



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Bloque Constitucional

Venezuelans die silently for not having access to cardiovascular medical treatments

The number of Venezuelans who die for not having access to medication with which their illnesses or health conditions can be tended to increases each day. It isn't about those who can't enter a health center due to the awful infrastructure conditions or the lack of staff or because they don't have the resources to access a private medical center. It's about those who have silently abandoned their respective treatments because they aren't able to acquire them.



the routine medical revisions. We have a high incidence of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases, which for 2019 were 202,976, this is 1,283 more than the previous year, and that number has been increasing year after year.

The deterioration in Venezuelans' life conditions has another corner that is rarely talked about and is only referred to when someone who has abandoned their treatment has died because they couldn't have access to

The lack of public records impede knowing with certainty the number of Venezuelans that die for not obtaining treatment for cardiovascular diseases or for its prevention; however, those who are in a position of power are forced to find palliatives for avoiding that this serious situation worsens even more. It's the right to health that is violated when citizens don't have the resources to purchase or obtain their medications for preventing these deaths that forms part of the statistics of a silent pandemic.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

The "criminal package" doesn't resolve in-depth problems of justice in Venezuela



The "criminal package" approved between September 16th and 17th by the government-biased Parliament [AN by its Spanish initials] contains recipes that have already been applied that haven't generated any change whatsoever, and even though it includes corrections to polemic modifications enforced less than one decade ago and that at the time the followers of Hugo Chávez's policies presented as the miracle cure to all the ailments that afflicted the criminal justice administration with which the promised results weren't obtained and doesn't resolve the in-depth issues of the Venezuelan justice system. Why? If Venezuela were a country of laws, these legislative changes would bring improvements, but since it hasn't been for a long time, it's surprising that these changes don't aim at the real cause of the justice problem: That in Venezuela there aren't any unbiased or independent judges, but officers who only limit themselves to comply with orders and who don't have any stability whatsoever and can be removed at any moment and without any prior procedure.



Constitution weren't met, which sets forth that in the procedure for the discussion and approval of bills, the interested sectors will be "consulted" in order to "hear their opinion". None of the approved reforms were previously presented to the civil society, nor were the jurists, academics, criminologists and human rights activists given the opportunity to present observations or recommendations to the representatives Members of Parliament. The country barely heard of the modifications during the second discussion of the bill at the Parliament.

Additionally to the aforesaid, the legislative process of the reform of the Organic Code of Criminal Procedures [COPP by its Spanish acronym], Penitentiary Organic Code or the Organic Code of Military Justice, of the Victims, Witnesses and other Parties to the Action Protection Act, and of the Investigative Police, as well as the issue of the new Organic Act on the Personal Liberty and Safeguard, the requirements of Article 211 of the

Summarizing, while the legal reforms refer to reducing procedural terms, creating new courts, preventing new sanctions and obligations for their participants, there aren't going to be any real changes in the justice administration. The real and structural problem in Venezuela is the lack of independence and neutrality of the justice operators, as well as corruption and the absolute absence of the Rule of Law, and as long as these problems aren't addressed, there won't be any real changes in this matter. New laws aren't necessary to start changing the Venezuelan justice system, only to comply with what is set forth in the Constitution.

Read more in spanish here 

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Will Alex Saab cooperate with United States justice?

Handcuffed, wearing an orange jumpsuit with long, loose hair, the Colombian businessman, Alex Saab, appeared before Judge Henry O'Sullivan of the Federal Court of the District of South Florida on Monday October 18th, where he has a docket with eight charges, one for conspiracy to launder money and seven for money laundering. According to the accusation, Saab would've attempted to launder 350 million dollars in the United States product of corruption events linked to a housing construction program in Venezuela.



valuable information in order to break up criminal conspiracies.

When someone who's accused declares themselves guilty they can agree on a reduced sentence for the information provided that allows unraveling the events. Will Alex Saab do this? Will he plead guilty or not guilty? We have to bear in mind that the nephews of the Venezuelan

The United States is the country that has opened the most investigations for corruption events that affected the Venezuelan State Assets, according to records from Transparencia Venezuela. Up until now, US justice counts at least 41 causes of action initiated and 78 dockets related to the embezzlement of Venezuelan money. 56 people have already declared themselves guilty for these cases and have cooperated with justice, delivering

Presidential couple, who were detained towards the end of 2015 and delivered to the United States, plead not guilty before US justice, which derived in a long process that concluded in November 2017, when they were convicted to 18 years in prison for drug trafficking.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Visit of the ICC Prosecutor to Venezuela generates expectations among victims and their relatives

