



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Bulletin No. 198

From August 30 to September 6, 2021

www.crisisenvenezuela.com

PROVEA - www.provea.org

Negotiation and human rights

A dialogue and negotiation process between Nicolás Maduro's government and the opposition has started in Mexico. That both sectors have established a first agreement: dialogue and also establishing a general commitment of the content of the deliberations (memorandum of understanding) is an important step.

The issue of justice doesn't appear in the agenda. That's an alarm. It's a dialogue that's occurring within a context of massive and systematic human rights violations at a level of crimes against humanity. Crimes that have left thousands of victims that have a right to justice.

On the other hand, this process is produced in midst of a Complex Humanitarian Emergency with millions of people going hungry and subjected to an increasing deterioration of their life conditions. Within this national



contest, social organizations must influence so that commitments arise in said negotiation in order to advance in truth, memory and justice and specific measures that have an impact on the families' quality of life, mainly on those at the lower end of the resource scale.

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

People with diabetes in Venezuela depend on humanitarian programs

According to data from Acción Solidaria's National Information Center, 314 medications associated with diabetes were delivered in June as part of their Humanitarian Action program. Metformin ranked among the first five most requested medications during the first semester of the year. During this time 1,650 donations have been delivered.



The treatment delivered to each beneficiary equals to one month, the dose for each one varies depending on the indications of the treating physician, however, some people may consume up to 3 times a day in presentation of 500, 800 and 1,000 milligrams. In midst of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency [EHC by its Spanish initials] the country is going through, people living with diabetes must keep seeking more alternatives for affording the expenses of their treatment and maintaining this chronic condition under control.

The problem isn't limited to the availability of the treatment for diabetes, but it also covers the lack of

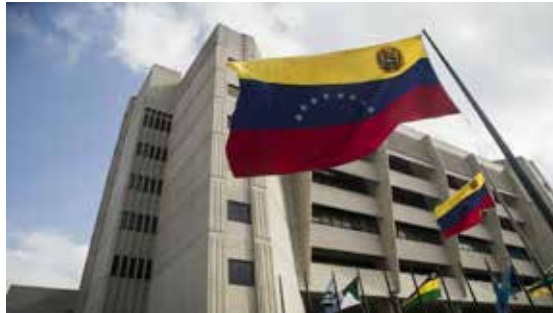
access to foods for keeping a balanced diet. Therefore, Imperia Brajkovich, Vice-President of the Venezuelan Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, sustains that it's impossible to keep a balanced diet that prevents the high glucose levels in the country due to the economic crisis and low salaries. Programs such as those of Acción Solidaria are vital to ease the effects of the EHC; nevertheless, they aren't enough to tend to all the affected people. This is why more concrete actions are required that allow the development of more assistance programs to the vulnerable population, as well as the attention of the structural causes of the Venezuelan Complex Humanitarian Emergency.

Read more in spanish here 

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Supreme Court denied the release of a member of the Wayuu people subjected to military justice

The National Constitution in force since 1999 and international treaties on human rights are clear in stating that only those who wear a uniform can be subjected to military justice. However, Venezuelans who don't wear uniform are at the mercy of military judges and with the blessing of the Supreme Court. Proof of that is the case of Johandrys Daniel Hernández Hernández, member of the Wayuu people to whom our highest court denied his release, in spite of not being a member of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces.



The Constitutional Chamber, through its decision number 299 dated June 22nd, 2021, dismissed the habeas corpus that his defense team filed against the 10th Military Court of Control in Maracaibo (State of Zulia) that ordered his preventive detention for considering that it wasn't within its competence but of a Martial Court, the hierarchical superior instance of military courts.

The arguments alleged by Hernández's defense team were futile, who stated that the accused wasn't a member of the military when he was detained on February 9th, 2020 by military officers and presented before a military court, where he was charged with the crimes set forth in the National Security Organic Act and the Military Justice Organic Code, in a clear violation to the principle of a natural judge. The Constitutional Chamber, as a guarantor of the Constitution, had the attribution of exercising its broad faculties for resolving the violation of Hernández's rights, but opted not to do so and this should come as no surprise. Why? The criterion of this instance is that civilians can indeed be prosecuted by military judges.

Read more in spanish here 

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

An arrest warrant against the journalist Fernando Petrocelli was requested

The Prosecutor General appointed by the National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, requested an arrest warrant against the sports journalist Fernando Petrocelli, who's accused of the crimes of "symbolic violence" and "instigating hatred" after writing a tweet in which he made reference to the wife of the Argentine soccer player, Lionel Messi, visiting Venezuela.



