



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.org

Caleidoscopio Humano - www.caleidohumano.org

Anti-society Act establishes a social control policy

On January 24th, the Parliament approved at the first reading a text that was unknown to the country, which wasn't publicly debated either, as mandated by the Constitution and parliamentary regulations. The draft Law on Control, Regularization, Operations and Financing of Non-Governmental and Related Organizations seeks to control civic and associative space in Venezuela, also limiting humanitarian assistance in midst of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency that has affected the population since 2015.

This law has been rejected by approximately 500 national and international civil organizations who agree that it's an instrument that seeks to limit the human right to freedom of association, it closes civic space, limits social fabric and, furthermore, causes the criminalization of humanitarian assistance through retaliations against human rights defenders and activists in the country.



The organizations also point out that once this law comes into force, important international treaties ratified by Venezuela will be violated. Caleidoscopio Humano alerts the national and international community of the risks and threat that this draft Law on Control, Regularization, Operations and Financing of Non-Governmental and Related Organizations represents, since, as the United Nations Independent International

Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFM) commented, "if passed, this law could represent a point of no return in the closure of the civic and democratic space in Venezuela."

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Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

The State doesn't guarantee ageing with dignity in Venezuela

The elderly see how their human rights are violated in a country that doesn't guarantee its citizens to age with dignity. 12% of the population was over the age of 60 in 2022, and it was estimated that this percentage would increase 20% in 2050.

According to the NGO Convite, 92% of elderly people in Venezuela have problems for accessing medications. They also determined that there's a concerning deficit in the daily food intake among women aged 55 and men aged 66. Additionally, one of the most common causes of morbidity in this



population is the lack of access to medications, health, nourishment, and the psychosocial state in midst of the crisis the country is going through.

Likewise, the elderly's pension doesn't even cover 1% of the basic food basket. We have to take into account that besides eating, these people deserve other expenses such

as healthcare, recreation, access to services, among others. This is in order to guarantee optimal living standards, however, the Venezuelan State doesn't promote public policies that guarantee ageing with dignity for all Venezuelans.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

The Cepaz Femicide Digital Observatory documented six cases during the first week of February

During the first seven days of February 2023, here at the Femicide Digital Observatory of the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz), we have documented six perpetrated femicides and six attempted femicides in Venezuela. A femicide action occurred every 14 hours during this period in the country. This documentation process performed by the Femicide Digital Observatory doesn't only collect femicide figures, but also the phenomena associated to each one of the cases such as, for example, the number of children who were orphaned due to their mothers' violent deaths, the existence of prior complaints against the aggressors and the type of weapons used for committing the femicide, and if they belonged to military or police officers. Adequate public policies have to be employed upon these associated phenomena; in other words, projects and activities designed and executed by the State with gender perspective.



records, as well as information not only showing the number of cases, but also specific causes and associated phenomena, must be urgently disclosed. Moreover, there's a repeated impunity in cases of violence against women. Most of them don't start with an effective investigation, there's no punishment against the

aggressor or an effective redress for the victim.

Information regarding gender problems in their different aspects must be made available to civil society, and they must be part of a true official information production and disclosure official policy. This is the only way to make progress in building femicide violence prevention policies with a multi-sector, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional approach that defines responsibilities and actions and that is made public.

We reaffirm that Venezuela lacks a formal national statistics system for disclosing and providing free access to information and reflecting progress in the investigation and punishment of the cases. Official femicide figures and

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Mayor of the Municipality of Turén accuses citizens of wanting "to bring hate or violence" to social networks

The pro-government Mayor of the Municipality of Turén, State of Portuguesa, Onofrio Carvallo, accused citizens in general of fostering "hate or violence" in social networks for comments on a case regarding child sexual abuse that has caused protests in the town.



During these last few days, the inhabitants of Turén have peacefully protested demanding justice from the authorities, among them being the Mayoralty and the Prosecutor's Office, regarding the sexual abuse case involving two minors. The demands have also been seen in social networks such as Instagram and Twitter.

