



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com

PROVEA - www.provea.org



The untouchable high commands

Nicolás Maduro's government moves forward a justice simulation strategy through the Prosecutor General. This has implied moving forward some investigations on human rights violations generally linked to victims of repression in protests. Little is known if investigations on tortures and executions are being moved forward.



General Directorate. Let alone of those who hold ministerial positions.

Those simulation efforts seek to prevent the International Criminal Court from advancing towards the investigation stage in the Venezuela I case and appear as if they're complying with the recommendations of the Independent Fact-Finding

High commands in police agencies are untouchable in that strategy. They don't show any will to investigate the chain of command, for example, Special Action Forces of the National Police of the Military Counterintelligence

Mission. As long as the main parties responsible for the crimes against humanity aren't investigated or sanctioned, there can't be any significant advances in matters of justice.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org



UN Mission accuses justice of being witness and accomplice of crimes against humanity

Far from investigating and sanctioning extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, tortures, and other crimes against humanity that have been committed in Venezuela since 2014, Venezuelan judges and prosecutors have had a "significant role", almost a leading role, in their perpetration. The denouncement was made by the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (FFM) in its second report on the country's situation, which was presented to the public at a press conference on September 16th.



beyond those who are directly affected; they have an effect on all of society."

The devastating report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela confirms that Venezuelan justice has resigned from its fundamental

The following can be read in the report, which was prepared from the analysis of 183 cases of detentions of opponents and critics to Nicolás Maduro's government, which happened between 2014 and 2021: "The Mission has reasonable motives to believe that the justice system has played a significant role in the state repression of government opponents instead of providing protection to the victims of human rights violations and crimes. The effects of the deterioration of the Rule of Law spread

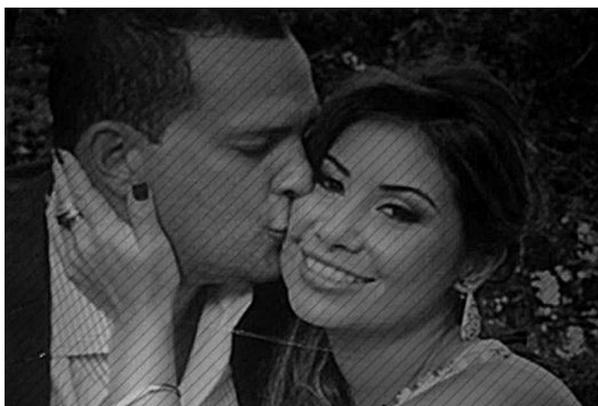
task: punishing those who break the law and redress their victims, in order to become not only a pillar of support for Nicolás Maduro's government, but also a battering ram against any dissident expression. Thus, the experts appointed in 2019 by the UN Human Rights Council made it very clear in this second report that the Venezuelan judges and prosecutors form part of the scheme that has committed crimes against humanity. The fact that justice only serves repression is an example of preferring to rule by fear than by respect.

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Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Hugo Chávez's former aide: another extraditable that tests Spanish justice

Adrián José Velásquez Figueroa, Hugo Chávez's former aide and husband to Claudia Patricia Díaz Guillén, who was the late president's nurse, accredited his Spanish citizenship as part of his defense arguments in the National Court of Spain, the instance that is analyzing whether or not he will be tried in the United States for one of the greatest plots of the alleged Venezuelan money laundering.



Spanish justice had already denied the extradition of this military officer and his wife in 2019 when he was requested by Venezuela facing a "possible fundamental rights violation". The National Court of Spain has in its hands, yet again, the procedural destiny of one of the closest men to Hugo Chávez that headed his security ring. Velásquez and Díaz are accused of having received bribes in

order to favor the businessman Raúl Gorrín in allocating contracts of the Venezuelan State.

