



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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

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

### Harassment against civil society organizations must cease immediately

The recent attacks and finger-pointing to the Venezuelan civil society organizations and their members constitute a new affront against citizens' rights to participate, express themselves, dissent and take care for promoting and procuring answers to political issues in a direct or organized manner, without limitations other than those stipulated by law, and safeguarded in the international standards of which Venezuela is signatory.

The policy of criminalization and harassment against civil society organization representatives and human rights defenders have worsened during these first days of the new year; some have been threatened by those in high power, arbitrarily detained, even presented before military courts in spite of being civilians. All this in moments in



which the Venezuelan population suffers from the severe effects of a complex humanitarian emergency and when the work that the different non-governmental organizations have been doing in order to face the rigors of the crisis is most imperative.

The work of social development, human rights, sectorial and union protection, and humanitarian aid organizations, among others, tends to the needs of survival and also of building proposals for lasting solutions that contribute to overcoming a crisis that engulfs the lives of many Venezuelans. This is why society must demand the immediate cease of the criminalization of the non-profit organizations and their members, and be alert before any action that attacks their rights, security, integrity and lives.

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

### 2021: Year in which civil society is under siege

As of the withdrawal from political leadership as a consequence of its exhaustion in the conflict, civil society will have a leading role in the denouncement regarding Venezuelans' human rights violations. The other side is that this level of exposure will leave it open to attacks on behalf of the authoritarianism in a year when international mechanisms, such as the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, will continue with a close scrutiny of the country.

The focus of the attacks is the international cooperation that makes the independent civil society's work possible. Communication media (Efecto Cocuyo, Radio Fe y Alegría, El Pitazo), as well as humanitarian organizations (Azul Positivo, Convite), and organizations defending human rights (Provea) have been object of attacks in these last few days. A possibility is that the



environment is being generated so that the new Parliament, result of illegitimate elections and mostly from the government's policies, discusses and approves the laws that restrict civic space even more. Another is that, within the logic of "good cop" and "bad cop", they attempt to divide the movement with the summons to a supposed dialogue process and national reconciliation.

We, the defenders, are also human. And, as the rest of the population, we fear the retaliation against our loved ones. But if anything prevents fear from becoming paralyzing terror is the commitment with the principles and the people that have placed their trust in us. Also being part of something, a community that works towards everyone's dignity, and not feeling alone. In spite of intimidations and in spite of sanitary isolation we are still committed with Venezuela.

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

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza rejects the continuous threats and finger-pointing to human rights defenders



We must reject the criminalization of the work of human rights defenders in Venezuela, especially the persecution and harassment to the PROVEA NGO and its General Coordinator, Rafael Uzcátegui, as a result of the accusations of the national television program “Con el Mazo Dando” regarding alleged international financings contrary to the interests of the Republic.



Rafael Uzcátegui about a course of financing of the United Kingdom in which the Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela [United Socialist Party of Venezuela - PSUV by its Spanish initials] participated. Diosdado Cabello requested that an investigation will be initiated, threatening Uzcátegui with taking him to court.

On January 13th, the Representative of the regime in the government Parliament elected on December 6th, 2020, threatened the non-governmental organizations that receive any type of international support for considering that it represents an “attack against the country and a conspiracy against the homeland.” These declarations were given in regards to a comment by

These types of actions are once again proposed as evidence of the systematic practice of harassment, intimidation and threat to those who work in the country to guarantee respect and guarantee of human rights, as well as demonstrating cases of the Azul Positivo, Convite, Acción Solidaria, Caracas Mi Convive NGOs and many others that have been damaged by the finger-pointing that criminalize their work.

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

Defiende Venezuela achieves broadening of injunctions in favor of 20 people with multiple sclerosis



The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued Resolution 4/2021 on January 7th, 2021, through which it broadened the injunctions in favor of twenty people with multiple sclerosis after considering that their rights to life, personal integrity and health are in a serious and urgent situation of irreparable risk damage in Venezuela.

The background dates from March 29th, 2019, when the IACHR issued Resolution 18/2019, through which it granted injunctions in favor of Inírida Josefina Ramos López, Sara María Olmos Reverón, Miguel Eduardo

Perozo González, and Carmen Alicia Márquez de D'Jesús, in Venezuela, who suffer from this disease.

Nevertheless, Defiende Venezuela, aware that the Complex Humanitarian Emergency has devastated the health system of the entire population and the quality of life of hundreds of people during these two years, has kept documenting and denouncing, both at a national and international level, the situation of shortage of medications and treatment for this disease. Thanks to this arduous work, today there are 20 new people who benefit from injunctions due to their serious and urgent situation of irreparable risk for not counting with the treatment for multiple sclerosis.

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

### The new (un)constitutional order in Venezuela

Unfortunately, 2021 arrives to Venezuelans with an institutional setback that is accompanied by humanitarian tragedy and the havoc of the COVID-19 pandemic; events that uncover an inefficient government that doesn't tend to the continuous claims of its citizens before the serious and complex crisis in which they are living; nor does it make use of its power to reestablish the institutionality broken by its own hand. Venezuela has an actual *de facto* government, forged by institutions that throughout these last two decades have risen against the Constitution, which has allowed the authorities of the dominating party to cling to power more and more, besides imposing its political model in a definitive manner.



functions, as well as to reinforce control in all aspects of life of its citizens and the resulting elimination of their constitutional rights and guarantees.

