



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Inform on the follow-up of National Plan of Human Rights 2016-2019



Among the recommendations approved by the Group of Work on Universal Periodical Exam (EPU) of the United Nations' Council of Human Rights, - recommendations directed to the Venezuelan State- figures this one: "formulating a national plan of human rights". Thus, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela approved the National Plan of Human Rights 2016-2019. As one of the principal tools of the Council, EPU was designed to assure equity to all nations, at the moments of evaluating situations of Human Rights. EPU is one of the Council's key elements that

remind States of their responsibility to respect and apply fully all of the Human Rights and fundamental liberties. The final objective of this mechanism is improving situations in all countries; and also undertaking actions before violations of these rights, wherever they happen. Presently, there is not any other universal mechanism similar to this one.

We, Defiende Venezuela, produced an inform on the follow-up of the National Plan of Human Rights 2016-2019. For the investigation, we considered the implementation of 37 of 213 programmed actions included in our National Plan; and we verified that only 8.10% of them were effectively executed. Other 21.62% were partially executed, and 70.27% were not executed, despite the fact that we could have realized them in the short, middle, and long terms -and/or also continuously.

These facts produced criticisms of civil society's organizations against the National Plan. NGOs pointed out that there were not adequate consultations; consequentially, there was not an accurate diagnose and the real problems were left aside; and there was a unilateral vision that "represents and follows particular ideological concepts". Summarizing: National Plan of Human Rights 2016-2019 cannot be through of as a national plan. From every point of view, it is evident that the State is not interested in approaching human rights universally; nor is it interested in complying with international standards either, which is the only way to guarantee an authentic recognition of rights. Before these facts, we, as defenders and activists, must strengthen our efforts more than ever before, in order to go on protecting victims in all and from all public spaces and angles -a way to make their voices heard worldwide.

PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

United Nations' resolution strengthens Michelle Bachelet's work in Venezuela



Last Thursday, September 25, the Council for Human Rights of the Organization of United Nations (ONU) emitted a resolution, which exhorts Venezuelan government to comply with commitments assumed with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

This resolution can be deemed as triumph for Venezuelan civil society,

who has constantly demanded rights that may contribute to restoring democracy in Venezuela through a pacific process, and within the framework of our Constitution, in order to reverse the grave situation of Human Rights that affects our population.

The resolution grants the faculty of the High Commissioner's Office for going on investigating; and it appoints at the end of this year for receiving a new oral inform, before the final complete inform to be presented in the mid-term. Besides, the Council for Human Rights urges to work for guaranteeing the rights to alimentation, health, and water; and also for investigating grave violations of Human Rights, like extra-judicial

executions and forced disappearances.

Probably, Nicolas Maduro's government will not comply with this resolution nor with the agreements. Thus, it is up to us, civil society's organizations, to continue demanding for our rights; and to exact for the accomplishment of commitments, apart from collaborating at the most with United Nations' officials for favoring the compliance with their mandates.

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Civil Society denounced political persecution in Venezuela during 173rd period of sessions of CIDH

The Center for Justice and Peace (CEPAZ), jointly with Acceso a la Justicia, Defiende Venezuela, Venezuelan Program of Education-Action on Human Rights (PROVEA) and Civilis Derechos Humanos, participated in the session Political Persecution in Venezuela, within the 173rd period of sessions of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (CIDH), in Washington. NGOs insisted on twelve patterns of political persecution by the State, as repeatedly has been denounced by civil society's organizations since 2015.

This political persecution's aim is at impeding democratic alternability in political power, through coercive State's force and social-control policies; and all this is possible due to the absence of independent institutions, and to the reigning impunity. In the last months, this persecuting policy has aggravated, especially against the National Assembly (AN). Persecution has trespassed its own patterns of intimidation; and is now systematically applied: arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances of journalists;

defenders of Human Rights; and union, guild, and student leaders. They have also become frequent, the use of torture and death in custody, like in the cases of councilor Fernando Alban and Capt. Rafael Acosta Arevalo. Extra-judicial executions in popular sectors in several states of our country, realized by the Special Actions Armed Force (FAES) and the commands of other recently created security bodies, have made such attacks increase and turn massive.

The Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), instead of being an organ to guarantee our Constitutional Human Rights, acts as a repressive one. TSJ's persecutions have augmented significantly since parliamentary elections in 2015: 105 sentences against the Parliament and 67 against other opposing or dissenting officials, namely 18 mayors, 1 governor, 5 councillors, 33 magistrates appointed by AN, 3 officials in the General Prosecuting Office, and 27 AN's deputies. Out from 67 political parties by December 2015, only 18 are left today; and, from those, 12 are governmental or pro-governmental



and merely 6 openly oppose. 26 deputies' parliamentary immunities were disrupted, prior to their arbitrary detentions.

