



Bulletin No. 186

From June 7 to 14, 2021

www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org



Tu Arte Es Tu Poder, knowing Venezuelan “activists”

There are many ways to denounce human rights violations, one of them is through art and culture, that’s how we promote it here at Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, we provide a space to artists who make activism (“activists”) so that they raise their voices and denounce the injustices that affect them and their surroundings.



expression. She’s interviewed Leo Álvarez, a renowned photojournalist and documentarian, director of *La Causa*, a documentary that shows the life of the prisoners at the General Penitentiary of Venezuela and the great corruption existing in that prison.

The second season of Tu Arte Es Tu Poder, conducted by Karina Freites, “the girl that paints bills”, focuses on giving a space to filmmakers, photographers and audiovisual artists that use their art as a means of

The work of the human rights “activists” that use their spaces to denounce injustices can be known every month. We invite you to watch the next episode through Un Mundo Sin Mordaza’s Facebook account www.facebook.com/sinmordazas

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org



2021 mega-elections, a copy of the December 2020 parliamentary elections?

In spite of the promises of the National Electoral Council [*CNE by its Spanish initials*] of making the upcoming regional and municipal mega-elections, planned for November 21st, credible and reliable, its first actions are heading, according to our criterion, towards the opposite direction and they more likely lean towards being a copy of the decisions that corrupted the parliamentary elections of last December. In fact, the special rules referred to the electoral system for the election of legislators to state legislative councils and councilpersons of municipal councils for 2021 are based on the questionable sentence N° 68 dated June 5th, 2020 from the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, which violates what is set forth in the Constitution. Actually, the Chamber authorized the electoral authority to legislate on the manner of electing representatives, which is something reserved for the Parliament.



(Articles 1, 4 and 5), likewise it incurred in usurping functions of the Parliament when it modified the distribution of positions formula stipulated in Articles 14 and 15 of the Electoral Processes Organic Act [*LOPRE by its Spanish acronym*].

Although the CNE improved the formula of the last parliamentary elections in the new rules in favor of a proportional representation of the minorities and the personalization of voting upon establishing that 60% and not 70% of the regional legislators, and 40% not 30% of the councilpersons will be chosen by the vote by list

The new CNE has followed the path paved by its predecessor and hasn’t vindicated the rights of the indigenous community in the upcoming joint regional and municipal elections. At least that’s what the so-called Special Regulation left to regulate the election of the indigenous representation in the elections of the legislators to state legislative councils and councilpersons of the municipal councils in 2021, approved on May 26th. The text eliminates direct suffrage, by stipulating that the indigenous representatives to state and municipal collegiate bodies will be chosen by community assemblies that will be established for each indigenous population. This is a blatant violation of Article 63 of the Constitution that sets forth the principle of direct elections.

Read more in spanish here 

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

New York justice investigates corruption originated in Venezuela

Seven drug trafficking investigations, two related to financial frauds, one involving the services sector, another on fraud in the petroleum sector, and one case regarding the housing sector. These are the 12 proceedings on which New York courts are making progress for the crimes of alleged corruption originated in Venezuela, according to records from Transparencia Venezuela.

This is regarding dockets in which at least 39 people have been pointed out up to now, many of them Venezuelans, processed for their alleged participation in bribing schemes for obtaining large contracts or granting loans and payments, as well as money laundering. In this jurisdiction, especially, drug trafficking cases are also



being investigated, included in the list because high ranking officials in Venezuela are pointed out in them.

Revising the situation of the 39 people accused, it can be evidenced that 13 have already been convicted, 8 are pending for a ruling, 14 have been declared fugitives, 3 more people that aren't detained but haven't been formally declared as fugitives, and 1 whose sentence was annulled due to procedural errors. After the State of Florida, New York is where the most Venezuelan corruption cases that have originated a great damage to the country are being investigated.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Political prisoners are forced to admit crimes they didn't commit in exchange of their freedom

As of June 11th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,742 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 3,622 political prisoners, of which 3,320 have been released under different modalities.

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of June 11th, 2021 the number is 302 people, out of which 21 are women. Additionally, 9,391 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

In the last weeks the pressure on political prisoners in Venezuela has increased in a very evident manner to "admit to the crimes". In general, and without their defense attorneys present, they're told that they will remain incarcerated if they don't admit to the crimes. Such is the case of Carlos Alberto Rojas, who was forced



to do so at his preliminary hearing. This power strategy seeks to avoid a process that imposes the truth and corroborates the innocence of those who have been unjustly incarcerated. With the lack of evidence they resort to fear as a weapon to achieve their goals (unjust convictions).

Furthermore, as collateral benefit for the power with these forced and imposed "admissions of the crimes", they intend to show the world that the persecutory narrative (the supposed existence of conspiracy plans and "treasons" everywhere) isn't a baseless construction but a supposed truth. The worst is that they abuse of their power and, above all, the political prisoners are placed in an almost impossible dilemma: accepting to have committed the crimes that they didn't perpetrate or remaining imprisoned indefinitely without a conviction. This must be denounced and rejected.

PROVEA - www.provea.org

Path to justice advances slowly, but surely

On September 16th, 2020, the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFM) indicated upon presenting its report that it has reasonable motives to believe that most of the documented crimes and violations were committed in the framework of a generalized and systematic attack directed against a civic population, with knowledge of the attack, according to a state policy or supporting it. Regarding these crimes, the FFM has reasonable motives to believe that crimes against humanity were committed in Venezuela within the examined period of time. It also pointed out some of those who are presumably responsible.



