonomous universities nationwide, via decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) that request to modify universities' internal rules for electing their representatives, both rectoral and students.

All these years without students elections drive towards disappearing students representation, and to disarticulate their movements, since most of the last elected representatives are already graduated. For being a candidate to co-govern, a student must be coursing either of the two last years of studies; and that is why we can presently find universities that just do not have students representatives: at Los Andes University (ULA), its



Federation of University Centers (FCU) is closed- no elected representatives there; at Eastern University (UDO), those who occupied the sixth and seventh places in the last elections assumed their pairs representation- but they are followers of the rulers in power, the very some ones who impede having new elections; at University of Zulia (LUZ), there are only 3 elected students representatives -there should be 508.

Despite the situation, students are conscious and aware of the regime's strategy of keeping the student movement quiet and not visible; and

they have started several initiatives to make new elections possible, which was achieved at University of Carabobo (UC) and at Venezuela's Central University (UCV). This way, they established a precedent to motivate students articulation for demanding elections in the rest of our universities.

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

### DGCIM's Major threats journalists with detention

Major Jorge Diaz Andrade, ascribed to General Direction of Military Counter-Intelligence (DGCIM), threatened with arresting journalists and representatives of mass media, who were covering a supposed mutiny that was happening in DGCIM's Boleita headquarters, in Caracas, in the morning of Wednesday, July 3, 2019.



said Gleyber Asensio, Crónica Uno's graphic reporter.

Although journalists went away of the aforementioned security zone, Major Díaz Andrade told them that the area extended over 10 kilometers around. The group of journalists was there to verify an information via social networks, which started in the early hours of

July 2, 2019: the imprisoned military had started a mutiny for demanding rights. Journalists teams of Cronica Uno, NTN24, El Pitazo, Efecto Cocuyo, and other graphic reporters of international news agencies were confronted by the officer when they were trying to confirm about a supposed mutiny of political prisoners. "He told us that we were within a security zone; and he would count up to ten. After that, whoever might stay there would be arrested",

July 2, 2019: the imprisoned military had started a mutiny for demanding rights.

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## Venezuelan women and girls: reflection of a catastrophe. Gender dimensions in Venezuelan feminine mobility

Since 2014, many organizations of civil society, academicians, guilds, and qualified spokesmen of diverse entities repeatedly warned about a peril that has turned into a very harsh fact today: our present Complex Humanitarian Emergency (EHC). The worrying collapse of the State's capabilities at providing public services -including the falling down of Health Public System- has had a devastating effect on the promotion, the protection, and the guarantee of Human Rights; and consequentially, on the quality of life of Venezuelan population. Besides, reality proves that poverty has a particular incidence on women and girls -who are 49.88% of Venezuelan population.

In Venezuela, we can observe a silent process of feminization of poverty, which relates to income and employment's quality; level of responsibility in family care; and level of commitment in quotidian dynamics. Such incidences on one of the most internationally worrying phenomena: the critical Venezuelan mobility. Women and girls face serious



barriers for accessing basic rights, like alimentacion, health, education, justice -among others- as we remark in our inform "Situation of Human Mobility of Venezuelan Women and Girls, focusing on Gender Differentiation". These barriers are the principal cause of the grade of vulnerability women and girls are exposed to, when they join any of Venezuelan mobility streams in the region and worldwide.

All the former mean risk factors, which take various forms of violence and exploitation suffered by woman and girls within migratory contexts, because they are eventual victims of white slavery and other similar

practices -sexual exploitation and forced prostitution; and this happens as much for the need to survive as for the action of traffickers that take advantage of feminine aggravated vulnerability. It is fundamental, understanding that the critical human mobility should not be treated only for its consequences, but also at its causes; and, in addition, other risk factors must be considered, such as discrimination -both de jure and de facto- that affects women and girls in their native country and in countries abroad. Situations like irregularity and absence of migratory documents is the first of risk factors, which drive Venezuelan women to migrate clandestinely; and that makes them invisible, submitted to white slavery gangs and organized crime. Thus, moving and translating becomes an extremely critical phase for women and girls -they are fully disprotected.



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