



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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**Codevida** - [www.codevida.org](http://www.codevida.org)

## Venezuela will need humanitarian help during three years before recuperating its capabilities



The complex humanitarian emergency is a process that settled slowly, as the result of a political system and groups in power, who have lost their capabilities to provide protective living conditions for the population, conditions for a decent, worthy life. That caused three unavoidable effects: first, impossibility to accede a public health system, able to protect life and to prevent illnesses (destruction of structures and shortage of equipments, reagents, and medicines); second, general hunger, because political actions have diminished production and food supplies; third -derived from the former two-, forced migrational waves, that started with those who could afford it, and little by little have spread all other social sectors, which no longer find a way to survive and, finally, leave the country, in search of

better life conditions- and also for providing those who stay in the country. So is said by Feliciano Reyna, an activist on human rights and the founder of Acción Solidaria.

Reyna points out that, since 2015, Venezuelan organizations pro human warned that our country was entering a context of enormous life disruption. "We made informs for a periodical universal evaluation of Venezuela before the Council of Human Rights of United Nations; and we also made informs for examining Venezuelan State before other entities (Committee of Human Rights, Committee of Economical, Social, and Cultural Rights, Committee for Women's Rights, Committee for Children and Adolescents, Committee Against Torture). We observed high levels of violations of human rights, with grave humanitarian consequences (immense suffering, loss of lives, inability to manage quotidian life); then, we looked for words to define the situation and found the ONU's concept of humanitarian emergency, established in the 80s".

Reyna considers that, even in case of a (political) change, and the recuperation of institutionality and governability "we (civil society) estimate there is such a serious destruction that we will have to think of counting on international humanitarian response for two or three years. There are more than 280 hospitals within public health that are infrastructurally deteriorated, as well as in their possibilities of attending people. Besides that, the other problems: energy generation system, drinking water system, transportation and highway administration... Several years will pass by before a minimal recuperation allows people back to normal life. Agricultural production system is particularly delicate: although seeds are available, it will take some time to recover, because agriculture depends on seasonal factors. Therefore, there will be a long period of considerable need".



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

## Corpoelec ex-worker's detention is a case of political prison

By April 26, 2019, Foro Penal has registered 14.652 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela, since January 1st, 2014. 840 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January, 2014 up to date, we have accumulated 2.926 political prisoners. Full liberty or release under different modalities have been obtained in 2.140 cases.

By April 2014 we had 117 political prisoners in Venezuela. Today, the cipher for these category of inmates is 790, which was certified by OAS/OEA on April 22. 74 of them are women. Besides, 8.313 persons are still unfairly



submitted to penal processes under caution measures.

Last April 25, Corpoelec's ex-worker Otoniel Ramos was arrested for supposedly harming the national electric system, terrorism, and association for delinquency. It is an obvious case of political persecution, due to the government's position of blaming. Third persons for the grave fails occurred in our energy system, which in fact are attributable exclusively to negligence and corruption. For years now, both have characterized governmental management of the national budget.

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

### CIDH grants caution measures to persons with multiple sclerosis and breast carcinoma with osseous metastasis

On October 28 and 29, 2018, Defiende Venezuela presented four solicitations of caution measures to favor Infrida Josefina Ramos Lopez, Sara Maria Olmos Reveron, Miguel Eduardo Perozo Gonzalez, y Carmen Alicia Marquez de D'Jesus, in their high-risk situations for the lack of medical treatments adequate to their conditions.

Denouncements presented revealed that the Venezuelan State, through Venezuelan Institute of Social Security (IVSS), is not delivering the medicaments they must have according to their needs, although it is engaged to do so. Furthermore, the victims could not acquire the necessary medicines because the State reserved for itself the corresponding importations.

Infrida Josefina Ramos Lopez suffers from a carcinoma in her left breast with osseous metastasis; the other three persons -Sara Maria Olmos Reveron, Miguel Eduardo Perozo, and Carmen Alicia Marques de D'Jesus- are



multiple sclerosis patients.

