



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

The Fundaredes Director was detained for denouncing the conflict in the State of Apure

Exercising freedom of speech in Venezuela has a cost, and sometimes it can mean ending up behind bars. At least that's the feeling left by the case of the Fundaredes Director, Javier Tarazona, who was detained on July 2nd in the State of Falcon; authorities precisely attributed this apprehension to the denouncements and information that have been made by the human rights defender in these last few months regarding the conflict occurring in the border State of Apure.



Affairs, Ramón Rodríguez Chacín, with presumed chiefs of Colombian irregular armed groups.

Javier Tarazona has become an alternative source of information in regards to this conflict waged by members of the National Armed Forces, since the end of March, against dissident members of the

“Public accusations were made without any basis that encourage hatred and seriously compromise peace in the Republic. These types of activities had been carried out under the façade of a non-governmental organization”, affirmed the Prosecutor General appointed by the questionable National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab. This government official assured that Tarazona was apprehended because of the denouncement he made days earlier concerning the alleged ties between the former Minister of Internal

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [*FARC by its Spanish acronym*] that didn't surrender weapons and who have settled in the State of Apure, at the south of the country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Michelle Bachelet, took note of the detention of the Fundaredes Director as well as of three other activists, one of whom was released, and considered that this event forms part of the “reduction of the civic space and of the intensification of the polarization” lived in Venezuela.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Current Parliament declares agreements, decisions and acts of the Parliament elected in 2015 as null and void

The Parliament elected in 2020 unanimously approved an agreement on July 7th, 2021 that declares the inexistence, ineffectiveness and nullity of the agreements, decisions and acts of the Parliament elected in 2015, due to the fact that, according to the regime's rhetoric, it was in continuous contempt and that said agreements are contrary to the interests of the Republic and to the rights of the people.



the Parliament elected in 2015, based on Article 333 of the Constitution.

Among these decisions is the agreement for appointing the permanent representative before the Organization of American States (OAS) and the agreement to reestablish the validity of the

It should be kept in mind that, facing the absence of a democratically elected head of state and the usurpation of the Presidency of the Republic, adopting all decisions that allowed reestablishing the constitutional and democratic order corresponded to

American Convention on Human Rights and the international protection offered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as many other agreements of national significance and in favor of human rights. With this decision, Nicolás Maduro's regime once more thwarts civil society and the international community.

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

Report on the human rights situation in Venezuela



In the recent report presented on July 5th, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Michelle Bachelet, pointed out, among other things, the protests of the Venezuelan health personnel seeking adequate and safe working conditions as well as access to the vaccination, due to the fact that they are in the front line of COVID-19 infection because they lack adequate protection equipment. She also referred to the miserable conditions of the country's prisons and "saluted" the releases of political prisoners that have been made, as well as the humanitarian measures granted in cases that have been documented by her office.



In that report she highlighted her concern for the "stigmatization, criminalization and threats against dissident voices, especially towards civil society, communication media and members of the opposition". She pointed out that her office has documented 97 "incidents" related to people who defend human rights, accused of crimes by the mere fact of exercising legitimate forms of civic participation.

What the High Commissioner "salutes" as accomplishments for advancing towards a healthy coexistence of respect to human rights are minimum gestures compared to the permanent and infamous violations committed in our country and that places the citizens' human rights as cards to be used by those who are in power and played at their convenience.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Rejection of the arbitrary detention of three FundaRedes activists by State security forces



Un Mundo Sin Mordaza categorically rejects the arbitrary detention of Javier Tarazona, National Director of FundaRedes, as well as of his activists Omar de Dios García and José Rafael Tarazona.



The activists had previously been targets of attacks and aggressions from different security forces that execute measures with a view to criminalize and outlaw the work of denouncing and broadcasting information performed by the human rights defense organization. FundaRedes counts with a protection injunction issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Resolution N° 30/2020 dated June 18th, 2020, which protects its work team due to the repeated complaints of harassment on behalf of Nicolás Maduro's regime.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, in its work of promoting and defending human rights, rejects and condemns the actions of the regime in detriment of Javier Tarazona, Omar García and José Rafael Tarazona, which infringe upon personal security

and freedom, dignity, and the access to a due process set forth in Articles 9, 10 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It also urges the IACHR to decide on the violation of the protection injunctions previously issued by this Commission to the members of FundaRedes, and exhort the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Michelle Bachelet, and other international authorities in charge of protecting human rights to condemn this new aggression.

