



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Bulletin No. 36

From 7 to 14 May, 2018

www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

The revolutionary government signed at least US\$ 29.974 millions with Odebrecht



Transparencia Venezuela reveals its findings about the size of business dealings between our government and Odebrecht; and the rare and poor results they mean to the country and society. This Report is issued after 5 years of collecting documents and data processing, both based on or proceeding from Official Gazettes, ministerial Annual Accounts, papers of General Attorney's Office and National Register of Contractors, and papers from Additional Credits and/or Judicial Inspections.

Our ONG determined that the total amount of 20- out of 40 contracts certainly signed by our Nation and the Brazilian company- surpasses US\$ 29.974 millions; besides, payments done within 18 of those contracts sum up to US\$ 13.266 millions. (And they are only 20 of the 40 contracts signed).

From the available information related to some of the projects involved, Transparencia Venezuela could determine that modifications were made in the contracts, which meant raises of the costs to the Nation: the price originally agreed for a given work -scheduled 2017- was increased later, supposedly because of a challenge in the culmination date; but neither the alteration in the estimate nor the extension of the foreseen time for delivery are convincingly explained or supported by trustable evidence.

Apart from Brazil itself, Venezuela is the most scandalous case in the Odebrecht affair: in this country, bribes reached the top, both in number and in amounts. If Odebrecht operated among us under the same scheme used in other latin-american countries, Transparencia Venezuela esteems bribery was superior to US\$ 1.300 millions, quite a bit above the figure of US\$ 98 millions, accepted and confessed by Marcelo Odebrecht in his statement at the Court of New York in 2015.



READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Communicating in Venezuela: Challenges to Freedom of Speech

Next Tuesday, May 15, Espacio Público -jointly with Center of Human Rights and Cultural Center "Carlos Guillermo Plaza2, both of Catholic University "Andrés Bello" (UCAB)- will head a Forum, under the name of "Communicating in Venezuela: Challenges to freedom of Expression". The event will take place at the Auditorium "Nohemi Irauquín de Vargas", UCAB's Cultural Center, starting 9 AM.

Interamerican Commission on Human rights (CIDH) will participate in the forum (via Skype), represented by its Special Relator for Freedom of Speech, Edison Lanza. He is going to talk about freedom of thought and expression in our country, according to the Inform on democratic

institutionality, State of Right and human rights in Venezuela, issued by CIDH in February 2018.

COMUNICAR EN VENEZUELA

Desafíos para la Libertad de Expresión

15 de mayo
9:00 a.m.
Centro Cultural UCAB,
auditorio Nohemi Irauquín
de Vargas

Con la participación de:
- Edison Lanza, CIDH
- Morella Alvarado, UCV
- María Fernanda Flores,
Caracas Press Club
- Marcelino Bisbal, UCAB



Apart from him, the forum will also count on Morella Alvarado, Head of the Institute of Research on Communications, at Venezuela's Central University (UCV); Maria Fernanda Flores, President of the Caracas Press Club; and Marcelino Bisbal, Director of UCAB Publications. They will render their approaches to the current challenges to freedom of speech, from the points of view of a researcher, a journalist, and an academicist.



REGISTER HERE

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Venezuelan diaspora is organized in more than 200 cities to protest on May 20



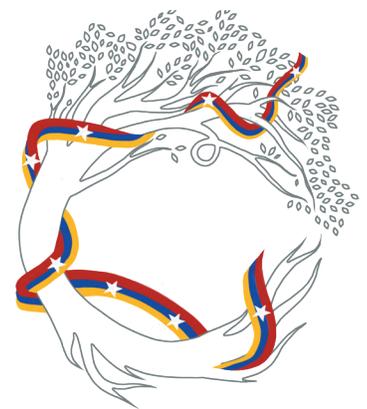
The NGO Justice for Venezuela reported that, jointly with Canada Venezuela Democracy Forum, Dialogue for Venezuela, Democratic Struggle, Recivex, Canary-Venezuelan Union, Veppex, and other organizations of Venezuelan Diaspora I, they are planning to make massive calls, in order to gather over 3 millions of Venezuelans abroad for protesting on May 20, as a form of rejection before the presidential elections.

Soraya Benitez, president of Canada Venezuela Democracy forum,

said that the activity will occur simultaneously in over 200 cities around the world. In her opinion, countries will not move if Venezuelans themselves are not the first ones to do so. She also said “the serious crisis faced by Venezuela and the regime that governs it make us lose hope, but will not lower our heads”.

With these calls, organizations aim to achieving three fundamental objectives related to Human Rights, before allied countries are willing to help us in this situation: “the first one is the global ignorance of the electoral process called by the National Constituent assembly (ANC), which will be held on May 20 in Venezuela. The second objective is urging the implementation of solidarity mechanisms by countries that receive Venezuelan migrants, as stated by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in March 2018.

And the third objective is urging at least one of the 160 members of the Rome Statute to present Venezuelan case before the International Criminal Court, in order to begin the formal investigation stage for establishing responsibilities in the Crimes Against Humanity that have occurred in Venezuela.



MEMORIAS POR LA VIDA

Civilis Derechos Humanos - <http://www.civilisac.org/>

“It is worth raising our voices for stopping violations against the Right to Health of Venezuelan children”



Many persons have a vein to help needy people, each one of them accomplishes the corresponding action in different ways; but consolidating an NGO (ONG) in Venezuela or even internationally is not an easy task. “Prepare Family” (“Prepara Familia”) is a non-governmental organization, dedicated to prevent violence against women and to support mothers and children at J.M de los Rios Hospital. PF has been working for more than eight years, and is presently headed by attorney Katherine Martinez.

