



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Bulletin No. 188

From June 21 to 28, 2021

www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Seven irregularities of the anti-COVID-19 vaccination in Venezuela



Venezuela arrived to her fourth month of vaccination against the coronavirus and there's very little information known about the process. Although different civil society sectors have demanded a public vaccination plan and to take into account the priorities recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the State keeps silent and gives some clues regarding the development of the vaccination in dribs and dabs.



Far from generating calm in the population, the discretion with which the vaccination has been handled has increased despair and has left space in the black market of vaccines, putting the lives of whom decide to buy a dose at risk as well as the lives of whom need it and still haven't been taken into account.

Transparencia Venezuela identified seven types of irregularities during this process: inconsistencies in the figures reported by Venezuelan authorities among themselves and those offered by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO); disorganization in the process, both the people who are summoned as well as those who aren't are being attended to; abuse of power, both in the first and second stages the political and military leaders have been the priority; sales of vaccines has been known; exclusion, the State resorted to the *Patria* System to summon the elderly to get vaccinated during April; vaccination centers set at political parties headquarters; and suspension of the vaccination sessions without prior warning or explanations.

Read more in spanish here 

PROVEA - www.provea.org

Disorder and improvisation in the vaccination plan



Provea always receives calls from people denouncing situations that violate their rights. In these last few weeks, we've been receiving reports of the current vaccination process against COVID-19 from different parts of the country. Even though it was an outcry shared by much of the population, the vaccination schedule according to sectors prioritized by their vulnerability situation still isn't known.



The increase of cases and the absence of conditions guaranteeing Venezuelans' health increase the anguish for accessing the vaccine. Nevertheless, the lack of information and the nonexistence of a technical protocol regulating the actions of officials not only increase people's bewilderment but also the disorder and improvisation with which people are being immunized.

We've received reports from Caracas that depending on which center and the day a person can approach it and receive the first dose. In this way, 20-year-old people are being vaccinated along with octogenarians, with average times in line going from 5 to 12 hours waiting, in concentrations that increase the risks of infection. There's less flexibility in other cities in the country because there's less amount of doses available. In town centers of densely populated cities such as Maracaibo and Barquisimeto they're only vaccinating people registered in the *Patria* System - a social control program - who are summoned by a text message to their mobile phones. Even being summoned for a specific day doesn't guarantee that the person will have access to the dose, since there are more people called than the vaccines available for that session. We demand that these errors be solved, due to the fact that the right to health doesn't allow improvisation in implementing public policies.

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

Special commission for reforming the justice system is a clear indication of political influence in the Judiciary Power

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) dedicated the report presented on June 22nd to the justice system situation in Venezuela, in which it sustains that the Judiciary Power has become a tool of repression for the Executive Power to politically control the country rather than a defender of the Rule of Law. Through this report titled “Judges on the Tightrope” shows the profound deterioration of Venezuelan justice, caused by the political control and influence of the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates.



standards related to judicial independence, as well as with the decisions and recommendations that different bodies in the United Nations and Inter-American Human Rights System have made.

Paradoxically, Nicolás Maduro announced on June 21st the creation of a special commission that'll be presided by Diosdado Cabello for reforming the Venezuelan justice system in order to present a “plan for structural changes”; Cilia Flores (attorney, Nicolás Maduro’s wife) will hold the Vice-Presidency, and the Secretary will be Lourdes Suárez Anderson, who illegitimately presides the Supreme Court of Justice Constitutional Chamber, all of whom - as expressed by Maduro - will be “the initial core of this commission that will take over of a complete revolution of justice”. On their own, these appointments show the political influence in the justice system, apart that coming from who holds the position of the Presidency of the Republic, is the clearest indication that the ICJ recommendations not only won't be heeded but that the destruction of the justice system worsens day by day and Venezuelans' human rights are violated more and more.

