



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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

## Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - [www.sinmordaza.org](http://www.sinmordaza.org)

### New contest awards meme on corruption and human rights



Un Mundo Sin Mordaza allied with Cazamentiras, The Fake Post and La República TV channel for a contest in which the meme was the star with the idea of exposing Nicolás Maduro's regime through humor. Corruption, vaccines and the COVID-19 pandemic, the food crisis and the Local Committees for Supply and Production [CLAP by its Spanish acronym], the elections and penalties are the main topics. Because of this, Un Mundo Sin Mordaza invites all Venezuelans to use the virtual resource that has become very relevant and has a great digital media presence.

The meme is a visual element, mainly with humoristic purposes that is more present every day in the web surfers' lives. you can find these images at the corner of



every social network, videos and even texts, through which users express their ideas, opinions or complaints to communicate. The contest will give an award of \$500 to the best meme, the second-best meme with \$300, and 10 special mentions will be made that will win a t-shirt reading Outcry Now, the Un Mundo Sin Mordaza's clothing brand.

Any individual over the age of 18 can participate by publishing a meme in Instagram through stories or publications, and mentioning the accounts of @sinmordaza and @cazamentirasvzla along with the hashtag #CazaLaMentira. There aren't any limits to participating, therefore contestants may publish as many memes as they wish.

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

### 290 femicides were perpetrated in Venezuela from January to December 2021



The numbers of the monthly monitoring performed by the Femicide Digital Observatory of the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) reflect that During December 2021 there were 34 perpetrated femicides and 4 attempted femicides in Venezuela. In average, there was a femicide action in the country every 19 hours. During the same period, three were 6 deaths of Venezuelan women abroad. In average, there was a femicide action every 5 days against a Venezuelan woman abroad. The monthly monitoring prepared by Cepaz gives an account that from January to December there were 290 femicides perpetrated in Venezuela and 84 of Venezuelan women abroad.

Additionally, in December twelve children were orphaned. Six of them witnessed their mother's violent death. The State of Apure with 19% of the cases; the State of Sucre with 17.6%; and the Capital District with 8.8%, were the states with the most cases. 23.5% of the victims were girls (under the age of 12); 9% were adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18, thus, almost 30% of the cases had underage victims. Impunity is still very high in these crimes, since 55.9% of the aggressors are fugitives.

Impunity levels cause that women to mistrust the Venezuelan justice system and don't file any complaints, which definitively represents an emotional exhaustion without obtaining effective results. Here at Cepaz, we consider that the Venezuelan justice system hasn't been effective in guaranteeing women's rights. This situation of deterioration has been prolonged for years, there haven't been any political policies put into practice by the State with a gender perspective, and even less investments in order depend on a judiciary system that gives responses to the victims today.

**Read more in spanish here** 

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

### The Venezuelan State disregards the increase of infections by the Omicron variant

On February 1st, Doctors Without Borders, through a press release, assured that an increase of infection by the coronavirus has been recorded in Venezuela caused by the Omicron variant. At the two health centers monitored in Caracas: The Jose Maria Vargas Hospital and the Lidice General Hospital between January and February out of a total of 54 hospitalization beds available for COVID-19 at these two centers, 44 are occupied, and at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), 3 out of 4 available beds are occupied.

“During the last two weeks, a total of 2,800 patients have passed through respiratory triage of both hospitals”, the report pointed out. However, the Venezuelan State insists on ensuring biosecurity measures while maintaining the relaxed quarantine and allows public events.

Furthermore, since the State of Emergency was announced almost two years ago, there’s been no intention prioritizing vaccination to those who are at risk



of a greater exposure, such as the elderly, pregnant women, and people with HIV. The Complex Humanitarian Emergency (CHE) and the health crisis denounced by the association for almost 5 years, the risk increases facing a virus affecting in a differentiated manner those who have a deteriorated immune system, and it’s the State who must guarantee specialized attention and health access.

