



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.org

Caleidoscopio Humano - www.caleidohumano.org

Discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people has become a State policy

Caleidoscopio Humano, as part of the MonitorDescaVe project, held the discussion group “Los DESCAs y la comunidad LGBTQIA+ venezolana” [ESCR and the Venezuelan LGBTQIA+ Community] making it clearly visible that the State has tried to conceal the reality. Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) are being violated every day in Venezuela, affecting people of the LGBTQIA+ community in a differentiated manner, who already have to deal with violations against their rights to identity and acknowledgment on behalf of the State.



The activist Prissila Solórzano pointed out that it isn't easy to talk about respect to the ESCR in the Venezuelan context. “If heterosexual people have a hard time accessing these rights, it's much worse for transgender people.” On his part, Liohan Delgado highlighted that “it's important to have an intersectional vision and to know how these rights are exercised in other cities of the country, and not just in Caracas.” “The State's nonchalance has differentiated impacts upon the LGBTQIA+ community; it's important to say this, because it isn't a separate issue, all of us are living the Complex Humanitarian Emergency”, added Yendri Velázquez.

Francisco González, an investigator from Caleidoscopio Humano and an emerging leader of MonitorDescaVe, discussed with the activists Prissila Solórzano, Liohan Delgado and Yendri Velásquez, who, facing the absence of guarantees to these rights, raise their voices in protest from every corner in order demanding respect to situations that leave them without any opportunities for education, work and access to health, as well as the right to housing, to enjoy cultural spaces and opportunities to fully develop in the country.

Read more in spanish here 

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

Venezuelan State doesn't comply with I/A Court H.R. cautionary measures favoring a detainee in the “Operation Aurora”

Juan José Gámez was detained by the Military Counterintelligence General Directorate [DGCIM by its Spanish acronym] on December 24th, 2019 in Santa Elena de Uairén, State of Bolivar, in the context of the “Aurora Operation” [also known as a military uprising attacking the Santa Elena fort in the State of Bolivar against corruption of high-ranking officers and supporting the Pemon indigenous people].



Gámez affirmed that he was tortured by DGCIM officers during while detained in Caracas, and that he wasn't brought before the judicial authority within the corresponding period of time, because of his inability to walk. At the time of filing the cautionary measure, Gámez hadn't

been presented before court. He had no communication with his family or any contact with his attorneys either. He's currently being detained at the Rodeo II Correctional Facility, located in the city of Guatire, State of Miranda.

The cause of action is currently in the trial stage, whose hearing has been deferred twelve times. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.) issued a cautionary measure on September 2nd, 2020 favoring Juan José Gámez, demanding that the Venezuelan State adopts the necessary measures in order to protect detainee's rights to life and personal integrity; however, the government hasn't complied with said demand.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Controlling students and classrooms: A suspected objective of the Act of Student Participation in the Basic Educational Subsystem

This legal document, whose complete content is still unknown, since it's yet to be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, in spite of being enacted by the President of the Republic on February 23rd, 2023, having been passed and sanctioned in a context of protests on behalf of civil servants, especially teachers and professors who demand better salaries, and has continued *in crescendo* since last year.



and support of the Ministry of the People's Power with competence in educational matters."

The aforesaid calls into question the "full autonomy" assigned to the new bodies by Article 18, making it very clear that students won't be choosing their representatives in an independent manner, but rather

According to the scarce drafts of the Act of Student Participation in the Basic Educational Subsystem that have been made available, even though it doesn't establish the possibility that students will assume their teachers' roles, which is the news that's been spread around in social networks, it will indeed open the door for the Ministry of Education to be even more watchful as to what's happening in classrooms as well as in schools. How is this possible? Through the figure known as "Student Councils". In one of the texts currently circulating via social networks, Article 17 points out that "Student Councils are bodies for student organization and participation at the elementary, middle/junior high, and high school levels pertaining to the Basic Educational Subsystem". This rule also indicates that the members of said bodies will be chosen "through a democratic election system" which will be performed with "the coordination

they will need approval from the governmental office. It seems like authorities wish to apply the same formula to students as they did to Community Councils, which are organizations that intend to oust Neighborhood Associations, the latter having to submit to a registration process before the government if they wish to receive public funds and have a legal standing.

The aforementioned provisions apparently aim towards turning students into comptrollers of the educational system, which raises concerns that the already sanctioned and enacted law seeks the reinforcement of governmental intervention as to the planning, execution, monitoring, control, oversight, and assessment within the country's educational institutions.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

Acción Solidaria befitted 16,850 people in Caracas between 2018 and 2022

We must record data in order to understand and improve our Humanitarian Health Response Program, but we know that behind that there are people witnessing how this human right has affected them. In five years our organization has benefited 16,850 people with this program just in Caracas.



pandemic demonstrated how the public health system has deteriorated in Venezuela. Our commitment to the human right to health has motivated us to become part of the solution.