Through resolution 18/2019, Inter American Court of Human Rights (CIDH) granted caution measures numbers 1286-18, 1287-18, 1288-18, and 1289-18 in favor of those persons; and solicited Venezuelan State to adopt all necessary measures protecting life, personal integrity, and health to the persons benefited: they must be

allowed an access to adequate medical treatments thorough immediate mechanisms, including the necessary medicines prescribed by their doctors, and the exams and diagnoses indispensables to evaluate regularly their states of health, under international standards applicable in each case.

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

### What is the essence of the Statute to Rule Transition to Democracy?

The reasonings of the Statute to Rule Transition to Democracy -approved by National Assembly (AN) last February- clearly state that "its purpose is going back to the Constitution taking the Constitution itself as a starting point, for offering an orderly and rational channel to the unprecedented, imminent process of political change that has begun in our country". It is inspired by superior values, like life, liberty, justice, equity, solidarity, democracy, social responsibility, constitutional supremacy, and -in general terms- the preeminence of human rights, ethics, and political pluralism, as derived from constitutional art.5.



The Statute's art.3 establishes that the objectives of democratic transition are: the complete restoration of constitution order; the recuperation of popular sovereignty through free elections; and the reversal of the complex humanitarian emergency. All of this is for rescuing the system of liberties, constitutional guarantees, and human rights.

The Statute has a superior quest. Major principles generated its design, in concept and structure; and gravitate on the protection of Human Rights, which have been disrespected and violated over and over again during this obscure passage of our history. That is precisely the reason why the Parliament searches for a reconnection with the constitutional order we gave ourselves in 1999.

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

### TSJ impedes once more protecting PDVSA's goods abroad

The Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) intensified actions against interim government of Juan Guaidó via two sentences, #74 and #75, which respectively annul the legitimate interim government of Venezuela and the National Assembly's (AN's) appointment of a special attorney for defending the State's interests overseas; and the ad hoc directors board of Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and partner companies. Such AN's decisions mean a desperate intention to protect the country's goods from Nicolás Maduro's regime. In turn, TSJ's Constitutional Hall keeps on attacking AN's actings, away to protect the totalitary project of this government *de facto*.



The main reasoning used by TSJ's Constitutional Hall for justifying its declarations of nullity is "disrespect". With

Frank Thomas, a journalist of Venepress news agency, was detained on Thursday, April 18, when he was covering the distribution of Red Cross humanitarian help among inhabitants of Bellas Artes, a sector in Caracas.

Thomas informed that, at noon, persons who were nearby that health center felt disappointed because stocks ran out. But one person said that some Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) officials had taken products away, causing the exhaustion. People had been waiting over there since 10 AM.

"When I was taking declarations, somebody told me that a feminine GNB was approaching. I turned and saw officer Sanchez, who ordered me to stop. I felt afraid for



permanency in power and the unlimited concentration of functions, all of which permits them to establish a parallel State -opposite to the one foreseen by 1999 Magna Carta.

this "starring argument", every time that the Legislative Power and interim president Juan Guaidó execute legitimately their functions and faculties, the Constitutional Hall, at full speed, disregards their decisions.

This sentence insists on favoring Maduro's usurping regime, especially on aspects related to

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

### Journalists of Venepress retained in Red Cross Caracas

my physical integrity and for my work's safety. I ran, and GNBs officers persecuted me, including a patrol car belonging to a non identified police corps. They tried to knock me down, but I avoided them and went on running. They caught me when a couple of armed civilians riding a motorcycle pointed at me to make me stop. I held my hands up, but they tumbled me down on the pavement, as a groups of people arrived from the Red Cross Hospital", Thomas finished.

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

International short films contest The Right Cut is back

This year, NGO Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, jointly with Amnistía Internacional; the Embassy of France in Venezuela; David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University; and social networks Twitter; realize the second edition of The Rights Cut, an international contest of short films, which aims at educating, promoting, denouncing, and generating solidarity about freedom of expression. The Right Cut focuses on exploiting each participant's talent through the productions of a short film, always raising a voice against violations of the rights to express freely; and doing so via the creation of stories able to generate sensitivity and empathy among spectators.



of France; Best Short Film on Freedom of Expression, by Twitter; and Best Short Film on the Fundamental Right to Education, by David Rockefeller Center. Besides, the short film receiving the highest number of retweets and Me Gusta will also be awarded.