As of October 22nd, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,767 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since April 1st, 2014. 875 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,646 political prisoners, of which 3,387 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of October 22nd, 2021 the number is 259 people, out of which 15 are women. Additionally, 9,414 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

The announced visit of Karim Khan, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, has generated great

expectations among the victims of the crimes against humanity that have been committed in our nation for several years. Nevertheless, at least up to the moment in which we prepared this note, it hasn't been confirmed if he is going to hold meetings with the victims or with representatives of the NGOs that have been recording the systematic abuses against

human rights in our country for years. In our opinion, this would be a mistake, since only meeting with agents of the State, just willing to tell their false side of the story sends a mixed and negative message to the victims and, beyond that, leaves them unprotected before retaliations and new acts of intimidation. Here at Foro Penal, we hope that Mr. Khan's agenda, in honor to justice, grants the victims the same time and attention as the perpetrators.

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

Injunctions granted to women with breast cancer are still unanswered by the State after one year

On October 14th, 2020, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) granted injunctions in favor of 12 women with breast cancer in Venezuela upon considering that they are living in a situation that exposes them to various risks, besides suffering constant violations to their rights, especially the rights to health and to life.



According to the petition made by the organizations Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz), Acción Solidaria, Funcamama, Prepara Familia, and Senos Ayuda, the Commission considered that the beneficiaries weren't receiving the corresponding prescribed medical treatment on behalf of the Venezuelan Social Security Institute [IVSS by its Spanish initials] for the indicated periods of time, in spite of previously having received them.

Facing the complaint, the Commission requested of the Venezuelan State to adopt the necessary measures

for protecting the beneficiaries' rights, making possible the access to timely medical treatment, including the required medications and diagnostic exams that allow to regularly assess their health. The information of updating and development of the measures adopted was also demanded. Nevertheless, one year after the injunctions were

granted, no action in favor of the beneficiaries has been performed, nor any information or communication has been given to the Commission, therefore, the applying organizations insist on the presented petitions.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza publishes a report on migration laws affecting Venezuelan citizens

The NGO Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, along with the support of Thomson Reuters Foundation, published the report *Marco Legal Migratorio [Migration Legal Framework]*, comparing legislation matters in countries with the greatest concentration of Venezuelan migrants.



In these last few years, more than five million Venezuelans have migrated the country fleeing from the Complex Humanitarian Emergency. In this report, the rights and duties of these countries are delved into and the laws concerning refuge and asylum.

Even though by its content, the report might seem technical, the reality is that it offers valuable tools and information for Venezuelans who wish to emigrate and don't know the restrictions of the host countries or for migrants who wish to know in-depth the regulations at their disposition in order to normalize their migration status.

The Migratory Legal Framework compares policies of this nature in countries with the most concentration of Venezuelan migrants: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States, and Peru. This report is an aid for the Venezuelan migrant. "We want to believe that emigrating means a step forward for recovering stability, human rights, and democracy that can't exist in midst of the crisis Venezuela is going through", stated Rodrigo Diamanti, President of the organization, when presenting the report.

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PROVEA - www.provea.org



Poverty in 21st Century Venezuela

Poverty means a massive human rights violation that hinders those who suffer it from enjoying other human rights: health, education, participation, among others. Putting an end to poverty must be one of the main purposes of the Venezuelan State, incorporating the greatest number of wills and abilities for satisfactory results.



For a human rights organization such as Provea, who besides puts an emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, the study of a phenomenon such as poverty is a central task. Because when speaking of poverty it isn't just making calculations and presenting some numbers, a tendency; when we analyze poverty we find a complex phenomenon with multiple causes that affects those who suffer it in an overwhelming manner.

As part of the investigations on human rights promoted by Provea, we present one from an academic of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), Carlos Aponte Blank, prepared together with the Development Studies Center [*Cendes by its Spanish acronym*] of the UCV. The scenario shown by this work isn't encouraging, both because of the persistent ascending tendency that shows the impoverishment of the population, as well as by the seriousness of its consequences. But like any social event, this deterioration can also be attended so that Venezuelans may retake a path towards improving their life conditions. The work closes with a series of recommendations of policies that could contribute to a change in the course of the aforementioned indicators.