In this sense, the International Commission of Jurists has recommended depoliticizing the Judiciary Power in general, and specifically the Supreme Court of Justice, advancing with appointment processes for judges in accordance with constitutional provisions, establishing independent and autonomous mechanisms within the Judiciary Power for the selection of judges and for exercising of disciplinary functions, and strengthening transparency and accountability in the justice system, and finally, it calls on Venezuelan authorities to comply with International Human Rights Law and international

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Arbitrary detentions of women in Venezuela have increased since 2019

As of June 25th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,744 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 3,624 political prisoners, of which 3,325 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of June 24th, 2021 the number is 299 people, out of which 22 are women. Additionally, 9,392 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

At this moment there are 22 female political prisoners in Venezuela. The cases of arbitrarily detained women in our country have significantly increased since 2019. Not only are they released in an irregular manner, but afterwards they're also subjected indefinitely to irregular processes, without trial. But

the female prisoners aren't the only ones who suffer, the political prisoners' wives, mothers and daughters are also victims of multiple abuses that go from having to travel hundreds of kilometers to visit their loved ones in prison to having to endure unjust and invasive body searches that denigrate their intimacy and dignity.

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org



The Venezuelan State's absence to the IACHR hearing on the country's prison situation is abominable

Defiende Venezuela condemns the Venezuelan State's absence to the compliance hearing on the Montero Aranguren vs. Venezuela case, better known as Retén de Catia [Venezuelan prison demolished in 1997].

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights held the online event on June 23rd, 2021 for revising the Venezuelan State's compliance of the ruling issued in 2006 regarding the Retén de Catia massacre and the advances on improving the conditions in the country's prisons since the ruling was issued. However, the reports discussed in the hearing demonstrate that the situation hasn't improved at all. The presence of State representatives was expected in the hearing, but no one attended.



Let's remember that this case is due to the extrajudicial execution of several inmates of the Retén de Catia, located in Caracas, in the early morning hours on November 27th, 1992 within the context of a second failed *coup d'état* attempt that occurred during that year, which would've caused disturbances in that prison, thus, worsening the inhuman detention conditions lived by the inmates.

The Venezuelan State's absence is deplorable, as well as not presenting current information on the ruling's compliance and of the victims' reparations. This undoubtedly evidences that there's no will whatsoever for respecting and complying human rights in the country.

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info



The invisibility of transgender people impedes their access to health in Venezuela

Four Venezuelan rules explicitly reject discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender identity. Furthermore, since 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) eliminated transgender people from its list of mental illnesses. Nevertheless, the LGBTQI+ Community in Venezuela is far from fully exercising its rights.



In regards to access to health - set forth in Article 83 of the Constitution - transgender people are still the most affected in the violation of their rights by the State, as well as being discriminated by society. The Fundación Reflejos de Venezuela, that accompanies transgender people, insists that many times people's gender identity isn't taken into consideration by the medical and nursing staff of health

centers. But that's just an example. One of the main obstacles for transgender people to exercise their right to health is, besides discrimination, the invisibility of this population.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in their 2018 report titled "Advances and Challenges towards the Recognition of the Rights of LGBTI Persons in the Americas" highlighted: "(...) It is not feasible to take political decisions aimed at addressing the problem of discrimination against LGBTI persons without reliable data, which would also make their situation visible and would mean a form of recognition vis-à-vis other people. (...)". What isn't communicated doesn't exist, and transgender people don't exist to the Venezuelan State.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

There were 99 femicides in Venezuela during the first five months of 2021

There were 99 femicides and 21 attempted femicides in Venezuela during the first five months of 2021. There were 43 femicides and 5 attempted femicides abroad. There were 24 femicides and 6 attempted femicides in the country from May 1st to the 31st, 2021, according to data collected in the femicides monitoring prepared by the Femicide Digital Observatory of the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz). During the same period there were 6 violent deaths of women and 1 attempted femicide abroad.

In average, there was one femicide action every 30 hours in Venezuela during the fifth month of 2021. 13 children were orphaned by their mothers' femicides. One of them witnessed the violent events. 20.8% of the femicides occurred in the State of Miranda; 12.5% in the State of Zulia and 12.5% in the State of Aragua. There was no relation between the victim and the aggressor in 33.3% of the cases. In 29.2% of the cases there was a relation of couples or former partners with or without cohabitation under the same roof. In 16.7% of the cases the aggressor was a member of the same family (father, stepfather, brother, son, stepson, cousin, etc.). 62.5% of the aggressors are at large. 29.2% were apprehended after the fact. During the same period there were 6 violent



deaths of women and one attempted femicide abroad. In other words, there was a femicide action against a Venezuelan woman abroad every 4 days and 10 hours.