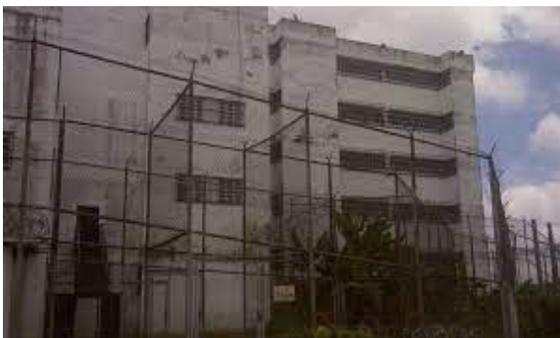
Barely six months ago, in April 2021, Velásquez Figueroa obtained his Spanish citizenship status after six years in that country and now his defense argues before the court that he cannot be delivered to US justice. This protection is also extended to his wife, who was also the Treasurer of the Nation and is accused in the same criminal process in the United States that already sentenced to prison the former Treasurer of Venezuela, Alejandro Andrade.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Former Guard from the presidential Palace remains detained without having committed any crimes

As of October 8th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15.765 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 875 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,643 political prisoners, of which 3, 384 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of October 8th, 2021 the number is 259 people, out of which 15 are women. Additionally, 9, 415 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

We recently ran a campaign through the Twitter social media in order to release the political prisoner Nelson Santiago, 33 years of age, who was a Central Communications Guard of Honor at the Miraflores Palace [seat of the Venezuelan government]. He was arbitrarily detained on March 18th, 2020 by officers of the Military Counterintelligence General Directorate [DGCIM by its Spanish acronym]. Seven days after his detention he was presented before anti-terrorism courts and imprisoned, being charged with criminal association, conspiracy to rebellion and disclosing political or military secrets. He never committed these crimes. He has been ordered to proceed to trial, which hasn't started, and remains detained in a military jail at Ramo Verde prison, in Caracas. His case is yet another example of a clearly arbitrary detention.

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

The importance of speaking about the mental health of people living with HIV

World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10th every year, and here at Acción Solidaria, we believe that it's an opportunity to make clearly visible the impact that living with HIV/AIDS can have on a person, especially in midst of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency that Venezuela is going through.



According to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), this population tends to have "greater rates of depression, anxiety, tobacco use, dangerous alcohol consumption, and alcohol addiction, use of other psychoactive substances and suicide as a result of chronic stress, social isolation, violence, and the lack of connection to a variety of health and support services." Furthermore, it says that "mental health disorders in people infected with HIV can obstruct initiating the treatment and following it, which gives way to unfavorable therapeutic outcomes."

Facing this reality, it's necessary that the State guarantees differentiated attention and access to antiretroviral treatments. However, towards the end of 2020 the shortage of these treatments was around 65%. The deficiencies of the public health system services

directly affect the mental health of people living with HIV/AIDS in Venezuela and, even though mental health disorders or diseases can be timely identified, access to psychiatric treatment is extremely limited. In the August issue of the Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Convite's bulletin, a shortage of 49% of medications related to treating

depression is calculated.

The EresVHIDA portal explains mental health and HIV in an article: "It's difficult to precise the objective impact of HIV on a person's mental health. Nevertheless, the doubts caused by living with HIV (on one's life, relations and the future), the fact that it's about an incurable chronic illness or the antiretroviral treatments themselves can favor a more frequent appearance of anxiety and depression episodes in the HIV-positive population." In a context of social and political divisiveness, like in Venezuela, it's imperative that we contribute as a society with the conversation regarding mental health, especially for those people who live in a more vulnerable situation, and demand that the State guarantees the right to health without distinction and in a differentiated manner towards high risk groups.

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Blackouts limit Internet access in the State of Apure

Internet Ve Sin Filtro's observatory informed that the State of Apure didn't have any access to the web due to a blackout in the region on October 4th. Internet connections in the entity were at 19% of their regular values. Likewise, the States of Nueva Esparta and Tachira were also affected, whose connectivity values fell to 35% and 65%, respectively.



speech and leaves the population without the possibility of searching, receiving or broadcasting information through traditional means and through the Internet.

In addition to this, there are also robberies and vandalisms that affect Internet service providers, which are crimes that still go unpunished. Authorities must generate public policies destined to resolve this problematic.

The Venezuelan State has the duty of guaranteeing that the population has the necessary infrastructure to allow access to the greatest possible number of information means. The deterioration of the basic services administrated by the State limits the right to freedom of

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Bloque Constitucional

Order to return to face-to-face classes in Venezuela generates anxiety in the educators' guild

Nicolás Maduro ordered the whole country to return to face-to-face classes as of October 25th, under the 7x7 schedule, indicating that “maximum bio-security” measures will be obeyed. He also pointed out that “over 85% of the entire educational staff, teachers, professors, workers and administrative personnel have been immunized”.

