



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

The value of principles

The results of third special inform on Venezuela, produced by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, not only reminds of how important international protection mechanisms are; it also reminds of the value of principles when working in favor of human dignity. Previous to the visit of High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, part of Venezuelan Public Opinion expressed feelings of distrust, due to the political background of someone who was the president of Chile in two occasions. Coincidentally, this fact was also considered within official calculations, before authorizing her arrival to our country.

Her presidential action's results for Chilean people can be debated on; but, as a representative of that country's Socialist Party, it is true, that her governmental programme had an ideological tendency to the left, and that was



supported by the majority of chileans in two elections. Yet, since Michelle Bachelet assumed on September 1st, 2018, as United Nations' High Commissioner she was/is obliged to address all of her efforts to fully respect Human Rights. Being what she is today, the major world defender of dignity of men, women, and children, she must place these principles above and beyond personal political sympathies; and this is an indispensable requirement for any person to be self-qualified as a "defender of Human Rights".

Work by High Commissioner on Venezuela remind us -by contrast - the high levels of disprofessionalism and partiality in public roles in our country. In addition, it reminds of faithfulness to ethical and moral principles, as due guides of social leaders, independently of their political and ideological creeds.

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

Venezuelan Episcopal Conference fixes urgent decisions for Venezuela and exposes which works are to be done



A communication issued July 11, 2019, as a Pastoral Exhortation of the CXII Ordinary Assembly of Venezuelan Episcopal Conference (CEV), not only describes the dramatically complex political, economical, and social situation in our country -based on the Inform by United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights-; but also identifies a central point of

attention, in which we must concentrate all venezuelans commitment with the dignity of persons and common well-being. At the end, a clamor for a change of route -just what Venezuela claims for.

CEV's words address to a spiritual an ethical renovation of our country; to promote and defend Human Rights; to definitively end abuses and violations against the dignity of persons; and to remind those dedicated to politics of being responsible, honest, coherent, and generous, in order to lead population towards prosperity, not to disgrace -towards future and hope.

CEV's pronouncement fixes a rudder strike, whose center is going back to our Constitution; and

demands for the out flow of those who illegitimately exercise power; then, electing as soon as possible a new president of the Republic. In order to do it, CEV lists conditions for that election to be really free. Thus, the aforementioned outgo integrates the Statute for Democratic Transition, produced by National Assembly (AN), diming precisely at having free elections under a new National Electoral Council (CNE) -including updating of Electoral Registry, guaranteeing voting to venezuelans abroad, the supervision of the process by international organisms -OEA, ONU, and European Union, among others. Finally, CEV's document also asks for "the ceasing of National Constituent Assembly".

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Civil society's role after ONU's High Commission's Office for Human Rights Inform

Preventing cases of violations of Human Rights; assuring respect to fundamental rights; promoting international cooperation for protecting personal integrity; among others... Those are basic functions of United Nations' (ONU's) Council for Human Rights. Nevertheless, can such be accomplished in Venezuela due to the ONU's High Commissioner's Office Inform of Human Rights?

Venezuelan State compromised to ease a future visit of independent experts, who integrate diverse special thematic procedures in United Nations. It is a must for civil society to go on working and pressing, in order to realize this compromise. It is most indispensable, counting on the presence in our country of the above mentioned mechanisms as they correspond: arbitrary detentions; extrajudicial executions; torture; rights to health, food,



education; independence of judges; freedom of expression; native populations; violence against women; and many others.

It is particularly important for all social sectors pressing on the State to comply with the commitment of establishing an office of the High Commission for Human Rights (ACNUDH) in our country, for making possible to supervise directly on respect to obligations concerning Human Rights; as well as for assisting and technically accompanying the authorities and favoring their work to guarantee Human Rights. Although the Inform does not

propose the creation of a commission or mission for investigating grave violations of human rights, this sounds like something civil society must go on demanding, in order to fight the unruffled impunity that reigns in Venezuela.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Indolence surrounds Venezuelan educational system

"Education is the most powerful arm you can use for changing the world". On coming July 18, we will celebrate International Day of Nelson Mandela, the author of the sentence just quoted. United Nations General Assembly decided to dedicate that date to his memory, due to the contribution of the South African president to world's peace and liberty culture.

Nevertheless, in Venezuela, education seems not to be a priority to the State. According to NGO Fundaredes, by the end of 2018-2019 academic year, only 45% of instructional objectives have been accomplished –a datum obtained after a survey held at 3.044 educative institutes nationwide.



Javier Tarazona, Fundaredes' director, declared that, in 66% of educational units, students did not attend classes regularly. "We are facing elements that prove an emergency in our education", he denounced. In addition, he underlined that, in 12% of institutes in our country, the Program of School Alimentation (PAE) is not working efficiently. The mentioned study reveals that

educational centers do not count with proper water and energy services –nor with sanitary facilities. Teachers' absence is due to: either fails in public transport or to the fact that many of those professionals have found themselves obliged to find other jobs or to emigrate. New generations seem to be suffering the consequences of bad decisions taken about our educative system.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Bachelet accused Venezuelan justice for being an arm to attack dissidency

Governments of Hugo Chavez and Nicolás Maduro are responsible for violations against Human Rights of millions of Venezuelans; but they are not the only ones to be blamed: Venezuelan justice has contributed to this dramatic situation as well. Such was stated clearly by United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, via an Inform on our country, presented before the Council for Human Rights of that international organism.



