



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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PROVEA - www.derechos.org/ve

“Up with FAES!”: a backing for a death squad

Nicolás Maduro has sent uncountable support messages to those who sustain his dictatorship via repression and abuses against Human Right. “All sorts of support for you: logistical, physical... All sorts of support to Especial Actions Armed Forces (FAES) in their daily work for providing security to population... Up with FAES!”, said Maduro last July 16, during an act for celebrating National Policeman’s Day.

It is impressive: this new backing to repression occurs just a few days after the call by High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, addressed to the elimination of that elite corps of Bolivarian National Police (PNB), which has been accused by victims, mass media, and NGOs of being involved in hundreds of extra-judicial executions, and in other crimes against venezuelans’ Human Rights.



FAES have received a new fresh-air blow to go on attacking people and causing deaths among the poorest sectors. Provea recalls that States, whether submitted or not to illegitimate de facto governments, are always internationally responsible when judicial organisms do not investigate and sanction to those who abuse; and when those who commit crimes are openly encouraged to do so by power holders.

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Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Traffic of persons: a verifiable reality in Venezuela

Data available on traffic of persons are really alarming, and this problem seems to be worsening. United Nations’ Office against Crime and Offences (ONUDD) denounces that 70% of victim are women and girls. ONUDD underlines that, by the end of 2016, 25.000 persons had been victimized by delinquency –a cipher which goes on increasing, since 2011.



punished with 13-22 years of imprisonment –apart from millionaire fines.

Related to the Worldwide Day against Traffic of Persons –July 30–, it seems convenient to remember a comunicado, emitted by Venezuela’s Episcopal Conferences and Caritas, in which it is stated, that this type of crime also occurs here, against Venezuelan population, more specifically in the eastern zone of our country,

sexual exploitation, forced labors, and the use of persons as mendicants are some of the situations possible victims are exposed to. Recently, 28 Venezuelan minors were rescued in Bucaramanga, Colombia: they were used by delinquency gangs, that obliged them to beg in the streets. That offence, which is qualified as such within Colombian Law, is

and in borderline sites, next to Brazil and Colombia. Besides, Lillian Aya, an advisor of International Organization for Migrations, states that, as long as the migratory crisis goes on increasing, these sort of cases will go on appearing. “The migratory wave makes situation much more dramatic”, she fixed.

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Venezuelan civil society requests Especial Rapporteur on Torture to visit Venezuela

The platform Movimiento Ciudadano, where Defiende Venezuela and other organizations pro Human Rights gather with neighbors associations and social activists, solicited from the Especial Rapport Office -headed by Nils Melzer- to send an investigating mission to our country. The petition was subscribed by more than 600 persons.

This solicitation is made upon bases established in the inform of United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of such rights in Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in which it is



decided, determining a 10-visits calendar for especial procedures within the next two years.

A visit by Especial Rapporteur, Nils Melzer, depends on Executive Power's will to comply with agreements with the office of the High Commissioner. However, it is Venezuelan civil society's duty to request for these agreements'

compliance, in order to obtain an immediate ceasing of torture in Venezuela.

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

Negotiations promoted by Norway must comply with the Statute for Transition's waybill



Concerning the process of political negotiations promoted by the Kingdom of Norway, backed up by the European Union and the "Group of Lima, which aim at the ceasing of usurpation and the realization of free and fair elections for a new president of the Republic to finish this current constitutional period; and concerning the reality that spokesmen of the present de facto government by Nicolas Maduro have remarked that the only due election now is for electing a new National Assembly (AN); Bloque Constitucional de Venezuela states: we share the exhortation by CXIII Ordinary Plenary

Assembly of Venezuela's Episcopal Conference (CEV), July 11, 2019, which says that we confront "the reality of an illegitimate and unsuccessful government, and Venezuela claims for a change of route to go back to our Constitution".

CEV points out in its declaration: "That change demands a way-out of that who exercises power illegitimately, and the expeditious election of a new president of the Republic. In order to be really free and proper for responding to the will of sovereign people, such an election requires some indispensable conditions, like a new impartial National Electoral Council (CNE); the updating of electoral registry; venezuelans' voting abroad; and the supervision of international organism, like Organization of United Nations (ONU), Organization of American States (OEA),and European Union (UE),among others. Finally, the ceasing of Constituent National Assembly (ANC)".

Before the negotiation process, Bloque Constitucional de Venezuela encourages president in charge, Juan Guaido; and to National Assembly (AN); to not compromising about the accurate compliance of each one of the progressive stages in the waybill of Statute for Transition to Democracy: ceasing of the usurpation; a provisional government in national unity; and, finally, free and fair elections. Those stages were established with the only intention of granting juridical certainty to the process of transition to democracy.

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Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Until 2017, Public Prosecution Office was working on 173 cases against judges for corruption

“Laws exists only for the poor ones. The rich and the powerful ones disobey laws as they please; and they do it without being punished, because there is not one judge anywhere in the world who cannot be bought with money”. This was the opinion that French philosopher Donatien Alphonse Francois de Sade had of XVIII century’s judges. Yet, if he lived now in present Venezuela, his opinion would be reinforced: in our country, corruption is a major drama that impedes justice to punish those responsible for an offence; and to ease the reparation to the victims.

Between 2014 and August 2017, when Public Prosecution Office was interfered by questioned Constituent National Assembly (ANC) impulsed by Nicolás Maduro, that entity had initiated 173 investigations for presumable irregularities in different tribunals nationwide, which involved 158 judged or ex-judges. 49% of such proceedings were started between 2015 and 2017; and the most of them were precisely cases of corruption, that is: demanding payments for granting a favorable



decision. There were also cases of traffic of influences, speculation, and refusal to procure justice –according to statistics NGO (ONG) Suprema Injusticia had the chance to accede.