Nowadays all observance or subordination to constitutional rules and international treaties on human rights currently in force in Venezuela on behalf of the institutions has been eliminated. In fact, the National Executive Power is above the rest of the public powers thanks to the Supreme Court of Justice that has allowed it to exercise absolute power through decisions issued by the Constitutional Chamber that differ greatly from the content and spirit of the Constitution.

This institutional undermining process, as it has been repeatedly denounced, has been accelerated since the opposition won the parliamentary elections in December 2015, moment in which Nicolás Maduro's regime unleashed its artillery to impede and neutralize Legislative

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

### December: more than 50 freedoms of speech violations

December 2020 closed with a total of 54 freedoms of speech violations, being intimidation, censorship and administrative restrictions the most frequent patterns that resulted in 29 cases in which the main aggressors are still the law-enforcement bodies and State officials.



The last month of the year was marked by an electoral event in which impeding coverage, harassment, intimidation, and censorship on behalf of security officers were common throughout the entire country.

Bolivarian National Guard officers, militia and the military of the Plan República [military operations depleted in elections] denied access to journalists, they

shouted at them, persecuted them, prevented them from taking photographs, and even deleted graphics of the day disregarding that communication media workers were wearing the credentials issued by the National Electoral Council. Only during this event, 25 freedoms of speech violations were recorded in the States of Carabobo, Miranda, Sucre, Vargas, Táchira, Guárico, Lara, and Anzoátegui, besides Caracas.

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

### The Venezuelan regime punishes with repression the work of organizations that support the population

The Programa Venezolano de Educación en Acción (Provea) was created on October 15th, 1988, as a civil society non-governmental organization, and it has dedicated its long and renowned trajectory to the defense of human rights. Since its origin, it has promoted contents of humanistic and transformative character present in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the purpose of contributing to the building of a democratic society based on pluralism, solidarity, participation, and social and economic equality, without any type of discrimination whatsoever.

The de facto political regime has always sought to eliminate NGOs by any means necessary, recurring to the accusation of crimes as a method; its mere existence bothers them due to the fact that it feels that they strip with their claims and actions the violations of human



rights committed from the power and evidences the unfulfillment of guarantees and the respect to their rights to which the Public Power is constitutionally committed.

The control of the NGOs has been sought first by laws that make them inform of each movement they do and resources they receive, and now also the persecution and the direct attack (case of the Azul Positivo NGO). This method is inherent to a dictatorship; first, it destroys the organization when they detain its members and invades their work spaces, and in other cases, the persecution begins with the threat of punishing them, by declaring that the NGOs have used international financing to promote political destabilization in the country, as Nicolás Maduro did. We, as citizens, have the floor as well as Michelle Bachellet.

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

### Renal failure waits for no one

According to information published by El Pitazo news portal, 11 people with chronic renal conditions have died in the last 6 weeks just in the State of Cojedes due to the lack of nephrologists who can tend to emergencies and contingencies that people in these conditions can present.

As it is known, the shortage of health professionals (physicians and nurses) in the public sector is due to the migration or resignation of the medical staff before the adverse working conditions that include shortage of protection supplies, low salaries and persecution. There is a similar situation in the State of Zulia, where the lack of personnel impedes applying dialysis to those who need it. Likewise, in the State of Lara, nearly 900 people with these chronic conditions have been seriously affected by the lack of personnel and the collapse of hospital facilities.



During 2020 these types of complaints were presented throughout all of Venezuela, highlighting the aggressive deterioration of the sanitary structure. Reports of reductions in dialysis hours have been common, as well as damages to the inverse osmosis units of the machines, lack of equipment maintenance, lack of drinking water supply or low availability of machines. In the context of the pandemic, which threatens to increase during the first quarter, the attention of this vulnerable group must be prioritized in order to avoid any more deaths. Renal failure waits for no one.

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

## Future solutions for Venezuela

Before the profound deterioration of the life conditions of Venezuelans, in the framework of a complex humanitarian emergency that doesn't distinguish political parties, the return to the notion of respect to life and human dignity becomes imperative. That people be the center of political attention and the priority in the action of all actors in Venezuela. In this same sense, it is important to make progress in the rebuilding of the electoral path that restitutes the right to choose, civic participation and trust in voting as a democratic change instrument to build the conditions that make possible the cease of pugnacity between political actors and the opening of negotiations. Additionally, with the purpose of tending correctly to the humanitarian emergency and reestablishing institutionality. This is what will open paths and possibilities in such an adverse scenario.



representation that demands the aforementioned accord. It is very difficult to think about this, and even more from the negative experiences from the past. However, we believe that it is the path towards progress.

Any solution for Venezuela will require a long-term vision, laying bridges and performing necessary constructive actions including the different national social sectors in their legitimate right to demand from the group in power, that has the biggest responsibilities, and to the opposing groups, an effective, realistic and reasonable negotiation, especially with people and their suffering. We believe that the humanitarian space gives an opportunity for the first sectorial accords in favor of people, in order that they can initiate a process of trust between the actors to advance towards the opening of the democratic space.

From the civil society organizations we think that it is necessary to assume roles that redirect actions of Venezuelan community towards the creation of conditions that allow building a national democratic accord, that puts Venezuelan society in a clear, joint and sure transit towards a future of peace, well-being and progress, and for that we are building a broad social

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