



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA



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

## Gender equality in Venezuela is a historic debt



In spite of existing a history of resolutions issued by the National Electoral Council [CNE by its Spanish initials] in Venezuela, of having enacted laws that cover gender equality and of having a Constitution that establishes the exercise of rights and freedoms under equal conditions, there still persist ample gaps that keep women at a margin from the political affairs of the country and of the decision-making spaces. The multiple obstacles in order to achieve gender equality keep Venezuela in 90th place out of 190 countries in regards to their percentage in parliaments, as per the UN Women study “Women in Politics: 2020”. This is evidenced in the current parliamentary representation, wherein women constitute 22% of the total of representatives in the Parliament.



participation of women in Parliament, besides recognizing the inequality that still affects the representation of women in political affairs.

Now then, the equal presence of men and women isn't enough to guarantee a gender-sensitive Parliament; it also requires that the Parliament, exercising its

The increase of women's participation in the Venezuelan Legislative Power, far from being a policy devised by the State in order to achieve gender equality, it has been more of a historical struggle that has been marked by institutional setbacks and the little interest on behalf of the State. The need for a gender-sensitive Parliament is based on the gender equality principle and in acknowledging that both men and women have the right to participate in the affairs of a country without any barriers or discrimination. The legal regulations that compel the establishment of electoral nominations based on an equal and alternate composition, is a measure that effectively applied paves the way to a full and effective

attribution, responds to the particular and differentiated needs and interests of men and women; in other words, adopts measures with gender perspectives. In the Venezuelan context, the effective application of all those characteristics becomes particularly important, due to the fact that the country is submerged in a Complex Humanitarian Emergency and a multidimensional crisis that affects girls, teenage girls and women in a disproportionate manner. A gender-sensitive Parliament and the full and effective participation of women who know their own needs and priorities, assures the inclusion of the use of sufficient resources in the legislative agenda for the protection of matters regarding nourishment, physical, social, and economical securities of girls, teenage girls and women who suffer the effects of the Venezuelan crisis.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

**Espacio Público - [www.espaciopublico.org](http://www.espaciopublico.org)**

## The National Bolivarian Intelligence Service raids again the offices of the Venepress digital portal



Officers of the National Bolivarian Intelligence Service [SEBIN by its Spanish acronym] raided - once again - the headquarters of

Venepress and left with the editorial equipment. The event occurred on Wednesday, November 11th.

According to the information provided by Israel Barbusano, Chief Editor of the Venepress agency, to Espacio Público, the Sebin entered the media offices at approximately 12:00 noon and stayed there until 8:00 p.m. ransacking the place.

«They took 15 Mac computers from the editorial office, one from

postproduction, three cameras with lighting and 17 Samsung TV sets», said Barbusano. «According to the lawyers, there is no warrant at any court, therefore the event could be considered as a robbery», explained Venepress in social media.

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

### More than 14 corruption mechanisms are evidenced in the Venezuelan health system

The structural corruption established in Venezuela during the last two decades is one of the causes of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency affecting its citizens today. The systematic theft of public resources during the most recent hydrocarbons price boom seriously impacted human rights and the sanitary system of the country was one of the most affected, as it was evidenced in the most recent report of Transparencia Venezuela, titled *When corruption is the virus [Cuando la corrupción es el virus]*.

The investigation refers that corruption in Venezuela is perceived in all levels and scenarios, starting with the budget allocation up to the relation between hospital staff with the public. In spite of its recidivism, of the compromised sums and the generated damage, its record is an enormous task due to the lack of transparency of the information, as well as the threats and persecutions against those who dare raise their voice before the illegalities and weaknesses of the system.



The monitoring performed by Transparencia Venezuela to the health sector and the record of investigations initiated by domestic and foreign authorities, as well as the inquiries carried out by well-known communications media allowed to identify more than 14 corruption mechanisms recorded in the sector. Among the repeating patterns is the reiterated individual allocation of contracts to recently incorporated companies or foreign intermediary corporations; the purchase of overpriced medications, materials and equipment and, in some cases, with advance payments; the invoicing of amounts greater than what was actually received; the reiterated breach of contracts for execution of works and nepotism.

**Read more in spanish here** 

## Bloque Constitucional - [www.bloqueconstitucional.com](http://www.bloqueconstitucional.com)

### Lack of attention and support to human rights of those affected by floods

The intense rains during the last few weeks in Venezuela have caused floods, overflowing of creeks, roads that have given way causing isolation of sectors where a great number of people live. This has affected thousands of Venezuelans that have lost everything: houses, belongings, food, vehicles, and, in the worst cases, their own lives. People that have additionally been left without water and electric power services. All in all, entire populations that have been isolated and submerged not only in floods but also have been forgotten.