PROVEA - www.provea.org

Provea presented its Annual Report on the human rights situation in Venezuela

The Programa Venezolano de Educación Acción en Derechos Humanos (Provea) presented its annual report on human rights on Wednesday July 7th, in which it records the main advancements, setbacks, obstacles, and threats on 14 human rights in Venezuela. 2020 developed within a context of continuity of human rights violations in a massive and systematic manner, which reaffirmed the dictatorial character of Nicolás Maduro's government as well as the team accompanying him, with higher responsibility in the public administration.



The serious violations motivated that both the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor's Office pointed out that there were reasonable motives to consider that crimes against humanity have been committed in Venezuela, at least since 2017. The systematic persecution of the opposition political forces had as one of its consequences the weakening of the Parliament. Some parliamentary representatives were forced to leave the country as refugees, while others went into hiding underground. The persecution also reached several social leaders, among them some union members.

The growing deficiencies in public services kept deteriorating the quality of life of the population and were the cause of protests that even though they were smaller than those in 2019 - with 16,739 mobilizations - they reached 9,633, according to data from the Venezuelan Observatory of Social Contentiousness [OVCS by its Spanish initials].

The human rights international protection mechanisms continued monitoring the human rights situation in the country and presented different recommendations, but authorities haven't complied with most of them. This was performed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Michelle Bachelet, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the International Labor Organization (ILO), through the ILO Commission of Inquiry and the United Nations FFM. At the same time the Preliminary Exam performed by the ICC Prosecutor's Office makes progress.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Fundaredes activists detained for making denouncements

Tarek William Saab, Prosecutor General appointed by the illegitimate National Constituent Assembly, justified the detention of Javier Tarazona, Rafael Tarazona and Omar García, director and activists of Fundaredes, respectively, for having issued public accusations without any basis regarding the alleged ties between Nicolás Maduro's government with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC by its Spanish acronym] and the National Liberation Army [ELN by its Spanish initials].



Saab assured that these "unfounded public accusations" constitute "actions that encourage hatred against the highest authorities of the country and pretend to create an array of negative opinions at an international level".

The three activists were charged with the alleged commission of crimes of promoting hatred, treason and terrorism. It is worth mentioning that they have the right to exercise the work of defending human rights, freely and without any obstacles and should not be persecuted

for this, due to the fact that the States have the responsibility of respecting human rights and of protecting those who defend them. When they fail, it's the responsibility of the international community to exercise the corresponding denouncements and to ensure their protection.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Rebuilding the trust in the electoral path is a task that corresponds to everyone in Venezuela

Electoral guarantees in Venezuela have suffered a long and systematic deterioration process during the last decade that worsened gradually. The most recent elections, called on December 6th, 2020, had the worst conditions of the last few years. The denial of the electoral guarantees included different actions, such as illegal disqualifications against opposition politicians, hindering electoral monitoring, interventions of political parties, and restrictions so that Venezuelans abroad couldn't exercise their right to vote. The solution to the crisis in Venezuela goes through the reestablishment of civil and political rights. In order for this to be possible, the electoral assistance of the United Nations and the monitoring of the European Union are fundamental. The re-institutionalization of the vote is a necessary step for rebuilding democracy.

The objective is having elections that are fair (with the same rules applied to everyone), transparent (one person and one vote) and free (without coercion). As part of that rebuilding process, the minimum guarantees demanded are an independent electoral arbitration, political pluralism, an updated electoral registry, international monitoring, and respect to the results. Releasing political parties from the current judicial limitations, performing technical processes audits, suspending political disqualifications, eliminating checkpoints on behalf of the



government party at the voting centers (red points), recovering the right to vote for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, regulating the use of public media for the benefit of the government party, and implementing a security protocol for preventing COVID-19 infection during the electoral process are required, among other things, in order to achieve these five objectives.

