



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

## Bulletin No. 192

From July 19 to 26, 2021

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

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

## International sanctions increase due to corruption with the Local Committees for Supply and Production (CLAP)



The Colombian entrepreneur, Alex Saab, detained in Cape Verde due to a petition for extradition from the United States, and his business partner, Álvaro Pulido, made the news again. The British government decided to include them in its “black list” of those sanctioned for getting rich at the expense of the suffering of Venezuelans.



already in poverty for their own private enrichment”.

The Colombian entrepreneurs had already been sanctioned by United States authorities for presumed cases of corruption. On July 25th, 2019, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the US Department of the Treasury sanctioned Saab and Pulido Vargas, as well as

The Foreign Secretary (Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs), Dominic Raab, announced the decision through a communication on July 22nd. In this text, he accuses Saab and Pulido of irregularly undersigning million-dollar contracts from the Venezuelan government for importing foods, medicines and constructing infrastructures, and inflating prices, thanks to which they gathered a great fortune. These contracts would’ve been executed both in times of the late Hugo Chávez as well as his successor, Nicolás Maduro. The London government accused them as follows: “Their actions caused more suffering to Venezuelans who were

eight other people, who were accused of participating in a vast network that benefited with overvalued contracts for importing food for the Local Committees for Supply and Production [CLAP by its Spanish acronym].

**Read more in spanish here** 

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

## Cuba and Nicaragua: we need to recover the democratic civic space



Venezuelan organizations undersigning this communication categorically reject the illegitimate restrictions and repressions of the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua towards human rights defenders, activists, journalists, communication media workers, social leaders, and society in general that criminalizes the exercise of fundamental rights.



We demand of the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua the immediate cease of repression and the fulfillment of their obligations associated to international law. We reiterate that human rights violations and abuses don't have a statute of limitations and are broadly documented both by international protection systems as well as by

national and international civil society organizations.

We show full support and solidarity with the people and associations that in Nicaragua and Cuba demand their right to live with dignity.

**Read more in spanish here** 

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

### Electrical power failures increase and violate Venezuelans' human rights

The electrical power failures throughout the entire country are more and more frequent every day. On July 21st, there were blackouts in at least 10 states of the country that lasted for hours and in some towns for more than one day. A committee comprised of those affected by the blackouts published a report in March telling that since the "mega-blackout" occurred in 2019, there have been 294,324 electrical power failures in Venezuela.



have the resources are left adrift, living the scarcities derived from the electric power failures.

The electrical power service interruptions have reached a point that many citizens have found themselves in the need of moving to other areas in order to live, along with the difficulties this entails. But only a few are able to do these movements, since the great majorities that don't

On the other hand, the consequences of the permanent electrical power failures are associated with the suspension of work activities, loss of foods that can't be refrigerated, failures in the water service pumping systems, in communications, and in connectivity. All in all, it leads millions of Venezuelans to anxiety that violates their right set forth in Article 82 of the Constitution: "Every person has the right to appropriate, safe, comfortable, and hygienic housing with essential basic services that include a habitat that humanizes familiar, neighborly and community relations".

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

### The NGOs have been essential in the COVID-19 prevention work in Venezuela

The balance of figures on COVID-19 in Venezuela as of Wednesday July 21st was 18 dead and 1,019 cases: 993 community cases and the rest imported. Even though the total number of cases of recovered people is 279,177 out of 295,746, and a vaccination plan is being implemented, there's still a bio-security protocol that's difficult to fully comply due to the shortage of supplies and scarcity of basic services.



increase of infections in the population.

Facing this reality, the non-governmental organizations that have given response and attention to the consequences of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency in the country since 2016 have undertaken a key role in the prevention of the virus, supplying civil society and health personnel with personal protection equipment and materials in order to avoid the

Acción Solidaria is one of the organizations that have provided this material. From October 2020 to April 2021 they've supported 43 organizations and 10 public entities. It's managed to donate 73,022 N95 face masks; 106,700 gloves; 94,200 surgical caps; 66,500 three-fold surgical masks, among other implements necessary for individual and collective care. Nevertheless, non-governmental organizations have a limited capacity and they aren't enough for tending to the needs demanded by the country in the COVID-19 pandemic; thus, responsibility on behalf of the State for tending to the situation must keep being demanded.

**PROVEA - [www.provea.org](http://www.provea.org)**



## Police violence against poor young men

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR), established in its decision dated June 3rd, 2021, that the murder of two people by police forces of the State of Falcon occurred in a context of police brutality, which affected mainly young men in a situation of poverty. At the same time, there exists a high degree of impunity in regards to said violence.



A decision of great relevance in a moment in which heavy-handed politics, of police and military institutional violence, is offered by the government as the most adequate solution for the crime.

The Court, questioning the government's opacity in reporting the deaths perpetrated by public forces, ordered the Venezuelan State that it must publish an official report with the information regarding the deaths occurred at the hands of police forces in all the states of the country and the identification of the victims in these circumstances, even by means of information concerning the name, age, sex or gender, place

of residence and social condition, among others, within the term of one year, at the most. This report that must be published every year can contribute to the fight against impunity and benefits the construction of a memorial of the victims of abuse of power in Venezuela.

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



## Citizen safety, yes. Human rights violations, no

On July 17th, 2021, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Carmen Meléndez, retorted in Petare, Municipality of Sucre in Caracas, the "Cacique Guaicaipuro Operation", whose purpose is to identify and capture presumed delinquents of organized criminal groups.