With this “order”, the educational staff is more reluctant to return to face-to-face classes because of the lack of conditions in the educational institutions, out of which a high percentage is in an absolute state of deterioration, due to the fact that the educational staff’s salaries don’t cover the transportation costs that would take them to the schools. On the other hand, they say that



there isn’t any reliable information of how many educators have been vaccinated, as expressed by the President of the Secretariat of Claims of the Venezuelan Teachers Union [*Sinverma* by its Spanish acronym], who urged Nicolás Maduro to disclose these numbers.

According to Marino González, member of the Academy of Medicine, the shocking progress of the pandemic in our country is the underregistration of the cases, since it is estimated that only 30% of the population has been vaccinated, while the number of infections is 10 times higher than what has been published, to which returning to school without specific schedules will cause a greater increase in the number of infections, considering the serious food crisis Venezuelans are also suffering.

Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía - www.codehciu.org

Codehciu: 6 years defending human rights and favoring vulnerable communities in the States of Bolivar and Monagas

The Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía (Codehciu) celebrated its 6th anniversary on October 7th. We reaffirm our commitment, conviction and dedication to the defense and promotion of human rights of all the people in the States of Bolivar and Monagas. Our humanitarian action, based on an approach of rights, is given with humanity, impartiality, independence, neutrality, and universality. In this new year we reaffirm our commitment in continuing to demand a dignified life for all and without any discrimination whatsoever.

We are still committed to achieving a better country and sensitized citizens in matters regarding human rights, preventing gender-based violence and protecting



children. Between January and August of this year we have tended to 943 boys, girls and adolescents in a psychosocial manner and we gave attention to 1,760 caretakers. During this period we sensitized 16,624 citizens in matters of preventing violence.

We express our gratitude to the work of our teams in the Municipalities of Caroni, Angostura del Orinoco and Gran Sabana in the State of Bolivar, and also to our team in the Municipality of Maturin in the State of Monagas. The entire Codehciu family builds citizens and tends to those who are the most vulnerable in the Complex Humanitarian Emergency the country is going through. Additionally, we would like to highlight the valuable work of all our allies in civil society. We celebrate this year and will keep working towards more.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Cepaz recorded 43 acts of persecution and criminalization during the month of August



According to the monitoring performed by the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) from the 1st to 31st of August, 2021, at least 43 acts of persecution and criminalization performed by Nicolás Maduro's government were recorded against journalists, reporters, communication means, non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders, political leaders, and the Venezuelan population. From the analysis of cases published by the national and international digital information sources, and the denouncements that enter directly to our denouncements portal, collective categories of people have been identified that haven't been able to be individually quantified. In this sense, these acts, in spite of affecting a group of people, have been considered as one sole act of persecution and criminalization.



In the totality of the victims of persecution and criminalization, we identified 33 journalists, reporters and communication workers. Four radio stations momentarily went off the air due to electrical failures that have been affecting the whole country for a long time and that in contexts of climatic contingencies, the uncertain conditions of the electric power service worsen; a radio program went off the air on every station in which it was broadcasted, a website was victim of a cyberattack, and two judicial proceedings are open: the first refers to an arrest warrant for political reasons and the second one to the continuity of the arbitrary process against the *El Nacional* journal after the court had granted the claim favoring Diosdado Cabello.

On the other hand, we recorded four acts of persecution and criminalization performed against the population. We identified fragments of three acts of intimidation through the control exercised on workers of the public sector, requesting private information that isn't related to the work activities they perform, plus subjecting them to participate in the PSUV [*the ruling political party*] primary elections in order to keep the economic and social benefits they receive. Likewise, we recorded an arbitrary detention against a university educator. The acts against the population include subjects whose identification hasn't been possible, thus, it's necessary to take into account that these acts encompass multiple victims whose human rights have been violated. Furthermore, three organizations (Provea, Convite and Fundehullan) were victims of acts of intimidation, including stigmatizations through social media and by State-owned communication means. Cáritas faced several obstacles in delivering humanitarian aid. Lastly, the case of the Mayor of the Municipality of Girardot in the State of Cojedes, Orlando Aular, was recorded, who was victim of acts of serious physical violence that put his life at risk when State security officers fired their weapons at him.

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Acceso a la Justicia



Comisión para los Derechos Humanos y la Ciudadanía

