



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

One of the countries that violate Human Rights at the most has now a seat in ONU's Council for Human Rights

How is it possible? One of the most questioned countries for not respecting liberties and for the lack of protection to its citizen has been elected as a member of the United Nations' Council of Human Rights? It is worthy, analyzing those electability parameters and the proportional minimal voting that should be necessary for this type and level of elections. The Organization of United Nations (ONU) is integrated by 194 members, whose responsibility is electing 47 States to figure into the Council. According to the resolution of ONU's General Assembly that created the Council, any State is suitable to be elected as a member. Yet, at the moment of voting, the States gathered in the General Assembly should take into account the contributions that candidate nations have made in promoting, protecting, and defending Human Rights -but, at the end, it is the number of votes that decides on the matter.

Despite the diplomatic contradiction implied in the election of States like Sudan, Libia, Mauritania, Phillipines, Cuba, China, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Venezuela in the last three years; the Council's mandates must be rigorously accomplished -although they are not compulsory. At the same time, States members of the Council are particularly obliged to comply with their compromises. The election of Venezuela to integrate the Council coincides with the decision of establishing a mission to clarify and investigate grave violations of Human Rights committed in our country -which means the acceptance to a visit by 10 independent expert recounters. Besides, this mandate (2020-2022) will coincide with the third Universal



Periodical Exam (EPU) in Venezuela. Therefore, it will not be easy, eluding the follow-up and the monitoring of the grave Human Rights crisis presently suffered by the venezuelan society.

Nonetheless, situation like this recent election points at the need of reviewing the selection mechanism for members of the Council of Human Rights, in order to agree on the criteria destined to impede that systematic violators of Human Rights may accede to be elected as members. In addition, it might be requested: that candidate States must comply with a least 50% of the recommendations of EPU; that the voting ceases to be secret, to procure transparency; and also that organized civil society's opinion may be heard during the process of nomination and election of that Council's members.

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

In Venezuela, there are still almost 450 political prisoners

By October 18, 2019, Foro Penal had registered 15.177 arbitrary detentions in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 848 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Up to date, we have accumulated 3.232 political prisoners. Full liberty and release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 2.784 cases.

By April 2014, we had 117 political prisoners in our country. The cipher by October 14, 2019 is 448, 32 being women. Besides, 8.952 persons were or still are submitted unfairly



to penal processes under caution measures.

This week, the most outstanding news concerns the release of 18 political prisoners, in the context of agreements by the government and a group of Venezuelan politicians. Foro Penal worries, because criteria used for determining beneficiaries of this measure are not openly and widely known.

The least of all is known about what will happen with nearly 450 political prisoners that are still arbitrarily imprisoned.

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Pedro Jaimes released after one-year-five-months arbitrary imprisonment

Last Thursday, October 17, Pedro Jaimes was finally released by illegal Constituent National Assembly's (ANC's) Commission of Truth, via measure of procedural benefit, after one year and five months of arbitrary imprisonment in El Helicoide. Jaimes has published in his Twitter account some public available information related to the route of the presidential airplane, on May, 2018. And he was detained just for doing that!



The expedient of this case shows fake information and supposed evidences that do not prove Jaimes's relation with the offences he was charged for: technological spionage, revelation of political secrets, and interference of operational security. Though innocent, he had to spend one year and five months imprisoned in EL Helicoide, where he was denied medical assistance, he was impeded to accede legal assistance along the first months, and he was object to procedural

Jaime Criollo is a fan of aeronautics and meteorology, and he publishes notes on these matters in his Twitter account -@Aereometeo- since 2003. On May 3, 2018, he published an image of the flight route of the presidential aircraft; and, one week later, he was irregularly detained by officials of the Bolivarian Service of Intelligence Service (SEBIN). After being presented in court, he was disappeared during 33 days, along which he was tortured using electricity, simulating suffocation with plastic bags on his head, and repeated beatings- a broken rib included.

delays by SEBIN: officials refused, at least 16 times, to translate Jaimes for his preliminary and other trial hearings.

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Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Minuscule minimal salary dismantles "laborer government" force



The most recent raising of minimal salary in Venezuela has reached such a point of degradation, that nobody in the Executive Power dared to announce it. Instead, they did it through secondary officials -like constituent Francisco Torrealba, who did not announce it personally, either; but via tweets. Nobody wants to do it openly, because establishing such a miserable minimal salary seems to be a sad mock.

Official Gazette Extraordinary 6.484 included decree 3.997, October 11, 2019, by which our former minimal salary

was raised up to BsS 150.000 -375%- as well as pensions. Benefit called cestaticket was also raised up to BsS 150.000, which means 500%.

