



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

The State must educate and promote tolerance in order to face hate speeches



As part of the talks cycles concerning freedom of speech, organized together with the Human Rights Center of the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello [CDH-UCAB by its Spanish acronym], we performed the forum "Regulate hate speech?", in which how this issue is treated in the national and international legal sphere was debated.

The attorney Ricardo Rosales, member of the Espacio Público team, explained that in order to define what hate speech is, different elements must be previously determined, such as the fact that the expression attempts against specific subjects and that public incitement of the hate towards them is made. In his opinion, sometimes restrictions promote or exalt leaders who use hate speeches; thus, beyond punishing these people, they distract from more effective policies, such as education with an approach of equality or the respect towards diversity and cultural exchange.



In this regard, the attorney Francis Betancourt, officer of our Promotion, Defense and Public Action program, pointed out the scope of the «Anti Hatred Act», an unconstitutional text that seeks to lessen the identity, the will, and the social commitment of the victims with themselves and with their communities, which inhibits them from

freely expressing themselves in the future and self-censor themselves to avoid retaliations. According to our monitoring, 18 public and health workers, 16 mass communication media workers, 10 individuals, 9 NGO activists, 6 people in general, and 2 communication media have been victims of the Anti Hatred Act, having as perpetrators law-enforcement authorities, State officials and public institutions.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

The ICC preliminary exam on crimes against humanity committed in Venezuela makes progress



As of May 27th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,729 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 872 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,610 political prisoners, of which 3,309 have been released under different modalities.

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of May 27th, 2021 the number is 301 people, out of which 21 are women. Additionally, 9,379 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

The preliminary exam on crimes against humanity committed in Venezuela makes progress. All seems to indicate that it'll determine if there's the possibility of



requesting the initiation of concrete investigations against the authors and participants of these crimes that up to now had been protected by the most absolute impunity. It's expected that the current Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, makes public her conclusions before her term in office is definitively finalized, around mid-2021. Different factors of the National Power

in Venezuela have clearly manifested their concern in this scenario, in which it would be clear that the countless denouncements made for over two decades on the very serious human rights violations in Venezuela have full standing and can be concluded in the investigation and conviction of the officials who have incurred in attacks against civilians, in a generalized and systematic manner and in full knowledge of the scope of said attacks in the context determined by the Rome Statute.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Information regarding the purchase of vaccines shouldn't be a State secret

When citizens have access to public data they can make better decisions and elevate the demands to the State. This was the premise of Transparencia Mexicana's Director, Eduardo Bohórquez, during the new edition of Espacios de Transparencia in which the report *Corrupción en pandemia: la tragedia de Venezuela más allá de la COVID-19* [Corruption in pandemic: Venezuela's tragedy beyond COVID-19] was discussed.

During his participation, Bohórquez mentioned some elements that must be considered in order to guarantee the transparency of a vaccination plan. Firstly, the State must inform the vaccines that are authorized, the effectiveness, and the logistics for their purchase, distribution and administration. The epidemiological situation must also be published, if not, the data won't be reliable and public resources will be destined to places that don't exist. "After one year of pandemic it can't be said that the governments are purchasing in emergency", he assured.



Bohórquez emphasized that the governments must make public the agreements, donations and contracts conditions, as well as the cost of the vaccines to be purchased. Vaccination criteria must be added to these aspects, which translate in the prioritization of the population to be immunized. He assured that this is one way to avoid frauds, that other groups result privileged and that the vaccines circulate in a black market. Nevertheless, in Venezuela the information of the vaccination process is incomplete and scarce. The vaccination plan hasn't been made public, the cost of the vaccines and how will they be distributed are unknown, which skyrockets the risks of discretion and corruption.

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PROVEA - www.provea.org

Medical Federation disproves that 90% of the health sector has been vaccinated against COVID-19

The Venezuelan Medical Federation [FMV by its Spanish initials] disproved that Nicolás Maduro's *de facto* government has vaccinated 90% of the first line sanitary personnel against the coronavirus, as affirmed by the Minister of Health, Carlos Alvarado. "It's a vile and shameless lie. The minister must be made aware of this so he stops lying just like the President Nicolás Maduro, who announced that almost 1.3 million vaccines have arrived to the country", pointed out the President of the FMV, Douglas León Natera, through a statement.

