



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

The ambition of consolidating an antidemocratic State attempts against political rights

The Communal Cities Bill is an ambition that had been presented by Hugo Chávez since 2007 in the text of the reform to the Constitution and was rejected by the majority of Venezuelans. However, in his eagerness to centralize power even more, Nicolás Maduro and his group have also recovered Chávez's original idea, who demanded "Commune or nothing", through this text that has already been approved in first discussion by the illegitimate Parliament.



substitute this political territorial division through communal councils, communes and communal cities, thus destroying the municipality or, at least, blurring it completely by transferring all its functions (as well as those of the parishes) to those new entities that will be directly controlled by the central power.

It deals with a new form of State, through a new geometry of power, seeking to substitute the Constitutional State designed in the text of 1999 for an antidemocratic Communal State, changing the political territorial division established in Article 16 of the Constitution of the Republic, which sets forth the following *"In order to politically organize the Republic, the national territory is divided into the States, the Capital District, the federal dependencies, and the federal territories. The territory is organized in municipalities."* And with this new territorial distribution pretending to

On the other hand, the principle of democratic representativeness is suppressed in this project according to which the Public Power authorities are elected to install communal cities, communes and communal councils whose functions will be those that currently have the municipalities and the states without their representatives being directly elected by the people, but by the group of persons that comprise this Communal City, thus violating the civic right set forth in Article 63 of the Constitution, the right to vote, through free, universal, direct, and secret elections, with which the participation of the people to elect who will hold the positions of President of the Republic, state governors, state legislators, mayors and councilpersons is fulfilled.

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

New ICC Prosecutor will submit his own conclusions to the file on the Venezuela case

As of August 6th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,760 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 3,638 political prisoners, of which 3,369 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of August 6th, 2021 the number is 269 people, out of which 17 are women. Additionally, 9,406 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

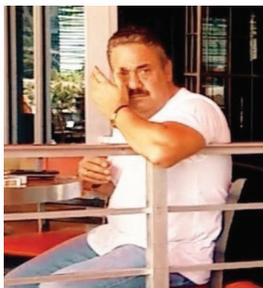
It's worrying that the International Criminal Court Prosecutor, Karim Khan, hasn't published the edited version of the brief that that, according to the Pre-Trial Chamber, had been submitted by his predecessor, Fatou Bensouda, as it was ordered by this same Chamber. Said brief would've declared the preliminary exam on the Venezuela I situation as concluded, which assesses the possible commission of crimes against humanity in Venezuela.

According to the new Prosecutor, he needs to maintain the assessment of the situation and has requested for more time in order to submit his own conclusions. The resolution of the Pre-Trial Chamber regarding this proposal is still pending.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Naman Wakil is accused of corruption with importing foods and oil businesses

Naman Wakil, the Venezuelan magnate of Syrian origin detained on August 3rd in Miami, United States of America, was formally accused before a federal court of that city for his alleged participation in a network of paying bribes and money laundering that allowed him to obtain at least 250 million dollars in food import contracts with the Venezuelan State and attaining the signature of several agreements for approximately 30 million dollars for providing “goods and services” to the joint ventures of PDVSA [State-owned national oil corporation] Petropiar and Petromiranda.



(FCPA); violation of the FCPA; conspiracy to commit money laundering; money laundering of international promotion; and three charges of participating in transactions with property derived from the offense. In this presumed plot of corruption 10 more Venezuelans would be involved, among them 5 Venezuelan government officials.

According to the accusation, the businessman would’ve laundered money obtained with these contracts through bank accounts in southern Florida with the purchase of 10 apartments in the same area where he resided, as well as the purchase of a 3.5 million dollar aircraft of and a 1.5 million dollar yacht. And as if this weren’t enough, he purchased 10 more properties in the south of France. On the same day he was detained, Wakil was presented before a court where he was accused of conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

The court docket against Wakil joins over 78 others that have been also opened by the United States justice related to corruption originated in Venezuela, as per the records of Transparencia Venezuela up to June 2021. According to data collected by the organization, the food and oil sectors are two of the most affected by irregular businesses carried out in the last two decades. These practices end up generating a serious impact on Venezuelans’ human rights, especially on the neediest.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

The Warao indigenous people don’t receive attention or information regarding HIV/AIDS

Every August 9th, the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is celebrated, but in Venezuela not even on this date the State guarantees the human rights of the Warao communities, the second native population with the most people in Venezuela, after the Wayuu indigenous people. Melquiades Ávila, a Warao journalist, insists that the ethnicities in the State of Delta Amacuro have been unattended for so many years that he’s lost count. He assures that the HIV has a contagion epicenter in San Francisco de Guayo, where between 1,500 and 1,800 indigenous people live, but additionally the epidemic has an impact on another dozen nearby communities. “HIV is a taboo and whoever tries to say that there are people infected will be intimidated by the authorities”, says Ávila.



information, discrediting the academic community and censoring journalists such as himself, who’s been a victim of harassment. He doesn’t know if there are currently antiretroviral treatments in Delta Amacuro or if the medical attention centers count with the necessary staff. Accessing health centers is difficult, not to mention the lack of fuel that hinders transportation.

The last study that Melquiades Ávila remembers was performed by researchers of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) [Central University of Venezuela] before the year 2010, since then, he assures, the state government has been at fault of impeding the access to

According to a report published in July 2020 in a Peruvian communication media, many healers or medicine men of the Warao ethnicity kept treating the HIV infection just the same as they had been doing for decades: with rituals. Melquiades Ávila specifies that even though there’s no data nor do they speak of the epidemic openly, every month he hears stories of young Warao men that die due to lack of treatments. Here at Acción Solidaria, we insist on the importance that the Venezuelan State guarantees the right to health for all people, especially for those populations in greater situation of vulnerability, such as women, children and adolescents, the elderly and indigenous peoples.