Participants have time since April 22 to August 18 for presenting their short films. The works must have a title; and be oriented from any point of view to promote liberty of expression. Documentaries can participate as well, if realized some time between January 1st, 2016, up to date.

The competition will grant three principal prizes: Best Short Film on Human Rights and Democracy, by Embassy

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## CIVILIS Derechos Humanos - [www.civilisac.org](http://www.civilisac.org)

Only a human-rights defending society can construct a healthy, safe, poverty-free future

Day of Earth, a celebration proposed in 70s by environmental activists in the United States, is a propitious chance for evaluating the environmental rights that are violated in Venezuela, on which we have to emphasize.

Alejandro Alvarez Iragorry, a biologist and coordinator of Coalition Clima 21, explains that Venezuela is much of a paradox as for environmental matters. "We have had for many years a developmental culture that disrespects nature; yet, there have been and still are persons, organizations, and even governments, who have made remarkable efforts concerning conservation of our environmental patrimony. It is a novelty to many, understanding environmental aspects as human rights: neither governments nor other social actors have done their best at promoting formation and information about such rights".



Alvarez Iragorry underlines that our 1999 Constitution recognizes the citizens' right to have a healthy, safe, and ecologically balanced environment. Venezuelan legislation establishes the right to access to water, "but, beyond our legislation, at international levels, a body of principles and jurisdictions has been developed, which emphasizes the integrated character of human rights as a whole, and the importance of environmental rights as a basis for other rights: to life, to health, to work. All this shapes progressively the obligation of States to protect the environment through effective measures, in order to make possible exercising the rest of the rights".

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

### TSJ urged the world to not recognizing authorities appointed by the Parliament



Decisions taken by the persons appointed by National Assembly (AN) to direct Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), Petroquímica de Venezuela (Pequiven) y Monomeros Colombo-Venezolanos will not be accomplished by the Venezuelan State, since their assignments are not

valid. So was affirmed by the Constitutional Hall of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) via sentences #074 and #075.

The organism iterated that the Parliament's resolutions have "coup-d'etat intentions" –same as supposedly happened in April 2002– and represent an "assault" to the State oil company and other partner companies. Consequently, the Constitutional Hall urged United States, European Union, Latin America, Rusia, China, Iran, India, and Turkish Republic to recognize only the persons appointed by Nicolás Maduro's board of directors.

These judicial resolutions will drop off the sack, at least in the United States: since last February, Citgo –PDVSA's partner company in that country– is directed by the officials appointed by National Assembly. Those six appointed –Andrés Eloy Padilla, Angel Olmeta, Luisa Palacios, Rick Esser, Edgar Rincon, and Luis Urdaneta are working at the company's office in Houston (Texas).

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

### Returning to democracy for exercising our human rights

Next May 10 it will be four months since Nicolás Maduro's oath for a second presidential period, from 2019 to 2025. Such things aggravated even more the state of deterioration of democratic institutionality in our country. In May, it will also be one year since the fraud in presidential elections, an unprecedented situation in our contemporary history.

This irregularity is so extraordinary that its occurrence was never foreseen by those who wrote our 1999 Constitution. They clearly established what should be done in case of other injurious circumstances, related to the first magistracy –such as temporary and absolute absences. For those who were doubtful about this regime's dictatorial character, all that happened in May 2018 and in January 2019 is clarifying enough. That is the reason why around 60 governments in the world have not recognize the alleged



re-election of Nicolás Maduro as the president of Venezuela.

From a human-rights point of view, the profound setbacks in civil and political rights; jointly with the absence of independence of the public powers; have proved the vinculation between enjoying democratic liberties and the population's well-being. Now, poverty has reached some never before known levels, since petroleum activity made possible the fast modernization of our country, and provided adequate material conditions for progressive conquests related to social rights. That is why we must go back to democracy, if we aim at living in dignity. All of our efforts must be focused on restoring peacefully the validity of 1999 Magna Carta and all social and political rights that it contains.