According to León Natera, who assured that the vaccines that have arrived to the country barely cover "the needs" of 0.8% of the Venezuelan population, "one million doses are required for the sanitary staff in general



and between 40 and 50 million applications to vaccinate the Venezuelan population". He also indicated that "at most" some 200,000 doses have been destined to the sanitary sector and to part of the population, the rest have been directed towards people linked to the government.

"The vaccines that arrived were deviated to immunize ministers, members of parliament, and government officials, forsaking sanitary personnel, who are in the first line in the fight against COVID-19", pointed out the physician. On Sunday, Maduro said that not long ago (without establishing a date) 1,300,000 new doses had arrived to Venezuela that would be added to the ones previously received and whose number is questionable, due to the fact that it constantly varies, according to the officer that referred to the information.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Administrative Ruling 002-2021 doesn't suspend the closing of civic spaces in Venezuela

Administrative Ruling 001-2021 was published on March 30th, 2021 in order to establish a Unified Registry of Liable Parties before the National Office against Organized Crime and Financing of Terrorism. After the overwhelming rejection it received, in which the pressure put by civil society organizations that demanded the repeal of this rule, it was replaced by Administrative Ruling 002-2021 on May 3rd, 2021.

What changed and what remained the same with the new administrative ruling? The creation of a unified registry before the National Office against Organized Crime and Financing of Terrorism is maintained, as well as the obligation of the liable parties to register in the sole registry and the possibility of having *in situ* visits on behalf of the authorities whenever deemed convenient. The result of the registry process is still the delivery of a certificate authorizing the legal representative of the organization to exercise his functions. What changed is that it's no longer necessary to identify the beneficiaries of the non-profit organizations; the period of 30 calendar days at the beginning of the organization's operations to start the registry process before the Sole Registry Office is also suppressed, and the remittal to the sanctions set forth in the Organic Act against Organized Crime and Financing of Terrorism for any non-compliance is eliminated.



Administrative Ruling 002-2021 represents in itself a violation of the right to association. It doesn't repeal the creation of a Sole Registry and, hence, the NGOs depend on this authorization to obtain the validity, and in spite of not existing a registration period, it's still an obligation and may even represent a requisite before other State offices. Additionally, it demands demonstrating that the activities performed by the organizations aren't related to organized crime or terrorism, which is a violation of the presumption of innocence principle. It still hinders and criminalizes national and international financial cooperation, which constitutes a violation of the right to request, receive and use these resources to promote and protect the population's human rights. The beneficiaries aren't protected, due to the fact that even though the delivery of the list of the organization's beneficiaries is suppressed, this information is intended to be obtained from the banking institutions. In conclusion, Administrative Ruling 002-2021 maintains, with some nuances that try to give it an apparent legality that it actually lacks, the restrictions towards civil society organizations, imposing serious limitations to the exercise of rights, such as the right to association and participation and, therefore, we demand its repeal.

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Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

The State doesn't take a stance on members of the military kidnapped by armed groups in Venezuelan territory

The incursion of irregular armed groups in the State of Apure has been insistently denounced that have killed soldiers who have been sent to the area without protection or adequate arsenal in order to fight them.



The life and integrity of these soldiers that, in many cases, aren't even 22 years old, are in the hands of these groups whom the regime or some of its representatives have allowed to penetrate Venezuelan territory, leaving these members of the military adrift and showing that the Venezuelan Army is incapable of defending our territory and, what's worse, subdued by who negotiate our space

to consent the installation of criminal companies.

No one responds for these young men that are used by military chiefs without any representative of the Public Power giving account of this alarming situation that violates the principles governing the military sector and the Constitution. Whoever is President of what's left of the Republic - if anything remains - is unaltered before the abduction and murder of these soldiers in the borders with Colombia on the hands of these groups. We hope that he somehow gives an account to the Nation and justice at some moment in the near future.



Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

The regime created regional and municipal mega-elections

November 21st, 2021. On that day Venezuelans shall elect 23 governors, 335 mayors, 250 legislative council representatives, and over 2,400 councilpersons, since the new National Electoral Council [CNE by its Spanish initials] appointed on May 4th by the Parliament [AN by its Spanish initials], fraudulently elected this past December, decided to join both electoral processes. In what appears to be an attempt to generate more confidence and leave behind the image of being biased, its new President, Pedro Calzadilla, announced that 16 audits to the automated voting system will be performed for this process, which will count with the presence of technical crew from the different political organizations and international electoral experts.