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

### How has Tarek William Saab processed government officials accused of drug trafficking?



The detention for drug trafficking of the government-biased Mayor Keyrineth Fernández, along with 3 Members of Parliament – 2 of them from the government party, United Socialist Party of Venezuela [PSUV by its Spanish acronym], and the other close to the so-called “Los Alacranes” [The Scorpions] – is the first drug trafficking case involving government officials by popular elections investigated by the Prosecutor’s Office since the arrival of Tarek William Saab to that office, in 2017.

A registry performed by Transparencia Venezuela from the statements offered by Saab and the press releases published on the Prosecutor’s Office’s web portal, the only available information sources, show that from the period of 2017 to 2021, the Prosecutor’s Office informed of 23 drug cases involving at least 78 public officials, most of them part of the State’s security forces.

This information collected by Transparencia Venezuela indicate that the cases’ investigations associated to drug trafficking implicate medium and low-level government officials, mainly linked to security and defense. From Saab’s public statements and what has been published on the of the Prosecutor General’s Office’s website, only 6 drug convictions were identified in court dockets in which the accused were public officials.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

## Bloque Constitucional

### The country's future at risk due to the State's abandonment of education



A vision suffered by Venezuelan students, more specifically in public schools, reveals us a social drama whose repercussions are felt throughout the entire country. Public education vanishes day by day, not only by its quality for being subjected to new rules that do very little to encourage studying, but by the ever-increasing absence of the teachers that can keep their spirits alive facing this task.

Additionally, the erratic measures taken due to the COVID-19 must also be considered and that was taken advantage of by a high percentage of teachers for seeking other job opportunities and emigration in order to survive. Therefore, the teachers' deficit before the

pandemic was 50%, its very likely to almost reach 80%. The solution has been found by the authorities, in the case of basic education, delivering every teacher two study courses. For example, if they used to teach 25 students in the first grade of elementary school, now they teach 50 students in the first and second grade. In high school education, at an institution with 1,200 students that require 8 hours of classes per day, distributed among the 8 course subjects is never reached, and this is how they're reduced year after year: the highest school enrolment is in the first year, with 320 students, that are reduced to 200 in the second year, and only 120 out of those students reach third year, and thus, 80 would reach fourth year.

All of them without taking into account the schools' terrible structural conditions and the ever more growing difficulty for Venezuelan families to keep their children in the institution. These indicators give an account that public education in our country is in ruins and its consequences will only worsen in the short, medium and long-term; how private school students are treated results in a flagrant inequality when compared to public school students, caused by the inattention and slovenliness of those who manage the resources. Thus, what we have to ask ourselves is: In whose hands will our country's destiny be? Illiteracy is already or will be the focus of our outlook, separating us even more from progress and social peace.



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

### When will the annual reports and accounts of ministerial offices be known?

The recent Act for the Respect of Human Rights when Exercising Civil Service sets forth in 2 of its articles the right of every person to have access to information of public interest and the public officials' duty to giving adequate and prompt responses.

Article 9 sets forth the right to access public information and the public officials' duty of granting it, and that right is repeated in Article 20. They two articles indicate the obligation to effectively guarantee the access to information of a public nature.

A first step that the government should take in order that said rules start becoming a reality is publishing the



reports and accounts of ministerial offices. Some haven't published anything in six years. The Prosecutor's Office and the Office of the Ombudsman should have the same obligation. The latter should give an example by publishing its management report.

Another immediate measure is publishing the epidemiological bulletins and the numbers on homicides and the so-called "resisting authority" by the authorities, that most of them are actually extrajudicial executions, in order to publish the identity of each one of the individuals murdered by police officers and the military.

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

**DEFIENDE VENEZUELA**

### Xenophobic actions against Venezuelan immigrants in Iquique, Chile

On Sunday January 30th, 4,000 people protested against crime and immigration in Iquique, at northern Chile, and as a result a brutal attack was performed against a camp sheltering Venezuelan migrants at the Aeropuerto con las Rosas sector. It's worth mentioning that a similar event occurred in 2021 before which the IACHR urged the Chilean State to protect migrants, investigate the events with due diligence, adopt urgent measures to redress the victims and prevent this from happening again.