Acceso a la Justicia reminds: according to conventions ratified by Venezuela before the International Office of Labor (OIT), the minimal salary must be established with the participation of all three agents involved -workers, employers, and the government-; that is, "democratic and principal participation in a national dialogue Social Table". This mechanism has been disregarded by Nicolás Maduro's regime, which does not comply with recommendations of the Survey Committee appointed by OIT's Administrative Council, on September 30, 2019.

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Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Switzerland sanctioned seven SEBIN's and DGICM's agents accused for torturing

It does not seem to stop growing, the number of Venezuelan officials sanctioned by foreign governments for their presumable participation in acts against democracy and Human Rights. Last October 11, Switzerland informed that seven intelligence officials in Nicolás Maduro's administration were included in its black list, which now contains 25 names, due to their committing torture and mistreatment against dissidents.



Escalona Marrero, who was the Chief Director of the National Office against Organized Crime between 2018 and May, 2019.

Denouncements by victims and by organizations pro Human Rights, made both nationally and internationally, have not been useless, fortunately. United Nations' high Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet,

in her updating inform on Venezuela, presented earlier this year, accounted for those denouncements and verified all of them.

From those newly sanctioned by Switzerland, four work or worked in General Direction of Military Counter-Intelligence (DGCIM): National Guard (GNB) Major Nestor Blanco Hurtado, GNB Major Alexander Gramcko Arteaga, GNB Major Hannover Guerrero Mijares, and GNB General Rafael Blanco Marrero. Other Two belong or belonged to Bolivarian Service of National Intelligence (SEBIN), and they are Commissioner Carlos Calderon and Rafael Antonio Franco Quintero. The last one is Alexis

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Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Other protagonist in Venezuelan crisis: poverty

Poverty continues being an evil yet to be beaten. Every October 17, we commemorate International Day for Eradicating Poverty; nonetheless, United Nations' Program for Development (PNUD) states that more than 800 millions of persons all over the world live on less than US\$ 1.25 per day. Besides, many do not count on adequate supplies of food, drinking water, and public services.



multi-dimensional poverty. In addition, 90% of venezuelans do not have an income sufficient for buying food; and 25% of workers are affected by unemployment and unbalances in the labor market.

Venezuela figures into such statistics. According to 2018 Survey on Conditions of Living (ENCOVI), poverty has increased 10% in our country in the last three years; and that means that 51% of Venezuelan homes suffer from

While ENCOVI offers these ciphers, the government led by Nicolás Maduro assures that, since bolivarian revolution's arrival, they have lowered 4.4% in the extreme poverty index. And they point out that the Fatherland's Plan (Plan de la Patria) 2019-2025 contains all 17 Objectives of Sustainable Development (ODS) included in the Organization of United Nation's (ONU's) 2030 Plan. Yet, it suffices, walking along our streets nationwide, for realizing what the true situation is.

A response to Venezuela's situation requires a combined strategy



Last October 17, Venezuela was elected to integrate the Council of Human Rights of the Organization of United Nations (ONU) by 105 votes. On October 3, Costa Rica presented its candidature, in an attempt to impede the election of Venezuela; and it finally got 96 votes. After reading beyond the lines, we conclude that ONU's General Assembly is an international organism where political agreements and pacts still prevail over the obligations implied in Human Rights. Costa Rica has sent a clear message: there are nations that go on betting on the prevalence of Human Rights, although the announcement of its candidature should have been made much earlier. Yet, even so, numbers speak by themselves: Venezuela, despite the political lobby realized, did not get a

meaningful victory; nor the sustainable support of ONU's General Assembly.

All that civil society has gotten up to now in different ONU's spaces is very important. Along next year, the situation in Venezuela will be included in the agendas of the three sessions of the Council of Human Rights; and will be evident the lack of the rulers' compromise in defending them. We insist: There is an important work to be accomplished in political organisms. A response to the situation in Venezuela requires a combined strategy. Such a response is not to be expected only from entities that protect Human Rights; there must be a conscious action about this matter at other political levels, like the Security Council, the Secretary General, and the General Assembly, all of which are responsible to protect populations against atrocious crimes. To do this, they count on the inform by the High Commissioner; the inform by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OEA); the inform by a group of experts on lese humanity crimes; and the opening of a preliminary exam by International Penal Court's (CPI's) Prosecutor's Office.

There are many entities alerting on what is happening in Venezuela. One cannot just turn one's back on this evident reality, simply because there are political pacts to comply with. Behind the facade, there is the suffering of a country, a population that claims for attention. All of us -democratic leaders, civil society, and nations compromised with democracy and Human Rights- are called to go on working to make this situation turn back. This is not the first time that unbalance occurs in the International System; but we, Centro de la Justicia y Paz (CEPAZ), reaffirm our commitment to counterweigh before these organisms to help their compliance with objectives and functions implied in their creation. Cepaz's reply to this election is compromising with those 96 States, who do believe in democracy and Human Rights; and with mechanisms approved by the Council, in order to favor a change and an improvement in Venezuela.

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