Acceso a la Justicia. However, the proper operation of the elections as a democratic mechanism of representativeness, inclusion and political plurality will inexorably depend on the implementation of adequate conditions by the new CNE.

In this sense, the electoral authority faces the challenge of taking actions that improve the voting quality in the country, the transparency of the processes, its competitiveness, and most of all, it must assure that each Venezuelan can vote voluntarily for the political option of their preference, without any type of coercion or threat on behalf of Nicolás Maduro's regime. If this is not achieved, participation in elections will continue to be low and the country's institutionality will irreparably keep crumbling down.

These announcements seem to be headed to opening the doors towards recovering the standards of competitiveness, reliability and transparency of electoral processes in Venezuela. Likewise, they seem to seek reducing the doubts there are regarding the authority due to the manufacturing defects that were denounced by

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Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

Back to school: an unlikely measure in Venezuela

On May 25th Nicolás Maduro announced that "it was time to go back to school with bio-security measures". He pointed out that he's working together with the Minister of Education in preparing a plan to combine e-learning with classroom activities. It's not the first time that Maduro's administration proposes this formula; in February he even suggested face-to-face classes during flexible quarantine weeks.



faculty members on a national level, in other words, approximately more than one third of Venezuelans. Additionally, after having suspended face-to-face classes for almost two years, schools and university institutions have been practically devastated by delinquents; thus, not only do the façades require minor repairs, but also school desks need to be replaced, and laboratories and sports courts and fields need to be repaired, without mentioning that in many cases there aren't any sinks or sanitary facilities.

But, why isn't this likely to happen? Even though the government talks about vaccinating the student population in order to achieve such goal, they would have to vaccinate 10 million students and no less than 500,000

In order to carry out this plan, the government must guarantee that the security, infrastructure and bio-security measures are in proper conditions and comply with the minimum standards to avoid increasing the number of infections of COVID-19 in the country.

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

DEFIENDE VENEZUELA

The Venezuelan State seems to see the imminent beginning of the ICC preliminary exam

On May 27th, 2021, the unconstitutional Prosecutor General appointed by the National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, questioned the veracity of the information provided by the civil society, victims and countries in regards to the Venezuela I case in the International Criminal Court (ICC).



national and international civil society to the State. Another curious element of Tarek William's speech is that he invoked Article 93.10 (other forms of cooperation) when a formal investigation still hasn't initiated, since up to this date the preliminary exam hasn't opened

Among his questionings he pointed out that the ICC hasn't responded to his communications and information contributions. However, the unconstitutional prosecutor ignored that according to Rule 46 of the Court Procedures and Evidences, all information provided to the ICC Prosecutor shall be confidential and it is absurd that he requests that they send information remitted by multiple actors of the

taking into consideration that according to Article 86 of the Rome Statute, the States are obligated to fully cooperate in the investigation and trials of the crimes within its competence.

Ultimately, it seems that Venezuelan officials and the State in general see the imminent beginning of the preliminary exam and with this the initiation of the more serious investigations against some high-ranking officials.

Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía - www.codehciu.org



First quarter of 2021 report on gender based violence in the State of Bolivar

In the monitoring performed in digital media in the January-March 2021 quarter, the State of Bolivar recorded 71 women victims of violence. Bolivar is characterized for being used as a passage for migration and swaying mobilization, since it has borders with Brazil via the Municipality of Gran Sabana and passage to the State of Delta Amacuro in order to go to Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana via the Municipality of Caroni, and it has the Municipality El Callao where illegal mining is practiced and swaying migration is observed in a greater proportion. It's also the channel for going to Guyana.



The number of gender violence victims has increased in comparison to last year and the beginning of the pandemic. In the first quarter of 2021 there were 71 female victims of violence recorded, just like in 2020, in this total there were 5 femicides, concluding that there is an increase of 77.5% of cases in comparison to the first quarter of 2020.

January recorded a total of 17 female victims of violence, February 16 and March 38. Among the types of crimes with greater number of victims we have: 26 female victims of physical violence; 17 female victims of human sex trafficking; 12 female victims of threats; 6 female victims of sexual violence; and 5 female victims of

femicide. Codehciu urges the Venezuelan State to enable the access to justice of the women who have been victims of violence, to implement public policies for the attention corresponding to the case of which the woman has been a victim, shelters in the case of threats, to offer psychological attention and restitution, and to guarantee that this will not be repeated.

Read more in spanish here 