Later, in December 2020, the International Criminal Court Prosecutor reached a similar conclusion. She expressed that from the available information in the Preliminary Exam, there is a reasonable basis to believe that, at least since April 2017, civil authorities, members of the Armed Forces and individuals in favor of the government have committed crimes against humanity of incarceration or any other serious detention of physical liberty.

The ICC Prosecutor could announce soon that the Preliminary Exam has concluded and the investigation stage has initiated. This would constitute a big step in advancing towards the achievement of justice and that those who are responsible of the crimes are held accountable for their actions against the population.

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

Acción Solidaria delivered menstrual hygiene kits in low income sectors of Caracas

As part of our objective of working for sexual and reproductive rights regarding menstrual hygiene month, the Acción Solidaria team visited two communities in low income sectors of Caracas: Altos del Lidice, in La Pastora, and El 70, in El Valle. 50 cloth towels menstrual kits were delivered to women and teenage girls.



Tibisay Mendoza, an alternative sexual education specialist and a member of the Las Comadres Púrpuras group, was our ally in charge of guiding the conversation on menstrual health, debunking myths and misconceptions regarding the period and, above all, understanding that there's nothing dirty about it.

In two conferences of two hours each our team had the opportunity of listening to women who fight on a daily

basis for their autonomy and for having the ability of deciding on their bodies and the way they live their sexuality; but also work in order to generate positive impacts on their environments through education. During the last lustrum in Venezuela, teenage girls and women have been forced to substitute medically qualified hygiene products for homemade and risky alternatives such as gauzes, fabrics, toilet paper, or cardboard.

Read more in spanish here 

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org



Chile continues its mass expulsion policy of Venezuelans

On June 6th, 2021, the Chilean government massively expelled Venezuelan refugees yet again. In view of this situation, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) together with other agencies expressed their rejection and concern.



These expulsions must be considered as a human rights violation due to the fact that they were executed without an analysis or procedure that allows individualizing and determining the migratory situation of each person.

Additionally, it's worth mentioning that this event

isn't new, there have been other mass expulsions since April 2021, and recently the Chilean Undersecretary of Internal Affairs, Juan Francisco Galli, has criticized the Chilean courts that have annulled expulsion orders against Venezuelans, since the irregular entry to a territory aptly isn't enough for the State to automatically and massively execute an

expulsion.

Therefore, a rigorous monitoring must be performed to the actions of the Chilean State towards Venezuelans, due to the fact that it's violating their right to seek refuge.

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org



May added 36 new freedom of speech violations in Venezuela

May closed with 36 freedom of speech violations, corresponding to 23 cases, among which intimidation, censorship and threats stand out. Most of the victims are journalists, communication media and citizens in general, and the most frequent aggressors were security forces, State institutions and officials.



With the figures of the fifth month, 2021 accrues 189 violations this year corresponding to 99 cases, among which stand out at least 19 detentions, a figure that evidences a surge of violence that seeks silencing citizens in their enjoyment of their right to search, receive and spread information.

Fundamental rights are seriously restricted in the

country, a situation that worsens every month while the political conflict doesn't reach a solution. The right to freedom of speech is one of the most violated in midst of a context wherein searching, receiving and spreading information is considered a crime, even when it isn't

stipulated in the law.

Read more in spanish here 

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

ICC Prosecutor disproves allegations from the Venezuelan State on a supposed lack of cooperation from its office

During an interview made by France24, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, referred to the current status of the preliminary exam of the Venezuela I situation performed by her office. The prosecutor affirmed that they've worked on it and most



of the criteria needed to culminate the preliminary exam have been met. However, she reminded that the Venezuelan State has recently involved the Pre-Trial Chamber requesting its intervention for considering that it hasn't received sufficient cooperation from the Prosecutor's Office. Bensouda disproved this allegation and affirmed that it's incorrect, since the Prosecutor's Office "has intensively interacted with Venezuela, including with the highest authorities". She commented that it's something that'll be informed to the Chamber and that the petition made by the Venezuelan government doesn't change the fact that the "Venezuela's situation has made significant progress", thus, once "this petition is resolved before the Chamber we'll be ready to make our decision public".

Venezuela's situation before the ICC is at stage 3 of the preliminary exam that started on February 8th, 2018. When stage 2 culminated in December 2020, the prosecutor affirmed that there exists reasonable basis to believe that crimes against humanity were committed in Venezuela against people opposing the government in the context of anti-governmental protests and related political riots since April 2017. This declaration reaffirms what has already been commented by Bensouda on her

objective of concluding the preliminary exam on Venezuela during the first semester of 2021. If this is so, and a positive decision is concluded, the new prosecutor elected, Karim Khan, will be responsible for carrying out the formal investigation, including the identification of cases and the

request of arrest warrants.

During the preliminary exam, the prosecutor has had communication with the Venezuelan State that has admitted that it remitted information to her office regarding national processes that were supposedly carried out in regards to the events that would enter in the Court's competence. On November 6th, 2020 there was even a meeting at the Court headquarters, at The Hague, between the prosecutor and Venezuelan authorities in order to discuss cooperation topics. The Pre-Trial Chamber I was appointed for the Venezuela I situation and it will be in charge of resolving the Venezuelan State's petition on the supposed lack of cooperation. The Chamber is comprised of the judges Péter Kovács, Reine Alapini-Gansou and Socorro Flores Liera. The Prosecutor's Office has made clear that once this has been resolved, its decision on the possible start of an investigation will be made public.

Read more in spanish here 

