



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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

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

### Dangerous borders: sexual violence, xenophobia and homicides against Venezuelan migrants



Since the beginning of the pandemic, humanitarian organizations have reported a sharp increase of gender violence in the Venezuelan border regions. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sustains that there has been a 7% increase in the amount of women in their shelters in Cucuta for protecting victims of sexual violence, human trafficking and single mothers, in comparison to the same period in 2019.

Now then, the increase of sexual and gender violence in the Colombian-Venezuelan border is before the pandemic. In 2019, Profamilia, one of the main organizations of sexual and reproductive rights in Colombia, pointed out that their hospitals gave support to 573 Venezuelan women victims of sexual violence, a 92% increase in comparison to 2018. The border regions of La Guajira and Norte de Santander, where Cucuta is located, accumulated the greatest number of reported attacks.

In this sense, it is important that the protection programs keep being implemented and broadened to the Venezuelan migrant population in Colombia and Brazil in order to provide safety and protection according to international treaties and conventions in the matter. Likewise, it is essential that the Venezuelan State fulfills its duty of protecting its citizens, especially at the borders, since security there constitutes one of its fundamental obligations. The decrease of violence at the border region must be urgently tended to.

## Defiende Venezuela - [www.defiendevenezuela.org](http://www.defiendevenezuela.org)

### Defiende Venezuela attends the Regional Forum on Human Rights of the Universidad Nacional de la Pampa

The Complex Humanitarian Emergency characteristics, its political and economic causes, as well as the consequences and challenges that this situation entails for the country and the region were addressed by the attorney Mario D'Andrea, member of Defiende Venezuela, at the Regional Forum on Human Rights organized by the Universidad de la Pampa in Argentina.



The activity was held on December 10th, 2020, on the 72nd anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and counted with the participation of 18 attorneys and jurists from different countries of the region, among which stood out representatives from Mexico, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Argentina, and Costa Rica.

Mario D'Andrea explained that due to the difficulties entailed by the Complex Humanitarian Emergency, the problem cannot be addressed by just one humanitarian organization or only one State; thus, international cooperation has a new challenge given the frailty of the region. He gave an example that precisely on the day of his participation in the forum, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) requested the States and humanitarian organizations to recollect 1,440,000,000 dollars to give a response to Venezuelan migrants in 17 countries of the region, because there must be multiple actions and with different approaches.

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

### Campaign for Christmas without political prisoners in Venezuela

As of December 11th, 2020 Foro Penal recorded 15,681 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 3,557 political prisoners, of which 3,201 have been released under different modalities.

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of December 11th the number is 356 people, out of which 26 are women. Additionally, 9,299 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

On December 10th, commemorating Human Rights Day, Foro Penal launched its campaign #NavidadSinPresosPolíticos on a national and international level. To this effect, they prepared and posted banners in all Venezuelan states and in several



cities in other countries. They are demanding immediate and complete freedom for all political prisoners and those politically persecuted in Venezuela.

## PROVEA - [www.derechos.org.ve](http://www.derechos.org.ve)

### The carrot and the legislative cudgel

The prediction foretold by different analysts for the parliamentary elections on December 6th came true. Before the lack of guarantees, mistrust in the process and in the institutional ability of suffrage, the consequences of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency and the economic crisis, the gasoline shortage and the permanent interruptions of basic services, as well as the reasonable fears of the coronavirus, an important number of Venezuelans did not vote. There was not definitive data when this was written, and although the regime estimates participation in a little more than 30%, some assure that the number is a lot less.



On the other hand, the government obtained an important majority, recovering the predominance of the Parliament. For that reason 2021 will be politically characterized by the attempt to legitimize the Parliament

by way of everything, due to the little support given by the electorate as a whole. This offensive will have two aspects: on the one hand, that the legislative hemicycle be a center point of different initiatives summoned by the Executive Power. Using the old metaphor, this would be the carrot. The cudgel would be the discussion and approval of regressive laws for human rights that are used for cornering and persecuting dissidents.

