

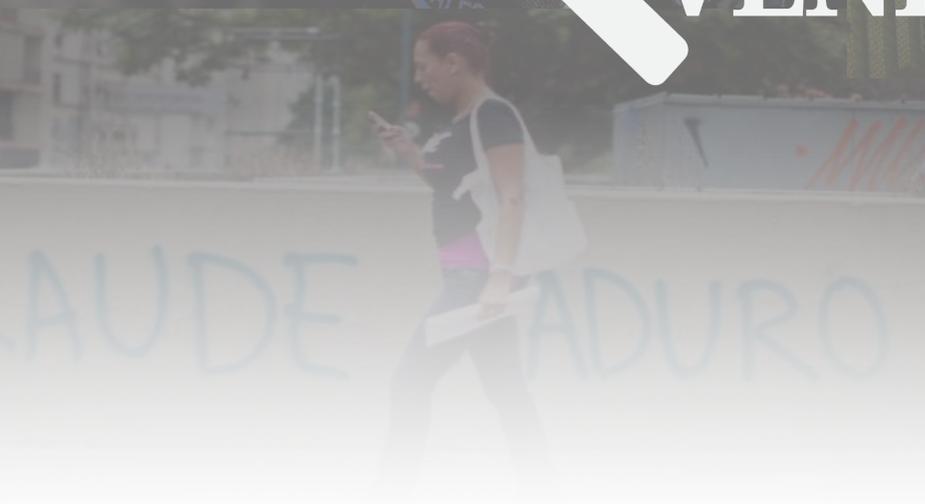


# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Emirlendis Benítez  
Comerciante

Presa Política  
Detenida el 05/08/2018

da en INOF Los Teques



son u  
todo lo  
pasar en

## Bulletin No. 157

From October 26 to November 2, 2020

[www.crisisenvenezuela.com](http://www.crisisenvenezuela.com)

**CEPAZ - [www.cepaz.org](http://www.cepaz.org)**

## Sisterhood Weavers: A Community Space to Promote Culture of Peace and Non-Violence

In Parish La Dolorita, Municipality of Sucre, in Caracas, the institutional breakdown, the increase in violence and the high cost of food and medicines, shape the crisis that impacts the social environment. There is a progressive deterioration of living conditions and high levels of danger, visualization of gender violence, brutal actions by the police authorities and political pressure through social benefits. This means that day-to-day people experience bewilderment, uncertainty, discomfort, survival, hunger and the deterioration of all dimensions of life; they feel usurped at the most intimate level of their existence, at their daily life. All this has caused an isolation of urban life and the limitation of social relations, affecting not only sociability levels but also the economy in this extreme poverty sector.



one described earlier. We opened a space to counteract the isolation of young women and teenagers in which creativity shows through with delight, profound reflection is generated with pleasure, knowledge is absorbed fluidly, problems become challenges of hope, enjoyment of dialogue turns into a powerful weapon, joy is contagious, and reading and narrative are activated and valued.

At Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) we have been working for three years with three organizations based on women in the parish in order to empower them in their rights so that they are strengthened in resisting and developing a resilient attitude towards a context as the

It's a space where they can create advocacy actions in a collaborative way towards a community peace culture. Considering that community life has lost its neighborhood interaction spaces and that it is necessary to find the way to build peace, they assumed the challenge of generating collective processes in search of public good that encourage trust and cooperation. Three actions have been proposed to motivate collective participation: painting three murals, planting a vertical garden and establishing family Sundays for sharing that bring the neighbors together and invite community gatherings. These are the most urgent actions in order to start sewing peace in the neighborhood.

**Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - [www.sinmordaza.org](http://www.sinmordaza.org)**

## Un Mundo Sin Mordaza publishes Report about the impact of COVID-19 in Venezuelan migration

"It left me without a job, without a house or anything to eat; it left me in a foreign country, with nothing", is one of the testimonies compiled by the report *Impact of COVID-19 in Venezuelan migration [Impacto de la COVID-19 en la migración venezolana]* prepared by the NGO Un Mundo Sin Mordaza along with a group of organizations of Venezuelans around the world.