After criticizing this comment, Saab informed through his Twitter account the initiation of a legal procedure against the journalist: "the 94th National Prosecutor appointed to request the arrest warrant and charge Fernando Petrocelli with the crimes of symbolic violence and instigating hatred for gender discrimination against Ms. Antonella Rocuzzo, Lionel Messi's wife".

During this year, other Venezuelan comedians and journalists have been pointed out by Saab for alleged crimes against women or accused under the Anti Hatred Act. They were even subpoenaed for depositions at the Prosecutor General's Office after complaints in social media. Such is the case of José Rafael Briceño, César Batiz, Director of *El Pitazo* news portal, Jean Mary Curró, and Alex Goncalves.

Read more in spanish here 

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

FundaRedes activists wait for preliminary hearing after two months of being arbitrarily detained

As of September 3rd, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,762 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since April 1st, 2014. 872 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,640 political prisoners, of which 3,376 have been released under different modalities.



The preliminary hearing of the FundaRedes activists Javier Tarazona, Rafael Tarazona and Omar de Dios García, who were arbitrarily detained on July 2nd in the State of Falcon, is expected to be held this week. They haven't committed any crime whatsoever and were incarcerated for their work as

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of September 3rd, 2021 the number is 264 people, out of which 15 are women. Additionally, 9,411 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

human rights defenders. They have been falsely accused of committing the crimes of "treason", "instigating hatred" and "terrorism", and a public defense was imposed on them against their will. All the organizations defending human rights must be attentive to the evolution of this case and demand their full release.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoaljusticia.org

Are gold deposits and mines being allocated to governorships and protectorates?

Nicolás Maduro announced the following in October 2019: "I'll proceed to deliver a gold mine (...) in full production capacity to every governorship for producing resources in convertible foreign currency for our people". According to his words, governors would be able to immediately dispose of the resources produced by the mine in order to invest in the needs of their states and weather the economic blockade imposed by the United States. At the same time, Maduro pointed out that the allocation of gold mines wouldn't reach the States of Merida, Anzoategui and Nueva Esparta because they're being governed by the opposition, but rather to the "protectors" appointed by the National Executive Power.



governorships and "protectorates", as well as to other private or public entities is still unknown. We only know that it concerns a measure carried out by the execution of the Tricolor Mining Plan, a project announced in June 2019 within the framework called the Orinoco Mining Arc, and upon which the

greatest opacity has ruled by not publishing numbers and information on the activities being performed, or the resources obtained and the associated corporations installed in that field.

In view of this measure, the Parliament democratically elected in 2015, stated its categorical rejection for considering it unconstitutional through a parliamentary agreement dated October 22nd, 2019. Maduro's measure was also denounced by the Venezuelan Society of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers for being illegal and affecting security, the environment and the indigenous population. But the reality is that up to this date the procedure used for allocating gold deposits and mines of the country to

The allocation of a gold mine to every governorship of the country on Maduro's own account not only represents the arbitrary behavior in managing public funds without any control from the Parliament, but it also constitutes a serious violation to the principle of unity of the budget and thus, to the treasury unit, according to which revenues must enter in the National Treasury Fund.

Read more in spanish here 

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Three months before the regional and municipal elections; what's the electoral scenario?

2021 opens the doors to a new electoral competition in Venezuela. On November 21st citizens may go to their voting centers in order to choose 23 governors, 335 mayors, 253 state legislative council members and 2,471 councilpersons. However, after a history of multiple electoral events held in the past in which they have proven to lack respect for the minimum guarantees in order to consider them authentic and transparent, what's the electoral scenario for holding the elections on November 21st?

We're facing a scenario of greater electoral guarantees. The appointment of a new National Electoral Council [*CNE by its Spanish initials*] less unbalanced, the development of a registry and update session in the electoral registry with more available days and points, the possible advances on the accreditation of national and international electoral observation, the increase of organizations with political purposes authorized to participate in the electoral competition, the enactment of a regulation and a manual that seeks to guarantee the participation of women in the policy of equal conditions, are some of the advancements that we have evidenced here at the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) a few months before holding the regional and municipal elections.



Nevertheless, the acknowledgement of elections with greater guarantees doesn't mean ignoring the violations of political rights that are still evidenced in Venezuela, but indeed it's an important step forward that the political and social actors have taken in this path of rebuilding the vote in the country. In this sense,

facing an electoral scenario that still lacks guarantees, our demands continue to be defined in the creation of a favorable environment for exercising political participation rights in the country. This involves an electoral process according to what's established in international standards, the National Constitution and special laws. The re-institutionalization of the country and the independence of public powers are essential for respecting the exercise of the population's political rights.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