Thanks to our network of allied organizations, the Humanitarian Health Response Program was able to take biosecurity equipment to medical and nursing staff in 15 states of the country.

Something important shown by such records is that over 60% of beneficiaries are women, and more than 30% live in low-income sectors. This is why we insist on the need of focusing our attention on those groups whose vulnerable situation is dire. Furthermore, the COVID-19

Even though the virus' range has lessened, we will continue to work on.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Government accusations against the ICC Prosecutor demonstrate unawareness of the Rome Statute

As of March 3rd, 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 March 3rd, 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.



intergovernmental organizations and any other reliable source allowing its investigations to move forward. This is distinctly set forth in the 2nd numbered paragraph of Article 15 of the Rome Statute. Therefore, to think that the Prosecutor's Office's ties before the ICC with NGOs are "irregular" or that they compromise this authority's objectiveness is nonsense that disclaims the working mechanisms stipulated in the Rome Statute.

The Venezuelan State has just issued a statement before the International Criminal Court on February 28th, 2023, accusing the Prosecutor's Office of "lack of neutrality", alleging suspected "irregularities and violations to the due process" and questioning the Prosecutor's Office "proven ties" before the ICC with NGOs that have provided information that supported the investigation requested. According to the Venezuelan State, the investigation has a "political nature" and part of a "change of regime strategy launched by the United States government".

In said statement, the Venezuelan State disregards the following: firstly, the ICC Rome Statute promotes interaction between the Prosecutor's Office before said authority and NGOs, as well as with States,

Additionally, the Venezuelan State is clearly unaware that the United States, as a nation, isn't part of the Rome Statute, due to the fact that this country has never ratified or been subjected to the ICC's jurisdiction. In this manner, it's illogical to think that the US could have any influence upon the International Criminal Court's or the Prosecutor's Office's performance. Lastly, it's contradictory to point out that the Venezuelan State has been subjected to a "defenselessness" scheme, since it has participated in many instances in the investigation and has even been awarded proposed requests. It has never been stopped from presenting its allegations or arguments. In any case, the power in Venezuela should be reminded that the investigations that are moving forward before the Prosecutor's Office and the International Criminal Court aren't aimed at States, but rather against individuals; thus, saying that "Venezuela is being accused" is wrong. In fact, it hasn't even reached the stage in which the particular identities of the victims and potential aggressors have been determined.

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

MP harassed a citizen via Twitter

José Brito, a Member of Parliament that was elected in 2020, verbally harassed the political scientist Carlos Rodríguez through his Twitter account after the latter had expressed his opinion of the MP's position concerning the opposition's primary election.



In view of this, the political scientist tells that Brito started sending him direct messages "with a hostile tone", as well as insults and obscene language. In other opportunities, both through social networks and mass media, the MP has attacked citizens and journalists and other leaders in a similar manner due to their criticisms. A form of violence seeking to avoid critical remarks by citizens in general.

Rodríguez responded a public message via Twitter posted by Brito, in which he assured that his political party, Primero Venezuela, was denied its participation in the process organized by the Primary Election National Commission.

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PROVEA - www.provea.org

Complex Humanitarian Emergency and evidences of anthropological damage



When talking about the Complex Humanitarian Emergency, there's a profusion of statistical data that are overwhelming due to their power, such as the increase of hunger in the country up to a severe level, according to the most recent report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), as well as the permanent difficulties for accessing drinking water, electric power service or cooking gas. All of these aspects are the causes for which over 7 million Venezuelans have been forced to emigrate due to the loss of their livelihoods in the country.



understanding of the effects of the serious economic, social and political crisis.

The new study, Psico Data Venezuela, published by the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello on March 1st, 2023, shows us empirical data for the first time on the effects of this crisis, the population's beliefs and attitudes. A concern, sadness and anger average of 17.74 (out of 26) was

In spite of the magnitude of these figures, nothing is said regarding personal suffering of most of the Venezuelan people who has had to face hostile life conditions. We know little about how they've changed life and perceptions facing the convergence of these multiple crises upon everyone's life. The concept of anthropological damage refers to this, to the difficulties that Venezuelans face and how they've affected their daily lives and their life projects. Up until now, the concept has been proposed as a form of broadening the

obtained, the personal sense of control average was 30.15 (out of 39), 81% think that people can't be trusted, and the main cause of stress is due to economic problems. Thus, the scenario this new survey shows us is a society that, while focused on its search for survival, has witnessed how mistrust has increased, only counting on family support and, at the same time, there's a widespread perception that we have no control over what happens to us because of the massive hazardous effect of a situation that has no respect towards people's rights. The restitution of the economic, social and cultural rights and heeding the causes of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency will allow Venezuelans to reclaim their dignity and freely undertake their life projects.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Nicolás Maduro's government attacks the ICC Prosecutor's Office for the Venezuela I Case