Our NGOs solicited from CIDH institutional measures for cooperating with International Penal Court's (CPI's) Prosecutors, in order to get the investigation phase started against those who commit or have committed lese humanity crimes in Venezuela.

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Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

92% of crimes in Venezuela remain unpunished



Impunity seems not be going out nor away from Venezuelan streets. Roberto Briceño Leon, a sociologist and the director of Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia (Venezuelan Observatory of Violence) confirms this reality. According to that organization,

our country merited one of the highest impunity indexes in the region; and that index is accompanied by the number of cases of corruption, procedural delays, and negligence within tribunals. Such data proves that 92% of crimes remain unpunished in Venezuela, as the Observatory points out.

Yet, this cipher is followed by another, even worse: ours is the South-American country with the highest number of homicides, according to the Worldwide Study of Homicides 2019, carried out by the Organization of United Nations (ONU).

In turn, ONU's Office against Drugs and Offences shows a dramatic increase of violent deaths between 1991 and 2017, passing from 13 to 56.8 murders for each 100.000 inhabitants.

The Inform also underlines that men between 15 and 29 years of age are at risk of dying assassinated in Venezuela. Besides, although our country presents a diminution within its young population, such does not cause a decrease of our criminality index, as it normally happens in other nations. Holding these ciphers, Venezuela will celebrate the International Day of Non Violence, next October 2nd.

CIVILIS Derechos Humanos - www.civilisac.org

Democracy is an indispensable condition for enjoying Human Rights

Every person has the right to Democracy; and the States have the obligation to promote it and defend it. Democracy contributes to a full enjoyment of all Human Rights –civic, political, economical, social, and cultural. And there is also the equity of opportunities for men and women to participate in public and political life. Equity is internationally protected, for it is basic to the State of Rights and the organizations of the State.



Respecting and protecting Democracy and Human Rights concern to each one of us in particular as well as to the social collectivity. States are the idoneous grantors of Democracy. Yet, when it is lost, it corresponds to citizens defending it and restoring it locally, nationally, and internationally; as well as it is international community's duty using all possible pacific means to support societies in recuperating Democracy.

Democracy is much more than putting a vote into a ballot box every certain time. Civil society may get to have a major political influence; and that is what really makes a democracy feel alive.

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Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

TIAR and Human Rights 72 years later

In the resolution about Venezuela, issued by 16 out of 18 countries that still figure into Inter-American Treaty for Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR), it was affirmed that there is “a participation of authorities and entities linked to Nicolás Maduro an illegal activities, particularly in drugs trafficking, whitening of capitals, terrorism –and its financing-, corruption, and violations against Human Rights”... “associated to the humanitarian crisis, represents a threat for the maintenance of peace and security in the continent, in terms of art.6 of the Treaty...”. On this basis, they decided to identify and point at persons, officials, and entities associated to Nicolas Maduro’s regime, who are involved in illegal activities; and to use available measures for investigating, persecuting, capturing, obtaining extraditions, and sanctioning those liable ones; also, for disposing assets via freezing in TIAR’s undersigning States’ territories; establishing an operational intelligence net, for intensifying juridical, judicial, and police cooperation; and keeping open the 30th Consultative Reunion.

Art 6 of the Treaty establishes that, in case of an aggression other than an armed attack, TIAR members



can agree on the measures that may be more convenient for the common defense and for the maintenance of peace and security in the continent. Therefore, this article gives the consultative organ the faculty of acting, when continental peace and security are at risk; and acting refers to measures listed in art.8. In the case of

Venezuela, actions do not have to be necessarily those explicitly expressed in the Treaty, especially taking into account that the Treaty was undersigned on September 2, 1947, over 72 years ago. However, it prescribes actions related to diplomacy, to economics, to communications, and to the use of armed forces, which obviously has more impact than sanctioning and realizing police or judicial investigations.

The truth is that there is a concrete threat happening in America and TIAR gets activated to face it. In Venezuela there is a real crisis, a credible crisis that affects and disturbs very specifically to the rest of American countries. The regional security is in danger, because this situation compromises venezuelans’ lives and also spreads over other continental populations.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

PDVSA's directors in United Kingdom have pending problems with justice

Out from ten directors of PDVSA's affiliated company in the United Kingdom, four are judicially processed; and others simply do not work for our State oil enterprise any more. So appears in the mercantile registry of that European nation, which was consulted by Transparencia Venezuela.



as it is known, he is still behind bars at the Bolivarian Service of National Intelligence's (SEBIN's) headquarters.