There are different situations that influence in a vague, infertile and many times confusing approach to the problem of violence against women in Venezuela. There still isn't a structured national plan against gender violence promoted by the

Ministry for Women and Gender Equality. Furthermore, the State has evaded its obligation of keeping a detailed record of femicides. Collecting statistics is one of the most important elements for prevention. And, however, it isn't done in Venezuela. This is why here at Cepaz we perform this monitoring so that the data collected from the digital communication media are categorized, analyzed and be made available for all institutions and citizens interested in preventing femicides and in the assessment of the responses of the justice system regarding these cases.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

The Venezuelan State doesn't inform of the vaccination processes against COVID-19

Espacio Público filed a petition for information before the Ministry of Health on June 8th, 2021 in order to obtain information regarding the immunization sessions in the Capital District and the rest of the regions of the country.



The petitions were focused on the payment of Venezuela to access the vaccines against the coronavirus, Venezuela's access to the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), the distribution of the Sinopharm vaccine, the access policies to the vaccines through the *Patria* ID, information regarding the tests of the EpiVac Corona Russian vaccine, and the vaccination process at the Dr. José Gregorio Hernández Hospital.

The petitions were addressed to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Presidential Office, the Venezuelan Social Security Institute [*IVSS by its Spanish initials*], the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). Even though they were delivered to different entities, the policy seems to be of not giving response to the petitions for information due to the fact that none of the 13 petitions were responded.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 



Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoaljusticia.org

The Venezuelan regime's tactics for escaping the ICC

Even though the former International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, couldn't keep her word and announcing on June 15th, before leaving her position, whether or not she would open an investigation against officials, former officials and individuals (acting on behalf of the State) for the alleged commission of crimes against humanity in Venezuela, the possibilities of the country becoming the first in America to be investigated for these events are very high. This was made clear by the decisions and 180 degree turns made by Maduro's regime during these last few months.



The latest tactic was on June 21st when Maduro announced the creation of a special commission for the judicial reform that'll be presided by Representatives of the government-biased Parliament Diosdado Cabello and Cilia Flores, as well as by the Magistrate Lourdes Suárez Anderson,

President of the Supreme Court of Justice Constitutional Chamber, for solving the overcrowding situation of the preventive detention centers in 60 days and «taking over of a complete revolution of the justice system, that will integrate all the bodies... A commission that is accountable to the Council of State».

The first maneuver occurred towards the end of March when Maduro decreed the restructure of the National Police in 6 months. Later, the decision adopted on May 12th in which he ordered the National Bolivarian Intelligence Service [SEBIN by its Spanish acronym] and the Military Counterintelligence General Directorate [DGCIM by its Spanish acronym] to deliver all the inmates they had under their custody to the Ministry of the Penitentiary System. The most important move that they've made up to now in their attempts in deactivating an eventual process in The Hague was performed by Tarek William Saab by making a 180 degree turn and announcing that the student Juan Pablo Pernaleté did in fact die by a teargas bomb fired by a National Guard during the April 2017 protest, and acknowledging that the councilperson Fernando Albán didn't commit suicide jumping from the 10th floor of the SEBIN's headquarters, as he himself announced on October 5th, 2018, but rather he had been murdered by his captors.

The authorities' maneuvers only have one purpose: to arm themselves before an eventual international process. These actions seem to reveal that there's fear and angst at the Miraflores Palace [seat of the Venezuelan Government and Office of the President of the Republic] and Fort Tiuna [Venezuelan Military Complex] facing a hypothetical investigation, due to the fact that we must keep in mind that the verdict that the former Prosecutor Bensouda would've made wasn't either an accusation or even less a conviction, it was simply the announcement of the initiation of an investigation, which could take years. However, Venezuelan authorities have put their interests above the victims' interests yet again.

Read more in spanish here 