Qualified national and international electoral monitoring is essential. Since the recovery process will be gradual, monitoring mustn't only be of one electoral event, but a long and medium term process that includes the electoral event on November 21st, 2021, and it can culminate in 2024 with a presidential election. The electoral technical assistance of the United Nations in matters of elections can include providing legal, technical and operational advice and financial resources in order to hold transparent, unbiased elections and with results recognized by all political actors. In order to accomplish this, civil society organizations have proposed the strategy of documenting, demanding and participating in each stage of the electoral timeline.

Read more in spanish here 

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

COVID-19 pandemic demands a different response to HIV populations

In the beginning of June, the United Nations General Assembly approved a declaration that requested measures to eradicate the HIV epidemic for 2030. It pointed out that the coronavirus pandemic has intensified inequalities and worsened access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatments and diagnosing AIDS.

The agreement commits 193 nations to give a response to HIV/AIDS populations facing the COVID-19 worldwide emergency. Venezuela is one of those States; however, it was barely in May 2021, after more than one



year of confinement, that the Venezuelan authorities mentioned people with HIV as one of the populations at risk and the Minister of Health, Carlos Alvarado, promised that this group would be a priority in the next vaccination stages.

According to UNAIDS, up to 2019 there were 112,000 people infected with HIV in Venezuela, and ART treatments haven't been imported since 2017. The lack of specific information increases the situation of vulnerability of these groups, which seems to place Venezuela very far from the objective proposed by the United Nations.

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

The ICC Prosecutor's Office has a deadline to inform if the investigation regarding crimes against humanity in Venezuela proceeds

Foro Penal

As of July 9th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,748 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 3,628 political prisoners, of which 3,329 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of July 9th, 2021 the number is 299 people, out of which 22 are women. Additionally, 9,393 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

On July 2nd, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber set July 23rd as the deadline for the Prosecutor's Office to make public its position on the admissibility of the investigation on the alleged commission of crimes against humanity in Venezuela.

Chamber I also dismissed the "judicial control" petition that was filed by the government of Venezuela. Just like we had said before, it was evidently improper, inadmissible and filed late.

We hope that on July 23rd the former Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's position on the Venezuela situation will then be known.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

2020 annual report: annulment of the opposition, the vote and the Parliament in Venezuela

Acceso a la Justicia

The Parliament elected in 2015 received the coup de grace in 2020 from the Supreme Court of Justice [TSJ by its Spanish initials], an entity that also created the conditions so that the government party made use of this power in the parliamentary elections on December 6th, 2020. This was denounced in our annual report titled *La consolidación de un régimen autoritario en Venezuela: Sin parlamento ni derecho al voto* [The Consolidation of an Authoritarian Regime in Venezuela: Without Parliament or the Right to Vote].



In the report that was published this week, the organization recalled that the maximum court stole the attribution of electing the National Electoral Council [CNE by its Spanish initials] from the Parliament dominated by the opposition, stating as an excuse that the Parliament had incurred in legislative omission, in spite of having appointed the Electoral Nominations Committee. But the main authority of the Judiciary Power, through its Constitutional Chamber, not only appointed the referees, it also authorized them to change the rules of the game. The TSJ not only made maneuvers in order to guarantee the most advantageous conditions for the government party at the ballot boxes, but also chose its opponents in the elections. In a matter of weeks the Supreme Court

dismissed the directors of the opposition parties Acción Democrática (AD), Primero Justicia (PJ), Voluntad Popular (VP), Movimiento Republicano, and Acción Ciudadana en Positivo; as well as those of the government parties Patria Para Todos (PPT) and Tendencias Unificadas Para Alcanzar el Movimiento de Acción Revolucionaria Organizada (Tupamaro).

The suspicions that the legal modifications, far from guaranteeing political pluralism, as assured by the Constitutional Chamber at that moment, in reality sought to assure the government party's control of the Parliament were confirmed with the official results of the legislative elections: the alliance comprised of followers of Hugo Chávez's policies was overrepresented, because with 69.34% of the votes it obtained 91.34% of the parliamentary seats (253 out of a total of 277 representatives). The manner in which the ruling party retook control of the Parliament worsens the serious institutional crisis suffered by Venezuela, which has evolved into a Complex Humanitarian Emergency.

Read more in spanish here 