The state of Miranda -16 proceedings- headed the ranking of judges under investigation. The second post was occupied by the state of Lara -14 proceedings- and Caracas followed with 11. In the fourth place, Zulia and Táchira drew, with 5 each. By 2017, most proceedings were on investigation phase, and other 10 cases were clearly on “preparatory phase”. As a consequence of delays for solving these matters, many of the officials under investigation have gone on exercising their attributions –and accumulating more new denouncements.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Fourth massive blackout impedes communications in Venezuela



On July 22, Venezuela suffered with a new massive blackout that affected at least 22 states. As a consequence, communications were severely harmed: cellphone nets and local telephones nets collapsed, and so did bank and Internet services.

As electric fluid was partially restored nationwide, newscasts in principal UHF TV stations–

Globovision, Venevision, and Televen– gave the priority to the official version of the event, and did not deepen in a situation that made our country collapse for about seven hours. Radio stations just did not cover the occurrence: broadcasters that were on the air offered musical programmes, and did not inform about the happening. That was not so in Radio Nacional de Venezuela (RNV), belonging to the National Public Mass Media System, which was continuously transmitting, jointly with TV station VTV.

This was massive blackout number four in this year. The other three happened in March, and equally interrupted electric energy in 21 states of our country. Mass media opted this

time for keeping silent, due to censorship and threats.

Venezuelans’ freedom of expression and information goes on being violated, within a context of acute crisis; and that happens when exercising such a right would permit social control for identifying those who are liable for– apart from maintaining the population much better informed during this type of emergency.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Unknown whereabouts of diver Hugo Marino, who was arrested by DGICM

By July 26, 2019, Foro Penal had registered 15.137 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 or release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 2.609 cases.

By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. The figure for this category of inmates by July 22, 2019 is 582, 60 of them being women. Besides, 8.800 persons are still submitted to penal processes under caution measures.



Foro Penal is giving legal assistance to the relatives of Hugo Marino, a professional diver and an engineer specialized in underwater investigations, who was detained at Maiquetia airport on his arrival, back from the United States, last April 20. Since that day, he is missing. Last known about him is that he was taken to General Direction of Military Counter-Intelligence (DGICM) headquarters, where somebody close to him supplied food on May 12, 2019. No more news since then. Authorities refuse to inform whether Marino is in custody or not. Obviously, this is a very grave case of forced disappearance of persons.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Patrimonial tax: a new weapon for selective persecution?

By approving the new tax on citizens' and enterprises' patrimony, illegal Constituent National Assembly (ANC) -an usurping organ for legislative functions that correspond to National Assembly (AN) - would be creating a new weapon for selective persecution in Venezuela.

Patrimonial tax obliges those contributors qualified by Seniat as especial passive subjects- whether they are juridical persons who own patrimonial assets over 100.000 tributary units (UT); or natural persons whose patrimony reaches 36.000 UT- to pay annually a percentage between 0.25% to 1.5% of the value of net patrimony, at the end of each period. Payments are to be done within given deadlines; and under modalities determined by the tax organism. This "constitutional law" by ANC also grants power to Seniat for establishing rules, in order to determine patrimonial good's values.

This new "constitutional law" by ANC is a norm produced by an entity de facto. It violates legal



reservations related to taxation, because this is a matter concerning AN, not ANC. When granting discretionality to Seniat for qualifying subjects as especial passive or not, the law contradicts the principle of Taxpayers' equity. In addition, we point out that this tax will affect everyone, because such percentage payments will be charged on the produced goods and rendered services, when

enterprises include that tax in their production costs. Therefore, at the end, all citizens will pay this tribute. Last but not least: new taxes are not motivating at all for investors, because they increase costs and risks. In short: it is not a "tax for the rich ones", as it has been promoted, but for citizenry in our country.

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Will ODS be achieved by 2030? Revision of High Level Political Forum

A session of High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development 2019 was held between 9 and 18 of July. According to this Forum, progress towards Sustainable Development Objectives are still unequal; and it is not moving ahead fast enough, in order to comply with 17 ambitious objectives, respecting poverty, health, and equity, scheduled by 2030. Generally speaking, persons have now healthier lives, but violent conflicts and climatic changes are contributing to increase hunger worldwide, and to forced displacements of millions. The first objective in the list of ODS, which is “eliminating poverty in all forms and everywhere” will probably remain unaccomplished. In 2015, in the whole world, there were 777 millions of persons that did not consume enough nourishing aliments; and that number augmented along 2016 up to 815 millions. Such a tendency places Objective 2 quite far from being achieved: “for eliminating hunger, it is necessary getting alimentary security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture”.

Although our world has advanced towards gender equity and women empowering within the Millenium Development Objectives, women and



girls go on suffering discrimination and violence everywhere. Gender equity is not only a fundamental Human Right, but an indispensable basis for a pacific, prosperous, and sustainable world. Granting to women and girls their equal access to education, sanitary attention, decent jobs, and representation in politics and economy for taking decisions; will certainly redound to sustainable benefits for society and mankind. Implementing new legal frameworks concerning equity in work places; and eradicating noxious practices against women; are crucial actions, when intending to eliminate discrimination based on

gender –which sadly enough still predominates in many countries in our planet.

The above mentioned integrates only some of the 17 ODS; and they are not expected to be accomplished completely by deadline 2030. People around the world are suffering and wondering when and how things will change: when will they not have to move to other countries for having clean water, when will they enjoy a good education for a prosperous future... Establishing United Nations’ High Level Political Forum for Sustained Development (HLPF) was the response to 2012 mandate by United Nations’ Conference on Sustainable Development: the final document was titled “the future we want”. By the date, many persons still wonder when are they going to have not exactly the future they want, but the future they deserve as human beings.

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