



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

Inequity increases in Venezuela

The inflation in Venezuela literally pulverizes the family income in bolivars. By September 2019, our minimum basic salary equals less than two dollars. How can a worker go to work in a good mood despite hundreds of difficulties –chaotic public transport service, one of them– if he or she knows that after 30 days of sacrifices the amount to receive will not be enough to pay for one decent breakfast –and only once a month?



and those nearby him have namely increased inequity in our country. Most of us realize how hunger aggravates, as our economy gets “dollarized”; while others can somehow navigate on the crisis, because they enjoy the privilege of having dollars. This governmental indolence results in creating an economic situation that favors only the latter, no matter if many others have the sole option of watching how poverty and misery augment progressively by the day.

Nonetheless, our country’s crisis is not faced by everyone the same way. We are not talking about those who are wealthy and those who have nothing or very little. Now, we are talking about those who can, accede dollars, whether for wages, or remittances, or through any other mean –sometimes not quite transparent. Nicolas Maduro

The government’s permanence within such a policy means a constant provocation to millions of families. They feel –and actually are– challenged every day. This government de facto is driving our country towards much more worrying scenarios; but their task seems to be merely holding power and, consequentially, generating more anguish, anger, and frustration.

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Venezuela: a Rorschach State



each one’s experiences and perceptions of an objective, real fact –and its possible and subjective gravity.

What is our country’s reality? It is precisely known? Although we present many of the characteristics of an “Outlawed State”, we do not fit entirely into that category, not yet. The number of violent deaths along 2018 indicate that we could be within an armed conflict, since our cipher is higher than those of nations in war, like Siria or the Strip of Gaza. Nevertheless, there are still shades and tones to be considered.

When talking about the situation of Human Rights in Venezuela, there is no place for shades and tones. Such was demonstrated in the recent inform of United Nations’ High Commissioner for Human Rights (ACNUDH), Michelle Bachelet, which proves how Venezuelan State, under Nicolas Maduro’s ruling, systematically violates Human Rights. We can go back further, and find how

Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (CIDH) visited our country in 2002 and observed the lack of independence of the Judicial Power; limitations to freedom of expressions; the state of deliberative belligerency of Armed Forces; and the extreme grade of polarization of the society; among other factors. An important break of Human Rights’ full development occurred in our country, due to the practices of Executive Power.

All the aforementioned is verified by the Organization of American States (OEA) in 2018, in an inform by a board of international independent experts, who pointed out the possibility of the commission of lese humanity crimes in Venezuela. Thus, we can be certain that, despite the acute polarization, when Human Rights are concerned, no ideology nor culture nor political procedures can argue on shades or offer interested and convenient interpretations about violations against Human Rights in a given State.

Venezuela survives immersed in contrasting shades. The strange political phenomenon that presently affects citizens does not fit completely within international juridical concepts. Rorschach ink spots –a well-known psychological test– is an excellent model, when trying to explain what happens in our nation. Everyone depicts a different version, and has a different vision. The extreme polarization makes people offer diverse interpretations –all at their best convenience– about our laws and situations. And this is totally valid: each one’s position is based on

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

The Veroes-Motta Dominguez conspiracy in Corpoelec

One out of 19 cases investigated in the United States, related to the corruption net extended from Venezuela over 69 countries -data by August 2019, from NGO Transparencia Venezuela- is the conspiracy headed by General Luis Motta Dominguez, while he was the minister for Electric Energy and the president of Corpoelec.

Before the gigantic defalcation against the nation's patrimony, Transparencia Venezuela tries to figure out corruption mechanisms along the last two decades in our country. It is necessary, understanding how some officials managed, not for mitigating the population's sufferings -in this case: attending the problem of electricity thoroughly -but for

profiting out and from irregular contracts.



This is a story of good-old-friends and dollars, that ended with two businessmen locked up in a federal prison in the United States. They are Ramon Veroes and Alberto Chacín Haddad. As for Motta Dominguez and his military colleague, General

Eustiquio Jose Lugo Gomez -Vice-minister of Finance, Investments, and Strategic Alliances of the Ministry of Electric Energy-, they both face an accusation before a tribunal in District South, state of Florida, for whitening of capitals. They were also sanctioned by the OFAC, of USA's Treasure Department. In Venezuela, justice has not pronounced a word yet; but electric cuts and blackouts are still going in several zones of our country.

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Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Supreme Court of Justice attacks the principle of university autonomy

Sentence #324 by the Constitutional Hall of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), August 27, 2019, changes rules for convoking and celebrating elections for authorities of Venezuelan public universities, when their periods are over. Besides, TSJ's ruling reinforces a censoring fence around universities, as for freedom of expression.