Nicolás Maduro's government attacked the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor's Office for its intention of continuing the investigations regarding the alleged extrajudicial executions, tortures, enforced disappearances, and massive detentions occurred in Venezuela, identified as the Venezuela I Case.



Venezuelan authorities attacked the ICC Prosecutor's Office, headed by the British jurist, Karim Khan, in a document sent to the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber. In the text, they accused Khan of committing "several irregularities and violations to the due process" and hearing rumors "of alleged crimes against humanity that had never happened".

protests occurred between 2014 and 2017, those who were arbitrarily detained, tortured or disappeared, as well as the almost 12,000 executions committed by suspected police officers between 2012 and 2020, apparently didn't occur. Likewise, authorities denounced an alleged "legal colonialism" that "intends to use the ICC's institutionality for political purposes". Up until now, only the Prosecutor General imposed by the extinct National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, has referred to the international organization in such a manner.

For Maduro's government, the hundreds of Venezuelans that died in the repression to the wave of

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CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Cepaz documented 187 cases of persecution and criminalization during January 2023

Since 2014, the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) has identified and documented different persecution and criminalization patterns that affect individuals and organizations in Venezuela in a differentiated manner and within several contexts. They are exercised by Nicolás Maduro's government in a systematic form as part of a strategy for remaining in power. 2023 started with a wave of protests from various social sectors, especially from civil servants demanding better working and salary conditions. Even though demonstrations, protests and the possibility of free speech are fundamental rights, the government has responded with punishments and making an example out of those people who have joined in such demands of their rights. We recorded 187 cases of persecution against mass media and press workers, also against human rights defenders, civil society organizations, people linked to political activism, and against citizens in general.



We also recorded 18 cases of criminalization against mass media and press workers, like the closure of the Kalidad 90.3 FM radio station in the State of Tachira, consequently, the Municipality of Fernández Feo is now only has just one operational radio station. Ten other acts of harassments and threats were perpetrated against journalists and mass media. The victims were journalists Nilsa Varela and Manuel Ruiz [both from the *Diario El Vistazo news portal*], Carolina (a.k.a. Carola) Briceño [from *El Nacional journal*], Mariángela García and Eduardo Ruiz, as well as their employer, the *NotiFalcón* digital news portal. Moreover, journalists José Gregorio Meza, Carolina (a.k.a. Carola) Briceño, and Ramón Hernández [all from *El Nacional journal*] were victims of intimidation measures carried out by the Prosecutor General's Office. Lastly, the Governor of the State of Trujillo attacked the *Diario de Los Andes* regional journal with three news briefs. Furthermore, seven obstacles or

impediments arose concerning the recording of a news event: a protest by workers of the Siderúrgica del Orinoco "Alfredo Maneiro", C.A. [*SIDOR* by its Spanish acronym], swearing in the new Board of Directors of the Municipal Council of Sucre, State of Miranda, and the *Vuelta al Táchira [Tour of Táchira on Bicycle]* sporting event. The journalists affected in these cases were Pableysa Ostos [from *La Patilla digital news portal*]; Carlos Suniaga [from *El Pitazo digital news portal*]; Marthy Barbera [from *VPI tv digital news portal*] and Javier Reyes [from *NotiFalcón* and *El Noticiero del Pueblo mass media*]. Additionally, Elvia González [from *Efecto Duna mass media*]; Magally Hassan [from *La Mañana mass media*] and Elvis Rivas [freelance journalist].

There were also 66 acts of criminalization against human rights defenders and civil society organizations, and 94 against citizens in general. Three acts of harassments and threats against family members of those being persecuted. More specifically, two against a journalist's relatives and another one against a human rights defender's kinsman. Other acts involving a great number of victims occurred within the context of social protests held workers demanding improvements in their salary conditions in which at least 11 SIDOR workers were detained by State Security officers. Finally, there were 9 acts of persecution against people linked to politics. In an electoral context and threatened by its possible loss of power through the population's mass and organized participation, we alert that exercise of repression patterns may worsen as well as the number of victims; thus, documentation and the warning call as to what's happening in Venezuela.

Read more in spanish here 