Thus, Venezuelans keep suffering from the inefficiency of a regime that demonstrates to be incapable of protection through civil security authorities facing situations that constitute threats, vulnerability or risk for the physical integrity of people and their properties (Article 55 of the Constitution); on the contrary, people



have been affected in enjoying their right to life, to a safe home, hygienic and with basic services (Article 82 of the Constitution); to health, since the floods cause diseases that aren't tended to either (Article 83 of the Constitution), and the right to property of their assets (Article 115 of the Constitution).

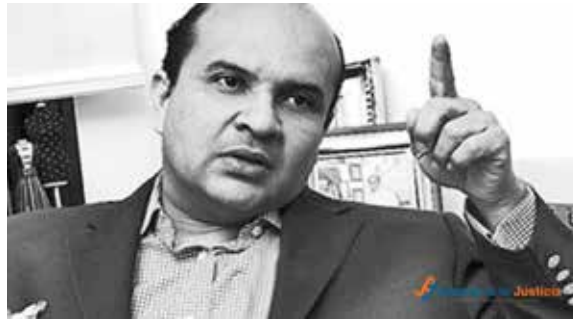
Therefore, it is not only about accidents caused by natural disasters, the problem arises in countries like ours wherein those who have the responsibility and the power of duly tending to public services do not do so. People must suffer the consequences of this in compliance of the State to guarantee the exercise of their rights and obligation of rendering services such as cleaning of creeks, surveillance of vulnerable areas, adequate maintenance of communication roads and having available salvage equipment and support to those who have been affected.

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

### Roland Carreño: yet another case of political persecution in Venezuela



Even though the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reported less than two months ago that crimes against humanity are committed in Venezuela, such as arbitrary detentions and forceful disappearances in order to silence the dissidents, the administration of Nicolás Maduro continues to use these practices against those who oppose it. This has happened recently in the case of the journalist and leader of the political party Voluntad Popular (VP) Roland Carreño, to whom the same pattern has been applied as the one reported by the group of investigators designated by the Human Rights Council, which is comprised of at least five practices: violent detention without a legal warrant or in alleged flagrant violation, lack of information regarding the cause of detention and lack of communication of the detainee, planting evidence and coerced confession, pronouncement of high-ranking officials before or shortly after their detention, jail without bail because of a supposed flight risk.



Terrorism that admitted the accusation of financing terrorism; conspiracy against the intrinsic political nature, and illicit trafficking of weapons of war against the journalist. His arbitrary detention was on October 26th and he was disappeared and incommunicado for almost 24 hours.

This case demonstrates that the Venezuelan officers seem to not have understood that such practices are crimes against humanity for being part of an evidenced systematic pattern; therefore, all of those who planned it up to those who executed and tolerated it may be processed by the International Criminal Court (ICC), who has attributions to process individuals for having committed these crimes. In fact, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC has just acknowledged the presumed existence of these types of crimes in Venezuela.

On October 29th, 2020, Roland Carreño was presented before the Fourth State Court of Common Pleas in Functions of Control with competency against

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

### 52 political prisoners in Venezuela have unattended delicate health situations



As of November 13th, 2020 Foro Penal recorded 15,668 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 870 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,549 political prisoners, of which 3,183 have been released under different modalities.



As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of November 13th the number is 366 people, out of which 24 are women. Additionally, 9,295 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

In Foro Penal we have recorded 52 cases of political prisoners with delicate health situations that are not being tended to in full and that may end up with much more serious pathologies if the much needed correct medical attention is impeded. We have gone in two opportunities to the International Red Cross in order to request support in these and other cases; however, we have not received any response. The complete report about these 52 cases is published on our website [www.foropenal.com](http://www.foropenal.com).

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

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

### Migration of Venezuelan women



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) projected in November 2019 that 4.6 million Venezuelans were abroad and 40% of them were women, according to the United Nations Population Fund (formerly the United Nations for Population Activities - UNFPA). In spite of the great obstacles that leaving the country entail, millions of Venezuelans make that difficult decision because the alternative is to stay and continue facing: an annual inflation of 9,586% (Banco Central de Venezuela -BCV- 2019), economic recession since 2015, minimum wage of USD 1.5 per month when the Basic Food Basket as of June 2020 was priced at USD 202.46, a collapsed public health system, shortage of 80% of medications [*Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation - Fefarven by its Spanish acronym*], nourishment insecurity, collapse of public utility services such as electric power, water and transportation, as well as the generalized gasoline shortage, among others.



public health services, the increase in maternal and infant mortality, the difficulty to find food and menstrual poverty (referring to the difficulties that girls and women face by not being able to acquire those products that assure a correct menstrual hygiene, including water, mostly due to the elevated costs and that impact their school and work life).