This decision is emitted 9 years after a solicitation by the present rector of Central University of Venezuela (UCV), Cecilia García Arocha, who asked for suspending art.34, number 3, of the Organic Law on Education, because it violates university autonomy concerning the election of authorities. However, the sentence does not decide on the matter; on the contrary, it is based precisely on the article that is impugned: it declares that there are five group of electors at universities: professors, students, graduates, administrative staff, and university masons. Yet, the Act on Education do not foresee the last two the groups mentioned. Apart from that, TSJ's Hall establishes

the celebration of a second election, when the majority may not be clearly defined in the first voting.

Acceso a la Justicia emphasizes that this caution measure has multiple irregularities. Instead of deciding on the solicitation, it violates university autonomy, as consecrated in art.109 of our Constitution and, furthermore, in our Law on Universities. This new acting of TSJ's Constitutional Hall tends to set up the regime's political ideology into the academy, by establishing a new method for university elections within the next six months, since the date of the sentence.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

AlertaVenezuela: an initiative for international analysis and incidence of Human Rights



It is a recent birth: AlertaVenezuela was born this month, as a joint initiative by NGOs Acceso a la Justicia, Center pro Human Rights of Catholic University “Andrés Bello” (UCAB), Civilis Derechos Humanos, Codevida, and Espacio Publico; for

the analysis and international incidence of Human Rights in Venezuela. The general coordinator of this project is Ligia Bolivar, a specialist in Human Rights.

AlertaVenezuela aims at feeding regularly and strategically international entities of political high decisory level, from a rights perspective according to allied local national NGOs. An important objective is assuring international incidental actions by civil society’s organizations pro human rights, who work on humanitarian assistance, based on learnings and deep-thinking.

“Despite the gravity of the national crisis, we still face and confront a great deal of misinformation and propaganda, which affects us in international decisive spaces. It is precisely over there that AlertaVenezuela wants to direct its actions”, Bolivar said.



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CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Political Persecution as a lese humanity crime in Venezuela (II)

As Cepaz has documented through previous informs about political persecution in Venezuela, intentional behaviors of attacking State agents correspond to a set of repeated patterns, which characterize their persecuting actions systematically. Among those patterns, these: a) Criminalization of dissidence, for which the system of penal justice is used; b) campaigns of defamation and intimidation through the State’s mass media; c) domiciliary searches and other irregular procedures against private property; d) removals and dismissals in public positions; e) political disablements; f) acquiescence and tolerance of violent actions committed by third persons against political opponents; g) disruptions of parliamentarian immunity; h) usurpation of public functions; i) annulment of passports; j) attacks against relatives of political leaders of the opposition; k) using military tribunals for judging political opponents; among others.

These set of repeated situations means the existence of a plan, designed and implemented for operating a persecutory policy, which includes the commission of other crimes, like imprisonment, torture, and killing of political leaders and, in general terms, of any person supposedly



opposed to the dominant regime. Seemingly, there are reasonable bases to presume the commission of lese humanity crimes in Venezuela.

The offence of lese humanity persecution is figured when there is an “intentional and grave violation of fundamental rights, countering International Law, because of a group’s collective identity”. Thus, the phrase “privation of basic rights” definitely includes the whole range of Human Rights. Persecution may operate via “(...) inhumane acts (...) that cause major sufferings or gravely attempt against the physical integrity or against the mental or physical health” (Art.71.k). In the case of Venezuela, the situation appears within a framework of “social control”, in the context of a discriminatory social policy that has driven us to a deliberate negation of the rights to alimentation, to work, and to health.



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Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Literacy is still a worldwide objective

In September 2015, the presidents of several nations approved the Objectives of Sustainable Development (ODS), foreseen within Agenda 2030. Among them, the need to promote universal access to a good quality education and with opportunities of learning for all citizens was outstanding. Thus, Objective #4 aims at teaching everyone in the world reading and writing.

This goal is a reminder: States and their civil societies must compromise for increasing literacy levels in their nations. And this is also an

opportunity for presenting improvements on this matter, within the framework of celebrating the International Literacy Day, September 8. Besides, plans of actions should be established, in order to face and overcome the remaining obstacles in this field.

In this context, literacy rates in Venezuela go on descending, although President Hugo Chavez announced in 2005 that our country was an illiteracy free territory. According to UNESCO, a nation is qualified that way when illiteracy level is less than 4%.



Yet, our last National Census (2011) revealed that 4.9% of Venezuelan population do not know reading and writing.

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Repression has increased in 2019

By September 6, Foro Penal had registered 15.161 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 2014. 848 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January 2014 up to date, we have accumulated 3.222 political prisoners. Full liberty or release under diverse modalities have been granted in 2.746 cases.



By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. The cipher by September 2nd, 2019, is 476; 38 being

women. Besides, 8.906 persons were or still are unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

From analysis realized by Foro Penal, we can conclude that, in 2019, far from diminishing, repression has increased. We have reached historical records in detentions and political imprisonment; and cases of torture, and even death while in custody keep constant. Finally, harassment and persecution against Human Rights defenders go on augmenting.