The study revealed that 41.1% of the Venezuelan emigrants were unemployed during the pandemic and 17.2% maintain their jobs but are not earning any salary. At the same time, product of the lack of income, 69.2% of those consulted consider difficult or very difficult to cover their food expenses. It was also known that 72.6% of the families have no savings at all, while 16.4% think about using the money saved to cover their everyday expenses.

The interviews that make up the report were done between April and August 2020 to more than 2,551 Venezuelan emigrants in 25 countries. It was evidenced that the countries in which the diaspora is most affected matches to the countries that have the greatest number of Venezuelan citizens: Colombia, the United States of America, Chile, Peru, and Spain.

**Read the complete report here** 

## Acción Solidaria - [www.accionsolidaria.info](http://www.accionsolidaria.info)

### Tuberculosis, COVID-19 and malnutrition: a dangerous formula attacking those imprisoned in Venezuela

Seven months have passed since the enforcement of the Presidential Decree of State of Alarm as a preventive measure following the COVID-19 pandemic in Venezuela. During this time 242 prisoners have lost their lives, out of which 199 died due to health issues. The research of the Venezuelan Observatory of Prisons [OVP by its Spanish initials] pointed out that between April and September 2020, 163 prisoners died in jail, out of which 93 people presented diseases.



In regards to COVID-19 positive cases in the prison population of the country, the Observatory documented 130 infections in preventive detention centers and one deceased up to this date; the victim was detained at the Military Counterintelligence General Directorate headquarters. Malnutrition is another serious problem added to patients with tuberculosis. The NGO recorded that 558 inmates suffer from malnutrition and 10 live with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). However, family members report in both conditions that they don't have access to periodical treatments nor are they allowed to be

transferred to health centers for routine medical consults that additionally allow to receive their respective treatment.

Moreover, OVP has reported cases in which imprisoned women are victims of irregular situations while they are being detained. Such is the case of three women that are detained at the jail of the Bolivarian National Police [PNB by its Spanish initials] in the State of Yaracuy, who, for approximately four months, have been in deplorable conditions, among which are: lack of water, food and appropriate installations. It is necessary to recall that, as per what is set forth in Article 6 of the Penitentiary Organic Act, the State is under the obligation to safeguard that the detention centers have the minimum conditions in order to guarantee the prisoners' human rights, among which is the right to health.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

## Acceso a la Justicia - [www.accesoalajusticia.org](http://www.accesoalajusticia.org)

### Parliamentary Elections of December 6th are an Example of what an Election shouldn't be

Less than two months are left for the parliamentary elections of December 6th, and each day said elections are farther from the minimum democratic standards. Ever since the expedited appointment of the National Electoral Council [CNE by its Spanish initials] by the Supreme Court of Justice [TSJ by its Spanish initials] last June, a race without any obstacles has been propelled favoring the government party.



indigenous people that discriminates them and treats them as second-class citizens by not allowing them to directly elect their representatives.

Through sublegal rules, the questionable CNE has altered the 2009 Electoral Processes Organic Act [LOPRE by its Spanish acronym] by increasing the number of seats in the Parliament by 66%, which passed from 167 to 277, and it has reduced the number of nominally elected representatives from 70% to 48%. All of these changes do not come to terms with what is established in Article 186 of the Constitution. Furthermore, there is also the inclusion of the so-called «national list», a mechanism that is not adapted to Venezuelan electoral legislation through which 48 representatives shall be elected. Likewise, we cannot forget the imposition of a special electoral system for

In turn, the legal intervention of the opposition political parties (Acción Democrática, Primero Justicia, Voluntad Popular, and Movimiento Republicano) and of some allies (Nuvipa, Tupamaro, Bandera Roja, Patria para Todos, Compromiso País, and MIN-Unidad) it seems destined to eliminate any type of competition. Added to this, there are: the ongoing change of electoral schedule, disinformation regarding the voting machines and the new automated voting system, as well as regarding observation. In view of all these irregularities it's impossible for Venezuelans to respond to the calling to vote in elections in which the idea of electoral fraud this December 6th grows stronger every day.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