Considering the balance given by the authorities regarding said operation, presumably nine delinquents that confronted the security forces deployed in the parish were detained; seven of them form part of the criminal group Wuileisys and two come from Cota 905 [or *Guzman Blanco Avenue, a road in the west of Caracas*]. And, additionally, other people seem to have been identified for robbery, drug possession, kidnapping, not having identification documents, among others. However, even though here at Defiende Venezuela, we recognize that citizen safety and the legitimate use of force are responsibilities of the State, we express deep

concern for the method under which these police operations are carried out.

Firstly, because we've obtained testimonies that the homes are raided by police groups, violently forcing the people inside to leave their houses while they perform searches unsupervised by officers from the Prosecutor's Office or from the Office of the Ombudsman. And, secondly, because Venezuela and its security forces have a long history of false positives and of committing extrajudicial executions against people in situation of poverty, particularly of young men, within the framework of police operations. Consequently, although we agree on the importance of the identification and capture of delinquents, we urge the Venezuelan State to respect and guarantee human rights in police operations, especially offering accountability in a transparent manner, as well as not committing extrajudicial executions.

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

## 125 femicides perpetrated in Venezuela during the first semester of 2021



The Femicide Digital Observatory of the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) documented 125 femicides occurred in Venezuela during the first six months of 2021. During that same period, there were 49 femicides of Venezuelan women abroad. There was a femicide action every 20 hours. This monitoring also includes attempted femicides. During those six months, there were 23 cases in Venezuela and 9 of Venezuelan women abroad. 57 boys and girls were orphaned due to their mothers' femicides during the first half of the year; 34 in Venezuela and 23 abroad.

There were 26 perpetrated femicides and 2 attempted femicides in the country in June. In average, there was a femicide action every 26 hours. In total, 6 children were orphaned. 26.9% of the femicides occurred in the State of Bolivar; 15.4% in the State of Aragua; 5% in the State of Carabobo; and another 5% in the Capital District. 96.2% of the victims were Venezuelan nationals. 46% were

between the ages of 19 and 36 years old. 7% were little girls; 11.5% were teenage girls; and 10.7% were women between the ages of 55 and 69 years old. One of the victims had disappeared before finding the body.

Here at Cepaz we sustain that in our country the formation of a special criminal law in gender isn't always enough. The tendency has been to resort to the gender criminal types or to the aggravating circumstances of violence against women in order to increase the number of sanctions against the aggressor, which in practice contributes to the perpetuation of the systematic violence, since it facilitates hoisting a fight that hasn't been as such, due to the fact that the State limits itself to dictating exemplary laws of an organic nature that it doesn't rigorously execute (because it can't or because it won't). Furthermore, it doesn't adopt public policies from the gender perspective guided towards -transversely- removing the inequality in the different areas of its competence. We have an absent State, lost in rhetoric that doesn't offer real guarantees, it doesn't strengthen safe conditions for women, it doesn't have an effective attention system, and it doesn't put its heart and soul in preventing, avoiding and sanctioning violence against women.

**Read more in spanish here** 

**Foro Penal - [www.foropenal.com](http://www.foropenal.com)**

## Arbitrary trial initiated against oil worker to silence him as a critical voice within Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA)

As of July 23rd, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,753 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 3,631 political prisoners, of which 3,355 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of July 23rd, 2021 the number is 277 people, out of which 16 are women. Additionally, 9,392

people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

The unjust and arbitrary trial against oil worker and union leader, Eudis Girot, initiated this week. The Prosecutor's Office reasserted its accusation, without any evidence, for the supposed "disclosure of confidential information" and for the also supposed "illegal possession of weapons". Eudis Girot is criminally persecuted in order to neutralize him as a critical voice within the state-owned oil company Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. [PDVSA by its Spanish acronym] and for his fight in defending workers' rights.



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

**President of the Venezuelan Parliament takes on attributions from other public powers**

Legislating, approving additional credits and contracts of public interest, and controlling the government. These are some of the attributions conferred by the Constitution to the Representatives of the Parliament [AN by its Spanish initials]. Nevertheless, during these last few days, Jorge Rodríguez, President of the Parliament, decided to take on the attributions of the Prosecutor's Office and even the Office of the Ombudsman in regards to the events of the Cota 905 road.



questionable National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, what he had to do. "I imagine that after these images the Prosecutor General's Office must've issued arrest warrants for Gilber Caro, Hasler Iglesias, Emilio Graterón, and Luis Somaza", said the representative after showing

On July 13th, the government-biased legislator assured that the events recorded between July 7th and 9th at the southwestern part of Caracas - when the criminal group of "El Koki" attacked the headquarters of different police forces and threatened to murder residents of La Vega neighborhood - were planned by the opposition, among whom Freddy Guevara, a Member of Parliament elected in 2015, was pointed out, along with the Colombian government. Guevara was detained on July 12th while he was driving his car on the Francisco Fajardo Highway. Afterwards, the government-biased representative showed some alleged screenshots of conversations that Guevara and other opposition leaders of Voluntad Popular had during the last few months and which, according to him, would prove that they were planning violent events.

the supposed chats between members of the opposition. Additionally, not only did Rodríguez act as the Prosecutor General, but he also acted as the Ombudsman upon addressing the Freddy Guevara case: "... He hasn't disappeared; he's imprisoned for terrorist and paramilitary plans in Caracas (...) Freddy Guevara attempted to commit acts against peace of the Venezuelan Republic and the Republic defended itself."

The action of Jorge Rodríguez is the best example that the division of powers and the justice system's impartiality and independence are barely a mere appearance in Venezuela, no matter what the Prosecutor General Saab says otherwise before the International Criminal Court. When the most elemental constitutional principles towards opposition leaders aren't respected, there cannot be any hope of something different occurring with common citizens.

As if the foregoing weren't enough, Jorge Rodríguez told the Prosecutor General imposed in 2017 by the

**Read more in spanish here** 