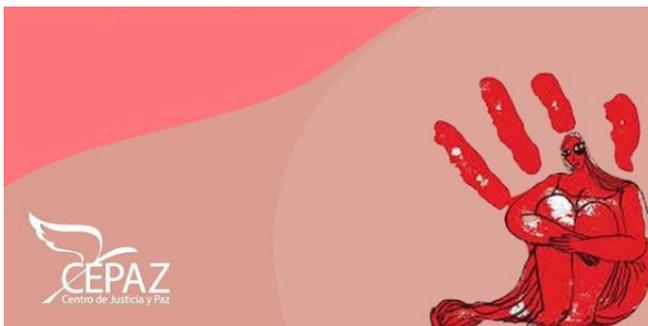
The social and popular organizations of the country will have the responsibility of being in front of the contention of the possible antidemocratic episodes. While the political leadership is recomposed and the surviving business owners will be the civil society activists who keep international attention on the country, especially of the human rights international protection mechanisms.

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

## The need to delve into the phenomena associated with femicides is imperative in order to prepare preventive policies

The existence of detailed records and statistics depends greatly on the comprehension of femicides and the phenomena associated with that crime, due to the fact that these data allow identifying the characteristics of the victim, the murderer and the surroundings, establishing the relation between them, the possible motivations and even the behavioral patterns, in order to not only evaluating the violence situation against women, but considering the ideal preventive policies. The Venezuelan State does not present public statistics in matter of gender violence since 2016. The lack of gender sensitive statistics in our country uncovered the impossibility on behalf of the State of leading an institutional and coordinated action in matter of gender violence prevention during the emergency arisen by the COVID-19 virus, which has increased the indexes of violence against girls and women.

Civil society organizations aim for the State to promote investigation, collect data and compile statistics not only on the entry of documents (that in itself does not exhaust the obligation of offering access to justice), but on gender violence as a social phenomenon; and to promote investigations on its causes and consequences. We also yearn for systematic data gathering, itemized by categories and its periodic publication with the applied



methodology duly explained. It would be important to systematically gather basic biographical backgrounds; the relation between victims and aggressors; the contexts in which gender violence takes place; the complaint filed and the search for help; and their inconvenient; the forms of damage and their derivations.

Our femicide monitoring from June 14th to November 13th, 2020 collects impacting data: digital media reflects 103 femicide cases, a femicide every 28 hours. 41 children were orphaned in total. 6 boys and girls witnessed their mother's femicide. In 56.3% of the cases, the events occurred at the woman's house or their house, in other words, at the place that is supposed to be the safest. Out of the 11 girls under 12 who were femicide victims, 5 of them were sexually abused; and the other 6 girls died due to physical violence. 8 of these 11 girls were murdered by a member of their own family. From June 14th to November 13th, 2020 there was an average of a child femicide every 10 days.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

**Espacio Público - [www.espaciopublico.org](http://www.espaciopublico.org)**

## November: intimidation, harassment and censorship

At the end of November 2020 Espacio Público recorded 24 cases that account for 40 freedom of speech violations in Venezuela. In the second-to-last month of the year, intimidation, threats and censorship were the most frequent types of violations.



Most of the victims were journalists (53%), communications media (22%) and health workers (8%); while those mainly responsible of such violations of rights were law enforcement agencies, State institutions and officers.

Up to this date there have been 944 violations to this right, among which stand out detentions of journalists and citizens that seek broadcasting information regarding the gasoline shortage and the difficulties associated to its distribution. From January to November 2020 we have documented 122 detentions, wherein most of the victims are journalists, press workers and individuals.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

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

### The international community reacted before the December 6th voting process

On December 9th, 2020, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) approved Resolution CP/RES 1164 (2309/20) against the elections carried out by the regime, which leaves in evidence the great concern of the organization due to this “structure of an entity not democratically elected deepens the destruction process of democracy and the Rule of Law in Venezuela.”

Not only the OAS has announced its rejection to the fraudulent event held in Venezuela on December 6th, but also the Lima Group, the International Contact Group on Venezuela and more than 55 countries that anxiously wait, as the great majority of Venezuelans, that free and just elections can be held in Venezuela that lead to a



transition process so that we can finally have a government arising from the genuine will of the great majority of the electorate to whom the regime has systematically violated their rights (to suffrage, freedom of speech, free transit, political participation, privacy, education, health, life).