## Bloque Constitucional - [www.bloqueconstitucional.com](http://www.bloqueconstitucional.com)

### The December 6th “elections” summons is a violation of the Venezuelans’ right to choose

Venezuelans have the right to suffrage, which we exercise “through free, universal, direct, and secret elections”, as it is expressly set forth in Article 63 of the Constitution. When the constitutional text demands that free elections be performed it is ordering that they are done in such a way that, both the previous procedure is legal and that the authorities conducting it are legitimate, which would become a credible, just and competitive electoral process, besides being verifiable, so that the substitution of elected authorities is also legitimate. These are the conditions that define free elections, a fundamental principle upon which democracy should rest.

The false elections summoned by the regime for December 6th lack the mentioned characteristics, due to the fact that since the appointment of the authorities of the National Electoral Council [*CNE by its Spanish initials*] made by an unconstitutionally constituted Supreme Court of Justice [*TSJ by its Spanish initials*] usurping this competency from the Parliament and transferring some of its magistrates to direct this electoral authority, even the fraudulent



procedures through which they have eliminated, diminished and substituted political parties give account to this fraud. These “elections” have been reported by Bloque Constitucional de Venezuela as a product of a “continuous constitutional fraud with

which they pretend to hold a process that under no circumstance will meet international standards of electoral integrity for a free, just and competitive event.”

Even the Venezuelan Catholic Church authorities, who until a few months ago considered that abstention wasn't an option, today, before such an aberrant “process” that ensures the most evident and shameful electoral fraud of these last years, has considered that it is “immoral” to hold elections since there is no transparency in the rules and verification mechanisms. With no guarantees in order to exercise the right to suffrage but, on the contrary, with evidences that it will be frankly violated, it will fall upon Venezuelans to have their voices heard with silence at the polls and screams on the street.

## Foro Penal - [www.foropenal.com](http://www.foropenal.com)

### Political prisoner Emirlendris Benítez is in critical state of health

As of January 30th, 2020 Foro Penal recorded 15,654 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 870 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,535 political prisoners, of which 3,176 have been released under different modalities.

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of October 30th the number is 359 people, out of which 22 are women. Additionally, 9,299 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.



This week, the political prisoner Emirlendris Benítez, detained for the case of alleged magnicide or assassination with drones, had to be transferred once more to the emergency room of a medical assistance center. She is arbitrarily imprisoned at the National Institute of Feminine Orientation [*INOF by its Spanish acronym*] where she was incarcerated under false charges since August 5th, 2018. At the beginning of her detainment she had a miscarriage consequence of the tortures she suffered. She has a delicate health situation: she was diagnosed with a lumbar spinal disc herniation, they found a myoma in an ovary and one of her breast implants is encapsulated. She must be released immediately.

## Transparencia Venezuela - [www.transparencia.org.ve](http://www.transparencia.org.ve)

### Legal strategies for recovering Venezuelan assets product of corruption

Corruption is a generalized crime affecting the finances of many countries, making economic growth difficult, undermining trust in governments and affecting the rendering of essential services such as health, electrical power, water, food, infrastructure, education, and transportation. This is due to the fact that resources destined for investment, in these and other sectors, are deviated for particular gain of groups or individuals with a serious impact on the fulfillment of human rights.



In these last two decades Venezuela has lived an unprecedented embezzlement distinguished, among other things, by high levels of impunity. The actors involved in these corruption schemes have opted for laundering or “legitimizing” irregularly obtained resources establishing dummy corporations or shell companies in different countries and acquiring luxurious properties.