Read more in spanish here 

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org



Process against Alex Saab complies with guarantees of due process that don't exist in Venezuela

Alex Saab, Colombian attorney and entrepreneur pointed out as being Nicolás Maduro's front man, was detained in Cape Verde on June 12th, 2020, from a notification from Interpol. After 14 months, in August 2021, the extradition petition from the United States was approved that was finally materialized on October 16th, 2021.



The proceeding against Alex Saab has complied with all the judicial guarantees that comprise the due process: before its cause of action reached the Constitutional Court of Cape Verde, two lower courts knew of the details of the case, and Saab was able to exercise his right to his defense before them. Once in the United States, he was subjected to a physical exam in order to confirm his physical condition, and in less than 48 hours he was presented before an independent and unbiased Federal Judge of the Southern District Court of Florida. In that hearing he was accused of the crimes of asset laundering and overvaluation of contracts.

There is evidence that link Alex Saab to the laundering of over 350 million dollars linked to Maduro's government product of transactions made in 2011 for purchasing construction materials for housing in Venezuela that were never built. Likewise, Saab is pointed out of creating a complex scheme of companies in the world in order to drain money from corruption with contracts for Venezuelans' main necessities: food, medicine and housing.

Maduro's regime alleges that Saab was kidnapped, but if the Colombian entrepreneur would've been judged in Venezuela, how would've his judicial process been like? In Cape Verde Saab had broad guarantees and opportunities for his defense up to the point of exhausting all judicial instances. On the other hand, Venezuela presents itself as a country where impunity is a structural problem. Alex Saab wasn't kidnapped; quite the contrary, he's being judged in a judicial process that stipulates all guarantees of due process based on conclusive evidence that link him to the laundering of over 350 million dollars of Nicolás Maduro's government.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

September closed with 33 cases of persecution and criminalization

During September, at the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz), we recorded at least 33 cases of persecution and criminalization. Journalists, reporters, and communication workers, political officials linked with the opposition to Nicolás Maduro's government and the general population are victims of a persecution pattern applied in a systematic manner in order to silence, suppress and control who it identifies as adversaries or opponents. In the monitoring and analysis of the 33 cases, we identified the following patterns: 1 closing of a radio program, 3 home raids, 10 acts of threats and harassments, the closure of a radio station to which work equipment was also seized. Also the approval of an openly unconstitutional bill. Additionally, 3 openings of investigations, 9 arbitrary detentions, 3 political disqualifications, and 2 transfers of political prisoners under irregular conditions.

In the framework of the 48th period of sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the High Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet, presented an update report on human rights situation in Venezuela in which she acknowledged the existence of systematic criminalization and persecution acts exercised by Nicolás Maduro's government. In the report, 17 human rights violations were documented related to economic, social and cultural and environmental rights, 4 cases of threats and intimidation, and 12 cases of arbitrary detentions. Additionally, 8 cases of threats and detentions of students



for participating in student movements, as well as 7 union leaders and 6 workers detained for exercising the defense of labor rights.

On their part, the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFM) presented a report in which it pointed out the lack of measures on behalf of the Venezuelan State for correcting the human rights violations happening in the country, as well as fighting impunity and redressing the victims through national investigations and trials. In the opinion of the members of the Mission, this is a consequence of the progressive deterioration of the justice system. It pointed out that the justice operators, far from fulfilling their obligations of protecting people that are politically persecuted, mainly those who are linked to the opposition of Nicolás Maduro's government, are complicit to these acts. Arbitrary detentions and arrests without judicial orders have been performed, including issuing arrest warrants, preventive imprisonment and accusations in events and evidences that didn't imply criminal acts and even more executing detentions based on manipulated evidences or obtained through torture or coercion.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Arrest warrant is issued against journalist Roberto Deniz and relatives' home is raided

The 32nd Court of Common Pleas of Control headed by Judge Yoly Mariana Torres Sandoval issued an arrest warrant for the crime of "instigation to hatred" against the Armando Info investigation news portal journalist, Roberto Deniz, on Friday October 15th.



Additionally, agents of the Criminal and Scientific Investigation Bureau [CICPC by its Spanish initials] raided his parents' home in Caracas, where his brother, sister-in-law and two nieces were. His parents weren't home. "I alert and hold accountable Venezuelan authorities of anything that could happen to them", wrote Deniz through his Twitter account.

Relatives and witnesses that were present at the home raid rendered their statements before the CICPC and left there at 06:15 p.m. However, the criminal procedure against Roberto Deniz is still open, therefore, the judicial harassment persists against the exercise of freedom of information and speech, resulting in intimidation and persecution on behalf of the Venezuelan State authorities.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