To all of this we must add other causes that drive women to migrate and that leave them in an even more vulnerable situation. The differentiated impact of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency and most of the affectations are related to their human right to health. María Corina Muskus, director and founder of the Venezolanas Globales platform, points out that other reasons for the migration of Venezuelan women are the scarcity of birth control methods, the deterioration of

In this regard we can include some data: birth control methods shortage is 90% according to the NGO Convite, which hinders family planning and unwanted pregnancies, especially in minors; Venezuela is the region leader in this index. Additionally, maternal mortality increased 66% from 2015 to 2016, and infant mortality increased in 30% according to the HUM Venezuela information platform, which has led to Venezuelan women to cross the border in order to give birth in Cucuta, Colombia. Furthermore, in order for menstruating women to access menstrual hygiene products means to have available at least two minimum wages of their income for each period, as per figures of the NGO CEPAZ.

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

### The NGO Un Mundo Sin Mordaza nominated for the Carlos Cruz-Diez award



With committed activists in over 25 countries, the NGO Un Mundo Sin Mordaza keeps growing and raising its voice against hatred and injustices all around the world.

2020 has been one of the most difficult years ever lived; the world was forced to put everything on hold for a while. However, as an organization, Un Mundo Sin Mordaza has searched for a way to continue the task of safeguarding human rights and democracy, reinventing itself and being able to prepare four documentation reports regarding human rights violations, three art contests for promoting human rights, the online festival



Me Cuido para Cuidar, five online Pijamming concerts and the university mural contest Tu Mural Por Venezuela Pintando Sueños.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza believes in art as a transformation mechanism, with the promise of advancing forward taking into account everything that has been learned in the past. This year our organization was nominated for the Carlos Cruz-Diez award in the Art category of the NGO Más Ciudadanos. You can vote to support us through the [www.masciudadanos.org](http://www.masciudadanos.org) website, and thus contributing so that we may continue raising our voice for those who are most in need.

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



### Defiende Venezuela files a document before the Constitutional Court of Colombia in favor of the decriminalization of abortion

Defiende Venezuela, the International Protection Program of the Universidad de Antioquia, the Litigation Promoter before International Protection Systems of Human Rights of the Universidad de Antioquia, the feminist collective Bolívar en Falda and members of the Argentine Magazine Género y Derecho Actual, along with attorneys and human rights activists, jointly presented a brief of citizens intervention before the unconstitutional action against Article 122 of the Criminal Code, through which abortion or the voluntary interruption of pregnancy is partially penalized in Colombia.

These organizations and human rights activists of Colombia, Argentina, Costa Rica, and Venezuela have the criteria that the penalization causes a stigma that dissuades women of requesting an abortion and from sharing and receiving information with certainty, it also discourages health staff of practicing it and training to



the effects of having better education in order to apply this technique in an adequate manner and with the least amount of risks possible. Likewise, they consider that the right to health is affected and more specifically women's sexual and reproductive rights, and that this provision is contrary to the convention that imposes coherence between the internal provisions of the

Member States and the American Convention on Human Rights.

Additionally, this intervention reflected the ways on how this regulatory provision of Colombia affects Venezuelan immigrant women and girls that, according to several sources, are more susceptible of being victims of human trafficking and discrimination and, consequently, to be excluded from health treatments, among which is the voluntary interruption of pregnancy.

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



### The Government of Maduro refuses to comply with the conventions of the International Labor Organization

On November 10th, the Administration Council of the International Labor Organization (ILO) discussed the report presented in 2019 by the Inquiry Commission regarding the situation of some labor rights in Venezuela and evaluated the degree of compliance of the recommendations performed.

Eduardo Piñate, Labor Minister of the *de facto* government, intervened in this meeting and categorically affirmed that said recommendations shall not be complied. He disqualified several governments that urged him to comply them and made several asseverations regarding labor rights in our country that were completely untrue. Lying has become a policy in the government of Maduro both to the



Venezuelan public as well as to the international community.

The refusal to comply with the recommendations affects the rights of Venezuelan workers, since this includes improvement of salaries and wages, social dialogue, respect to freedom of unions, discussion and compliance with collective conventions.

The intervention of Minister Piñate demonstrated once more that Maduro and his upper echelons has become a nightmare to workers and that his administration has only produced is a greater deterioration of rights and life conditions of millions of public employees and workers in the private sector.