In spite of being present members of the Carabiniers of Chile [*national law-enforcement special police force*], the violent groups destroyed the tents and belongings as they passed through the Venezuelan camp. Facing these violent xenophobic actions there weren't any detainees reported, once that, according to the Carabiniers Area Chief at Iquique "no serious disturbances occurred". Additionally, a call was made a day later to an "anti-immigrant strike" in order to continue with the protest.

Here, at the NGO Defiende Venezuela, we've participated together with allies in Chile for the protection of Venezuelans subjected to migratory abuse from Chilean authorities and we'll keep



protecting Venezuelans before the lack of protection for these type of acts. We denounce these acts of xenophobic violence that worsen the situation of vulnerability of the migrant population and we demand policies to attend the migratory crisis of those who arrive to that country fleeing from a Complex Humanitarian Emergency, guaranteeing a peaceful coexistence with Chilean citizens and warning against and eliminating xenophobic practices.

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

**Foro Penal**

### UN working group requests the release of the political prisoner Emirlendris Benítez

As of February 4th, 2022 Foro Penal recorded 15,770 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 3,650 political prisoners, of which 3,410 have been released under different modalities.

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of February 4th, 2022 the number is 240 people, out of which 13 are women. Additionally, 9,418 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

On January 24th, 2022, the 74/2021 opinion public from the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention



(UNWGAD) was made public, which determines as arbitrary the unjust of the political prisoner Emirlendris Benítez, detained at the National Institute for Female Orientation [*INOF by its Spanish acronym*], presenting serious health problems. She was pregnant when she was detained in 2018, and she had a miscarriage due to the abuses she suffered there. The Working Group has recommended the

Venezuelan government to immediately proceed to her release. It's about yet another case in which the Venezuelan State's policy directed towards neutralizing is made evident, through arbitrary imprisonment, to whom serve the national governmental power in order to justify their narratives or be stigmatized as "enemies".

## Acceso a la Justicia - [www.accesoaljusticia.org](http://www.accesoaljusticia.org)

### The Supreme Court of Justice doesn't show any signs of leaving behind its dependency on Nicolás Maduro's government



At the judiciary activities commencement act held on January 27th, the President the Supreme Court of Justice [TSJ by its Spanish initials] Magistrate Maikel Moreno, and the speaker of the point of order, Magistrate Marjorie Calderón, had no problems in offering noticeable political remarks. Moreno described with the following words what the TSJ's 2021 report should've been: "The essence of every revolution consists in its capacity of producing the changes demanded by our society, supported by the essential principles that make up the State. The Bolivarian Revolution has assumed the challenge of advancing by guaranteeing the permanence of the State and the yearned stability and utmost social happiness".

In spite of assuring that "judges only subordinate their performance to the Constitution and the laws and our nation's the highest interests", the also President of the Criminal Cassation Chamber repeated the governmental script regarding the serious economic problems Venezuela is going through are caused by the penalties imposed by the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) upon some personalities and public institutions. Nevertheless, since 2016, in other words, one year before Washington and Brussels imposed the harshest part of the measures against individuals and some institutions, the then United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, had qualified Venezuela's situation as "a humanitarian crisis". Even though the Judiciary Power is subjected to a "Judiciary Revolution", Moreno didn't inform if it will include fighting the temporary status and if the Prequalification and Competitive Public Invitation to Tender will be resumed.



Moreno's words were followed by Calderón, who in her speech referred in three occasions to "our everlasting commander Hugo Chávez". At the last opportunity she even got to say that he "will always be with us" at any success attained by the Venezuelan State. As if the magistrates' speeches weren't enough to affirm the alignment of justice with the government, during Nicolás Maduro's intervention in this act, he requested that the oppositionist Representative, Juan Guaidó, be processed by the Judiciary Power, who at the moment at least 50 countries acknowledged him as Venezuela's interim president.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