Before this new lunge by Nicolás Maduro's regime, the declaration presented by over 1,000 jurists from more than 40 countries around the world stands out, in which they report that this voting act lacked the guarantees established by International Law in order to be considered as valid, therefore it must be considered null and void; thus, it is necessary “to maintain and continue with the powers of the Parliament”. All this indicates that we are not alone.

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

### The ICC warned the OAS that they will not accept external attempts of interfering in its work

It seems that Gambia is familiar with the saying: “Silence lends assent”, or they have a very similar one, because less than 48 hours after the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, criticized harshly their actions in the case of the crimes against humanity complaints that Nicolás Maduro and other high-ranking officials would have committed in Venezuela, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, attorney Fatou Bensouda, gave a response.

Twitter was the social media chosen by her to answer the Uruguayan Luis Almagro. She assured that she will study the report issued by the office of the Secretary General of the OAS and published on Wednesday, December 1st, but she lamented “the tone” of the request, since being an international organization, good faith collaboration is expected. “The Prosecutor of the ICC does not accept external attempts of interfering with its independence or the normal course of justice, regardless of the source”, she said.



In his report titled “*Fomento de la impunidad: el impacto del fracaso de la fiscal de la Corte Penal Internacional en abrir una investigación sobre la posible comisión de crímenes de lesa humanidad en Venezuela*”

[“Encouraging impunity: the impact of the failure of the Prosecutor of the International

Criminal Court in opening an investigation regarding the possible commission of crimes against humanity in Venezuela”], Luis Almagro questions that Fatou Bensouda has not decided if she will open an investigation against Venezuelan officials, in spite of having been requested over three years ago by the former Attorney General removed by the National Constituent Assembly, Luisa Ortega Díaz, the OAS and seven countries.

Read more in spanish here 

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

## Nicolás Maduro's National Constituent Assembly Balance: a constitutional fraud from beginning to end



The National Constituent Assembly [ANC by its Spanish initials] fraudulently summoned by Nicolás Maduro in 2017 will cease its functions in a matter of weeks, and in spite of lasting over three years, something unprecedented in national history, it will not fulfill its main task: drafting a new Constitution. Why? Because that was never its purpose, it was to arrogate the responsibilities of the Parliament elected in December 2015. This was made clear by its president, Diosdado Cabello, who stated in an interview at the television channel Venezolana de Televisión [VTV by its Spanish initials]. This statement reveals that the entity has been «a constitutional fraud from its creation up to its dissolution», and so it was informed by Acceso a la Justicia in the Report on the National Constituent Assembly. Its use as part of the institutional façade in Venezuela, in which they sustain that this authority ended up taking «behind it the last remains of the Rule of Law that was left in the country».

In the report there is a review of the actions of the National Constituent Assembly since it was installed on August 4th, 2017 after its questionable summoning in May and fraudulent election on July 30th of that year; and it highlights that almost its entire activity has been focused on acting as the Parliament without being it. In such a way that in over three years it has issued or reformed more than thirty laws, some of which have been called «constitutional». Among these instruments stand out the Anti Hatred Act, which punishes with up to twenty years in prison those who «encourage hatred», and it has been used to process citizens that protest on the streets or express their disagreement with government policies through social media or even through text messages. The



report also denounces that Nicolás Maduro's National Constituent Assembly has opened doors to the plundering of the country's resources and assets, through instruments such as that established in the Tax Regime of the Orinoco Mining Arc, and most of all, with the recent and not less polemic Anti-Blockade Act that

authorized the regime to enter into «all legal negotiations or actions that result necessary without legislative or judicial control».

The administration of the National Constituent Assembly has not resulted in an improvement of the conditions of life of Venezuelans, they didn't even serve to its other great purpose: «to bring peace», in spite of its president believing otherwise. Even though it is true that there have not been any massive protests as in those in 2017, street protests have increased; in 2018, 12,715 were recorded from the 9,787 of 2017, and in 2019 there were 16,739, according to the Social Divisiveness Venezuelan Observatory. In fact, problems such as hyperinflation or failures in public service utilities far from being overcome, they have worsened, just as well as malnutrition and other aspects of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency that has been affecting the country for no less than five years, precisely because of the institutional rupture carried out by Nicolás Maduro in order to remain in power.

**Read more in spanish here** 