"They can't blame me for an issue in which they want to bring hate or violence towards one person. The networks are toying with that", said Mayor Carvallo to some protestors. Carvallo, who is a member of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela [PSUV by its Spanish acronym], assured that social networks "are going along with that" in order to blame him for the sexual abuse case of a three-year-old victim, allegedly perpetrated by a 13-year-old young man, who is a relative of a former PSUV councilperson.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Political prisoner was released after 7 years without a trial or a conviction



As of February 17th, 2023 Foro Penal recorded 15,800 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 3,705 political prisoners, of which 3,434 have been released under different modalities.

The number of political prisoners in the country as of February 17th, 2023 is 269, out of which 13 are women. Additionally, 9,430 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures or alternative formulas for serving the sentence.

This week, Mr. Antonio Garbi was released, a political prisoner who, without being convicted, was arbitrarily imprisoned for over seven years. Garbi was forced to admit the facts. He had been arbitrarily detained for more than seven years without any progress in his trial. He *de facto* served a sentence that was never formally imposed, that was only now justified when the despair of his long abusive imprisonment didn't leave him any other choice but to confess to crimes that he never committed.

This is just a further demonstration of how the criminal process in Venezuela has been distorted and denaturalized. It's no longer a tool of justice for determining the truth of the facts, but rather a Kafkaesque sort of luck of "early punishment".

PROVEA - www.provea.org

Victims heed the call of the ICC

In November 2022, the International Criminal Court (ICC) invited victims and their representatives to submit their opinions and observations regarding the petition made by the Prosecutor's Office to the judges conducted by the Prosecutor, Karim Khan, requesting an authorization for resuming the Venezuela I investigation. The term for submitting said opinions expires on March 7th, 2023.

In this sense, the Court has informed that it has been receiving such opinions, which is very important, since this increases the possibilities of the judges' authorization to continue investigating the crimes against humanity that have been perpetrated in Venezuela.

The investigation must move forward, due to the fact that not only Venezuelan authorities aren't willing to investigate the liable parties in their different levels, but also arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and torture, including homicides, keep happening. An example of this is the death by torture of the Criminal and



Scientific Bureau of Investigation [CICPC by its Spanish initials] officer, Juan Pantoja, in the State of Apure, on July 10th, 2022, after severe tortures perpetrated by members of the Military Counterintelligence General Directorate [DGCIM by its Spanish acronym].

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

The Venezuelan Bill against NGOs and alike forces them to register in order to defend the nation



This is what's been capturing the headlines, but the Non-Governmental Organizations National Registry Office is barely one of the obstacles that national non-profit organizations (NPOs) must overcome in order to operate or continue operating in Venezuela. The polemic Bill for the Act for the Audit, Regularization, Procedure, and Financing of Non-Governmental Organizations and Alike, that the Parliament [AN by its Spanish initials] approved on its first discussion on January 24th, also forces these civil entities to register before other registry offices, such as the Integral Defense Registry Office. This is set forth in the 4th numbered paragraph of Article 14 of the text presented by the pro-government official, Diosdado Cabello.

Now then, what implications does this demand have? NPOs should register before the Integral Defense Registry Office within a term of 60 days once the Resolution acknowledging their existence has been issued before the Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries [SAREN by its Spanish acronym]. Regarding its staff, they should also be registered before the same registry office in order to obtain the corresponding certificate, unless they have performed military service.

Thus, if the Bill against Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and alike that is being studied by the Parliament is approved, the mandatory registration

before the Integral Defense Registry Office will turn all of their workers, members and volunteers of the different civil organizations operating in Venezuela into potential reservists of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces [FANB by its Spanish acronym] and, therefore, may be summoned by the President of the Republic, acting in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief the military institution, to perform training in military matters or to incorporate themselves in military quarters in the event of war, commotion or national disaster.

The eventual combination of the Integral Defense Registry and Enlistment Act and the Law on Control, Regularization, Operations and Financing of Non-Governmental and Related Organizations seem to form part of a governmental strategy for aggravating the already broad militarization of society. The alignment of both texts will force human rights defenders, educators, humanitarian workers, sports coaches, environmentalists, among others, to form part of the military institution.

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