Martinez provides support to both kids and their representatives, who face crude realities at that Hospital for Children. Her commitment is constant and evident. Every day she finds new reasons to carry on with her labor, summing up her deeds within a peaceful and hopeful environment, so dear to the small patients.

—How Prepara Familia’s initiative arouse in J.M de los Rios?

—We got here as a group of Catholic Volunteers, because we wanted to help people who were somehow in need or were going through an extreme situation. We asked some nurses for the most critical area and they said it was the fifth floor, where Neurosurgery and Urology Services are located. No way! We soon realized there were many other different needs in there, therefore our first approach lasted just a few hours. We immediately were committed by reality; nowadays, we support those mothers in their struggle to save their children’s lives



**READ MORE IN
SPANISH HERE**

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org/wp/

Road to Dictatorship

Venezuela is living under a Dictatorship. This assertion is valid for many of us. Others still have doubts about it. That happens because this one is not a classical dictatorship, in which there is a military authority commanding directly, never allowing freedom of speech, not at all.

But we are-in fact- living within and under an authoritarian regime. The clearest evidence -among many others- is this: we, citizens, have lost our right to elect freely our mandatories. The government, acting through National Electoral Council (CNE) and helped by the Supreme Court (TSJ), has gradually eliminated our political rights, especially after the election of the National Assembly (AN), in December 2015, meant a majority of oppositors.

For providing a wider panorama of the situation; and aiming to make citizens understand how we arrived to the present institutional crisis; Acceso a la Justicia launches a



Special, named “Road to Dictatorship”. Really, it is a campaign, which describes in three sections how the Executive Power has left our Constitution that was heartedly defended by chavismo in its beginnings. Our Special comes accompanied by a video, which shows evidences of contradictions in presidential speech; and recalls violations to

Human Rights in our country. Furthermore, the Special contains infographies, for enabling the reader to follow along time some important decisions, issued by TSJ, that contributed to build Nicolás Maduro’s regime. Viewers will comprehend how some basic human rights (to Food, to Health) are repeatedly violated, harming deeply Venezuelan population.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**

PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

Civil Society and NGOs (ONGs) call for suspension of the M20 electoral process



A group of at least 30 NGOs and other civil society’s initiatives issued a communication, in which they call for the suspension of the electoral process scheduled May 20. They also require elections to be re-scheduled by the end of the year; and the publication of a complete and definitive electoral chronography, which must be announced at least 6 months before the voting day. Among those who signed the document are: Venezuelan Electoral Observatory (OEV), Provea, Laboratorio de Paz,

Acceso a la Justicia, Aqui Cabemos Todos, Civilis DDHH, UCV’s Center for Human Rights, and Dale Letra –a citizens’ movement.

Electoral irregularities refer to obstacles for practicing the Right to Political Association, such as: the illegalization of political parties Primero Justicia (PJ) and Voluntad Popular (VP); impeding Marea Socialista –a political organization that comes from the so-called “dissident chavismo”- to postulate a presidential candidate; the arbitrary selection of the electoral date, in order to favor the Executive Power; violations of different legal rules and norms, say the presentation of candidates on their own initiative; the minimal 20-days lapse allowed for enrolling in National electoral Register; the use of public resources to promote Maduro; the use of Carnet the la Patria to assure a

favorable voting; informative imbalance along the campaign; and denounces of manipulation of the automatized voting system.

“Voting in Venezuela has lost legitimacy because the electoral system is considered hardly transparent today, since it is administered by non-impartial institutions. If this process is finally realized, the worst consequence will be an erosion at the institutional character of voting, namely a democratic mechanism for solving differences and for reflecting the majority’s opinion about which should be the country’s directions”, the communication says, and then summarizes “Electoral conditions society claims for are all displayed in the National Constitution and in the current Electoral Legislation”.

Foro Penal Venezolano - www.foropenal.com/

91 persons in prison within operation "Paper Hands"

Between January 1, 2014 and May 11, 2018, Foro Penal de Venezuela has registered 12.336 arbitrary arrest.

Among them, there are 746 civilians, who have been taken before military courts. From those, 121 are still in custody, 9 women included. Since January 2014, we have accumulated 1.439 political prisoners. Liberty was obtained -under diverse legal modalities- in 1.103 cases.

By April 2014, we had recorded 117 political prisoners. Today, Venezuela's number for this category reaches 336, which was certified by OEA based on data provided by



Foro Penal. Besides the former, 7.227 persons are kept unfairly submitted to judicial procedures under cautional measures.

Since our last report, repression has imprisoned -formally, by juridical decisions- other 91 persons, as a result of the so-called "Paper Hands" operation. This is an obvious attempt of the Venezuelan government to blame others for its mistaken economical and exchange policies. By doing so, the government warrants impunity to people who -holding power- are directly and really responsible for the grave economical crisis that Venezuela suffers.

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org.ve

Civil Society's Organizations articulate their efforts to obtain justice for victims



Juridical defense teams of civil society's organizations, -which are permanently active at organism of protection to human rights- held an encounter, aiming an analysis of the

current situation; an exchange of successful experiences; a review of their challenges; and a generation of joint strategies for an optimum performance in the international systems.

Within the context of impunity we have in our country, victims are nearly deprived from access to justice; that's why international organisms offer a way to implement strategies for defending organizations efficiently.

Center of justice and Peace (CEPAZ), Civilis, and PROVEA were the organizations who called to this encounter. They make a great effort to offer preparation and to integrate and articulate actions; as well as to assure the provision of adequate tools, which are to be used by organizations at their work pro obtaining justice.

 **READ MORE IN SPANISH HERE**