Before this reality, Transparencia Venezuela decided to delve into the study and analysis of the recovery of assets as one of the main policies to discourage criminal activity – including corruption – through the seizure of goods and profits obtained by the illegal exploitation of the nation’s resources. In *Legal strategies for recovering Venezuelan assets product of corruption*, experts in the United States, Spain and Switzerland prepared reports in which they deepen in procedures, rules and institutions that are able to intervene in the recovery of Venezuelan assets. Likewise, a study was performed regarding the Venezuelan legal framework that regulates the matter and the country’s situation facing the international code of laws.

**Read more in spanish here** 

## Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía - [www.codehciu.org](http://www.codehciu.org)

### Violations of the right to life continue in the State of Bolivar

The Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía [Codehciu by its Spanish acronym] oversees, among other things, the violations of the human right to life in the State of Bolivar, a labor that started in 2018 and that has left evidence of the arbitrariness of State authorities during security operations. Codehciu has alerted that during the first six months of 2020 the State of Bolivar registered 127 potentially illicit deaths or presumed extrajudicial executions. The third quarter of the year (July, August and September) added up to 60 victims, which makes a total of 187 potentially illicit deaths during this period in the State of Bolivar.



officers. On the other hand, relatives of Wulliam Gabriel Yépez, another victim, refute a supposed confrontation in August according to the Police of the State of Bolivar [PEB by its Spanish acronym]. Witnesses told that Yépez, 18 years old, was taken to the backyard of his house by the officers, where they executed him with a firearm.

Froilán Báez, 21 years old, was executed by officers of the Special Actions Forces [FAES by its Spanish acronym] in February. Press releases explained that the family of the victim, who lives in Ciudad Guayana in the El Roble sector, denied the version of the officers of a supposed confrontation. The young man’s father said that when the execution of the victim occurred, he was at home with his sisters. Neighbors alleged having been intimidated by the

Violations of the human right to life in the State of Bolivar increase as months go by. It is important that the State of Bolivar follows up on these cases and duly investigates them as it is stipulated by Venezuelan legislation and international protocols. Codehciu urges the Venezuelan State to remedy the family members of the potentially illicit death victims and to guarantee that these events will not repeat themselves.

**Read more in spanish here** 

**REDUNI - [www.redunivenezuela.com](http://www.redunivenezuela.com)**

## Venezuelan Universities and the Economic Genocide in the 21st Century



The work “Venezuela: A case of ‘Economic Genocide’ in the 21st Century?” prepared by the researchers Andrea Rondón and Ricardo Rojas, edited by Cedice Libertad assures that in Venezuela there has been an economic policy developed focused on destroying wealth production, taking over goods and assets of the individuals and generating misery, hunger, disease and death of the Venezuelan population by this path. Upon revising the Rome Statute, more specifically Article 6 which sets forth that “... “genocide” events shall be construed as the following actions, perpetrated with the intent of partially or completely destroying a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, as such: a) slaughter of the group members; b) serious injury to the physical or mental integrity of the group members; c) intentional subjugation of the group to living conditions that are to result in their physical destruction, whether in whole or in part; d) measures destined to hinder births in the group; e) transferring by force the children of the group to another group.” In the case of Venezuela, the authors of this research affirm that there is an economic genocide fundamentally related to letter c) intentional subjugation.



Rojas and Rondón assure that an interpretation of genocide from the protection of the person and their rights as an integrity leads to conclude that genocide must not be considered solely to the armed and violent acts against a part of the population destined to their extermination, but it must include other direct or indirect acts of aggression, tending to the same extermination in committing them against the means that each

individual has in order to sustain their own life, this is: property, freedom to produce and hire and a healthy currency.

In this sense, the communication issued this past October 28th, passed by the Administrative Professionals of the Universidad de Oriente Association National Syndicate (@aspudo) wherein they highlight the death due to severe malnutrition of a retired member of the Universidad de Oriente [*UDO by its Spanish initials*] and assure that the university community members are being subjugated to extreme poverty conditions and slave labor, which leads them to assure that there is a genocide being perpetrated, due to the fact that an administrative worker of UDO earns 12 cents per day, while the basic food basket [*canasta básica*] is worth around \$300 per month.