Also outstanding are the cases of Castillo Bastardo, Chacin Castillo, and Luongo, who were accused in Venezuela by the end of 2017 and in the beginning of 2018 for

According to the British Companies House, the following are members of Petroleos de Venezuela LTD; Eulogio Del Pino, Anton Castillo Bastardo, Orlando Chacin Castillo, Jesús Enrique Luongo, Carlos Malpica, Ricardo Menendez Prieto, Rodolfo Marco Torres, Wills Rangel, Aracelis Suez, and a Hungarian citizen named Gyorgy Varga.

supposedly participating in different corruption offences. The first one was related to the US\$ 100 MM defalcation suffered by PDVSA Gas in Colombia's office. Chacin was linked to irregularities in the acquisition of vehicles during his presidency in Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation (CVP). As for Luongo, he was accused of authorizing a contract for selling over-priced fuel.

In that list, the surname Del Pino outstands. He was president of PDVSA and minister of Energy. During his administration, the British affiliated company was created. It is public domain that engineer Del Pino was detained on November 30, 2017 for presumable corruption; and, as far

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REDUNI - www.redunivenezuela.com

Universities standing

On August 27, 2019, the Constitutional Hall of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) published its sentence #0324, which orders to celebrate elections for university authorities; and establishes a deadline of six months to comply with it, or else the vacants will be declared absolute in such positions. This aggression against university autonomy adds up in a long list of attacks by a different entities of the State -the most evident being the budgetary suffocation by the Ministry of Superior Education; and the latent threat of a penal investigation by National Council of Universities (CNU), which points out rectors grouped in Venezuelan Association of University Rectors (AVERU) for realizing openly hostile actions of conspiracy.



assuring that there is a manipulation by the power for making people believe that authorities refuse elections -by so doing, adopting an anti-democratic attitude. The truth is that authorities have been claiming for elections for years, but within a framework of respect to university autonomy.

The university community has reacted: AVERU raised its voice for protesting, and furthermore urged citizens to confront, defending superior education centers in Venezuela.

In turn, the student movement announced the creation of the Student Confederation of Venezuela (CONFEV) with an act in the Orange Auditorium of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV). Spokesmen were the maximum leaders of the students at Alma Maters: 70 student representatives from 14 universities in the country affirmed that the creation of CONFEV is their response to the crisis that suffocates not only their Houses of Superior Studies, but our country as a whole. Those young leaders assured that TSJ's sentence aims at imposing elections of authorities, while they have their own agenda. Among CONFEV's first actions, outstands the appointment of a new electoral commission. A national encounter of universities is expected to occur in five weeks.

In each one of autonomous universities, diverse pronouncements were issued; and they all agree, when

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

History of a fraud (II): a handbook for making up institutional setups

As a part of the plan for overtaking real power totally, the control of public powers in Venezuela started with president Hugo Chavez Frias and has consolidated with Nicolás Maduro Moros. The late mandatory had the aspiration of transforming our country, but only if submitted under his exclusive control.

Thus, he used mechanism far from a State of Rights, institutionality, and democracy. Chavez impulsed a new fundamental charter, for which he convoked to a Constituent National Assembly (ANC) via referendum. This entity was approved by people, and acted under the dominion of persons who were openly followers or –at least- close to the revolutionary ideology. The constituent process revealed the chavist government’s true intention: procuring political centralism and concentrating power, all of it behind a mask of institutionality and respect to Human Rights.



After being defeated in constitutional referendum in 2007, Chavez proposed another electoral consultation for approving a constitutional amendment that allowed indefinite re-election for all eligible authorities. In turn, Maduro’s government has eliminated both the boundaries and the remains of a State of Rights, without any concern for maintaining not even the appearance of institutionality. Maduro reached power precisely after the

Constitutional Hall of the Supreme Court of Justice sentenced that, as a president interim, he had ceased in his role of executive vice-president –and that is why he was not obliged to resign the presidency before competing in 2013 elections.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Penalty for Capt. Arevalo’s death is a grave manoeuvre aiming at impunity



By September 26, 2019, Foro Penal had registered 15.169 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 848 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Up to date, we have accumulated 3.226 political

prisoners; full liberty and release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 2.749 cases.

By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. The cipher by September 16, 2019, is 477, 37 being women. Besides, 8.906 persons were or are unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

We in Foro Penal reject the punishment sentenced against two low hierarchy officials of the General Direction of Military

Counter-Intelligence (DGICM), for a supposed “pre-ter-international co-causal homicide”, –a common offence-, while the real charge should have been torture, murder, and grave violations of Human Rights against a person who was under the State’s custody. Besides, all other persons involved should have been charged too, whether for action or for omission, right up the commanding chain. The entire case looks like a manoeuvre destined to procure impunity whenever Human Rights are violated in our country.