PROVEA - www.provea.org



Vaccines at a slow and disorderly pace

The vaccination process in the country has been characterized as being slow and disorderly. According to the regime, as of July 4th, 2,508,201 people had been vaccinated, which represents no more than 11% of the population. It's possible that from that total an important percentage has only received the first dose; therefore, they're still in a situation of high vulnerability.



there's no adequate information in regards to the purchase of the vaccines and the reasons why they decided to purchase one brand and not the other. Up to this date not even the health personnel has been totally vaccinated, and millions of adults wait at least for the first dose.

Besides, you have to add that months go by and there's no vaccination plan with precise and well-defined goals or criteria to prioritize sectors of the population,

According to data from the Médicos Unidos de Venezuela organization, between July 2020 and July 2021, 767 people of the health sector have died in the country due to COVID-19. Since the pandemic started and up to July 31st, 2021, the official record shows that there are 305,766 people infected in the country, out of which 3,119 have died.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org



Maduro's government leaves behind states of exception without resolving the problems they were supposed to fight

If there was ever any doubt that Nicolás Maduro used the constitutional figure of the states of exception for neutralizing the Parliament [AN by its Spanish initials] elected in 2015 and reinforcing his control on the institutions, public funds and citizenship, the manner in which he's damaged this tool seems to answer it. The reasons argued to appeal to these exceptional remedies are still there and the only thing that's changed is that now the followers of Hugo Chávez's policies [Chavismo] now have control over the Parliament.



more than the 120 days set forth in Article 338 of the Constitution, the regime absorbed more and more attributions that corresponded to the legislators.

In January 2016, days after the Parliament controlled by the opposition took over; Maduro issued a Presidential Decree of a State of Economic Exception with the excuse of facing the "economic war". However, everything points to the measure would've ended, since the last extension expired on April 23rd, according to the Presidential Decree 4.440, published in the Extraordinary Official Gazette Nº 6.615 dated February 23rd, 2021. The state of exception and economic emergency formed part, along with decisions from the Supreme Court of Justice [TSJ by its Spanish initials], of the strategy that the National Executive Power put into effect in order to dismantle and liquidate the Parliament. Thus, through 31 Presidential Decrees that imposed this regime, extending it much

Thanks to this figure, Maduro, in his last lustrum, was able to approve and dispose of public funds without any type of control or supervision. He was also able to transfer resources from one item to another, to sign contracts of public interest and loans, adjust the fiscal unit, appoint ambassadors and order the transfer of illustrious men and women to the National Pantheon without the need of counting on the approval of the Members of Parliament, as ordered by the Constitution. Therefore, the regime of the states of exception demonstrated that they were far from defending the country's stability and safeguard citizens' rights. On the contrary, it promoted the institutional rupture; it consolidated the *De Facto* State, and worsened the Complex Humanitarian Emergency the country is going through.

Read more in spanish here 

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

The new joint regulation in Venezuela isn't enough to assure women's participation

In the upcoming regional and municipal elections to be held in Venezuela in November 2021, the National Electoral Council [CNE by its Spanish initials] issued the special regulation to guarantee the rights of joint, alternate and political participation of legislators and councilpersons in the 2021 regional and municipal elections and the instructions handbook on applying this rule. We point out two important advancements, the existence of a verification process of compliance with the formulas and the establishment of a sanction in case of violating the regulation, and likewise the publication of the regulation in a timely manner for selecting the candidates through internal elections in each one of the organizations with political purposes.

Nevertheless, in the past, the rules of parity and rotation of power published in electoral contexts have been characterized by their level of flexibility, the lack of verification of compliance and finally electoral results that don't respond to the criteria established in said rules. We can find an example of this in the latest electoral event when, even though there was a rule regulating nominations of representatives with a parity and rotation of power criteria, we verified that in the national allocation



list of 26 political parties, barely 3 met the criteria of gender parity and none of the organizations complied with the presentations of candidatures in an alternate form.

In spite of the scarcities found in the new rule, dragging a historical debt that the Venezuelan State has had in the matter, we hope that in this opportunity it advocates for the compliance of the regulation, and that translates in effectively carrying out the revision of the formulas of parity and rotation of power, and the necessary measures and sanctions for assuring said compliance. Meanwhile, we continue to insist that from the point of view of establishing the gender parity quotas and adapting the national legislation to international standards in the matter, there's still a long way to go, including the importance of a legislative reform that allows establishing legal criteria that assure the full and effective participation of women in politics.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

CONATEL takes the *Punto de Corte Radio* program off the air

The National Telecommunications Commission of Venezuela [CONATEL by its Spanish acronym] ordered that the *Punto de Corte Radio* program be taken off the air, which was broadcasted Mondays to Fridays through the *Radio Fe y Alegría* 1390 AM and 105.7 FM signal.

Johan Álvarez, a journalist, announcer of the radio program and also Director of *Punto de Corte*, explained to Espacio Público that in other opportunities the radio station had received threats from CONATEL to close down the program: "They never indicated if it was a problem with the talk show host, the name, the content or the news portal", he indicated.

Even though the content was restructured, we



received another call and they demanded that the program be taken off the air.

After closing down, the coordination of *Radio Fe y Alegría* and the *Punto de Corte* team tried to communicate with them in order to find an alternative and to know the real reasons why the program was taken off the air. The radio station is still waiting to meet with CONATEL to know more details regarding the decision of this authority. Up to this moment the reasons are unknown.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