In her 18-pages long document, the Chilean ex-president reprimanded sharply the roles performed by Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ); by Attorney General Office -interfered by Constituent National Assembly (ANC)-; and by the Ombudsman's Office; as well as by police and military corps. Far from accomplishing their mission, which is protecting citizens, they have devoted themselves to protect the Executive Power, and to act like arms for attacking dissidency.

High Commissioner did not overlook more than 100 sentences emitted by TSJ in the last three years against the Parliament, with which the latter has been snatched up its functions -in the beginning, because more recently, the aim seems to be at dismantling it completely, through authorizations for imprisoning and processing 22 legislators. At least 30 out of 32 magistrates that presently integrate TSJ emit periodical and systematic rulings to favor government; and 10 of them -at the minimum- were members of United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) or occupied public positions in the Executive Power structure.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Legislative Council Deputy orders an investigation against several mass media in Tachira.



Nellyver Lugo, a deputy for United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) in Legislative Council of the state of Tachira, solicited from the Permanent Politics, Justice, Civic Security, Human Rights, and Frontiers Commission; from National Commission for Tele-Communications (CONATEL); and from the Public Prosecution Office; to carry on an investigation

against digital mass-media Táchira Noticias, Táchira Norte, Reporte V, Noticias Tachirenses, Cronica Policial, Fogón Informativo, and El Pitazo, for supposedly diffuse violent videos and other images.

Within the plenary session on Wednesday, July 10, Lugo commented images of teenager Rufo Antonio Chacon Parada, 16, who went blind during a manifestation, when an agent of Tachira's Police (POLITACHIRA) fired a discharge of small shot on his face.

"We are presenting in this plenary session of Legislative Council a denouncement, about contents and images that some websites have been broadcasting, which has generated situations among our Tachiraian

people; and that obviously exhorts us to take some kind of decisions", said Lugo, as she showed such diffused mass media contents to the rest of deputies.

Deputy Lugo insisted on that organism having the power to regulate mass media contents, for these can produce sensibility among the population. By so doing, Lugo ignores national and international legislations related to freedom of expression.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Imputation in Captain Acosta Arevalo's case proves intentions to procure impunity

By July 12, 2019, Foro Penal had registered 15.132 arbitrary detentions in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 848 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January 2014 up to date, we have accumulated 3.191 political prisoners; full liberty and release under diverse modalities have been granted in 2.577 cases.



By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. The number for this category of inmates by July 8, 2019, is 614, 62 women included. Besides, 8.792 persons are still submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

This week, it is remarkable, that only two of the supposed material authors of the death of Captain of Corvette Rafael Acosta Arevalo were imputed. Captain Acosta Arevalo died after being brutally tortured while he was in custody of General Direction of Military Counter Intelligence (DGCIM), as stated in the corresponding legal medical recognition. Having imputed only two persons; ignoring they are part of a structure with an organized chain of command; and qualifying the offence as a common offence -not as torture or grave violations of Human Rights- clearly show how Power's intention in this crime is leaving it impune.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Bachelet's inform certifies institutional break and erosion of the State of Rights in Venezuela

The recent inform of United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, confirms an institutional break and the systematic violations of rights in Venezuela. Types of vulneration of fundamental guarantees she registered include absence of economical and social rights: to food, to health, to justice; to freedom of opinion and expression... Besides, Bachelet verified selective repression and persecution for political reasons.



The blunt inform denounces that the Public Prosecution Office, the Ombudsman's Office, and the Judiciary "do not realize prompt investigations, effective and exhaustive; independent, impartial, and transparent, when dealing with violations of Human Rights and other crimes committed by State actors".

This has been emphasized by Acceso a la Justicia. In March 2019, we warned: "the political regime in Venezuela, in power since 1999, created a precise waybill for overtaking absolute power; and the co-optation with the system of justice and, specifically, of Judicial Power has been a key factor. As a result, Judicial Power has progressively inverted its role: instead of protecting citizens' rights and the Constitution, it has become a "legalizer" of everything done by the rulers, turning step by step along time into another important repressive organ".

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Human Rights and International Penal Law: achieving a common goal using different techniques

Painfully tragic facts along Second World War gave way to developing International Law of Human Rights; and also to produce a legal regime for sanctioning crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, and war crimes. However, although both law branches share a common origin, International Penal Law was slightly prior to International Law of Human Rights, because an International Military Tribunal was established in Nuremberg, Germany; and also was established the Far East Tribunal. International Penal Law was not referred to again, until the creation of ad hoc tribunals: International Penal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (TPIY) and International Penal Tribunal for Rwanda (TPIR). Today, International Penal Law has been consolidated, after the creation of the International Penal Court (CPI).

In turn, International Law of Human Rights, after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, had a progressive and expansive development within the



Organization of United Nations (ONU), and also in regional systems. We prefer using the expression “International Penal Law” instead of “Penal International Law”, as a way of remarking the response of international community, via treaties and custom, for dealing with international crimes. The major final aim is sanctioning those who have used leading positions and power structures for planning, inciting, ordering, easing, and committing international crimes. Thus, International Penal Law’s bases are the coordinated actions that two or more

States agree on, for cooperating in fighting this type of crimes.

Sanctions derived from Human Rights are directly imposed to the States, either for actions or for omissions attributable to their agents; or to third persons, who act under the protection and/or with the complicity of State agents. But sanctions by International Penal Law are imposed to individuals, whether they exercise or not public functions. Both normative regimes aim at establishing responsibilities, but they are different from each other. Therefore, it may be a big peril to treat them indistinctly: while almost any crime implies a violation of one or more Human Rights, the opposite not always is true, nor applies.



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