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www.crisisenvenezuela.com



Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

More than hunger: portraits of a forsaken society



Website *Memorias por la Vida* opened a new section called “Photographic Memory”, in which Venezuela’s persisting social and political crisis is witnessed through snapshots and other graphic essays. First-published work was realized by photographer Maria Angelica Jimenez; and it was titled “More than hunger”.

“The common denominator among these photos is hunger. However, major problems show through, such as early motherhood, abandoned children, maltreated adolescents, addicted youngsters, mothers who must be mom-and-dad and fathers likewise. They all are stories that reflect a persistent scholar desertion, unemployment, institutional violence, and countless illnesses that are not attended. They are portrayals of thousands of problems, apparently not solvable in a short or midterm, which impacts me and makes me think that we are a sick society, and it will take a long time to cure”, the photographer explains.

Maria Angelica Jimenez (1963, @ecajimenez) is a Venezuelan photographer, graduated at Catholic University “Andrés Bello” (UCAB). She completed her formation at Caracas

Neumann Institute; went through workshops directed by photographer Ricardo Armas; and studied at School of Photography of San Francisco University, and at the Center of Photography, in New York. Her work has been exposed at the Contemporary Art Museum (MAC), at the Center of Integrated Arts and at Cultural Park Hacienda La Trinidad.



MEMORIAS POR LA VIDA

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org.ve

Women, peace, and security



One of the outstanding priorities of the United Nations Organizations (ONU) has been the creation of policies exclusively dedicated to promote the equality of genders and the powering of women, the objective being to increase their participation in initiatives for restoring peace and preventing conflicts.

Equality of the genders and the political participation of women are two challenges that, in the last years,

have acquired a greater relevance in the political and social fields, although women confront two major obstacles to their participation. The first one: structural barriers created by discriminatory laws and institutions, which are still limiting women’s options for voting and for being elected. The second one: those old-fashioned gaps about capabilities, which imply that women have a lesser probability than men to count on education, contacts, and the necessary resources to get to be efficient leaders.

Conflicts and situations of instability have devastating consequences at aggravating pre-existent discriminatory schemes –human rights included. Within these contexts, small girls and women often

represent the majority in vulnerable populations, especially at facing strategies specifically addressed against them –sexual violence, among others. By including women in peace processes, a wider range of perspectives are incorporated; and there is a raise in inclusion and diversity. Therefore, there is also an increment in the capability for responding to problems, since a higher number of interested parties get involved –and that consolidates a more sustainable peace.



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Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

Are they constitutionalizing the radicalism of the present political model?

After the installation of illegal Constituent National Assembly (ANC), very little is known as for the elaboration of a new Constitution -which is being discussed behind closed doors, much opposite to the 1999 similar process. Drop by drop, some aspects had come through, related to the system for voting, economical issues, the Communal State, and High Treason, among other subjects. Recently, a supposed draft of the whole text appeared. Concerning this version -which is circulating among mass-media- Acceso a la Justicia alerts on four aspects that might be considered as radical changes to the Constitution in force, radical changes aiming to make possible for the government of Nicolás Maduro the legal and formal implementation of a totalitarian State.

1. Substituting our Federal State by transforming it into a Communal State. The constitutional draft includes explicitly a structure that modifies our political and territorial



organization, established by Venezuelan 1999 Magna Carta. 2. Limiting importantly private property, via the constitutionalization of “social property” and “collective property”. Art.117 of the constitutional draft refers to the existence of three forms of property, “social property, collective property, and particular property”. 3. Suppression of the independence of Public Powers. Art. 141 of the constitutional draft establishes that “for accomplishing specific functions, the National Popular Power structures Executive Power, Legislative Power, Judicial Power, Citizenry’s Power and Electoral Power”. 4. Inclusion of High

Treason as an offense against Fatherland. Art. 409 of the alleged constitutional draft aims to “exorcise” political dissidence, by means of establishing and applying such regulation.

It is important for us, venezuelans, to keep on alert before the constitutional proposition, because anti-democratic ANC may be prompt to present it -its only purpose is giving a legal appearance to the present political model. It is extremely grave, that the aforementioned draft does not even provide for the citizenry’s right to protest; while it does sanction severely those who may come to do so. We might be facing a sort of constitutionalization of a totalitarian State beyond control.



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Bloque Constitucional

Impunity deprives venezuelans from hope



Foto: Juan Toro Diez

International Amnesty recently revealed that, according to an investigation, our country is the second most violent one in the world, only Syria before us.

In Venezuela, impunity reaches 95%, meaning that, out of 100 offences, only 4 or 5 are duly punished. Armed Forces and other State Security Corps are in charge of keeping “pacts of silence”, which definitely impede the

progression of many judicial current processes. Some individuals- within the military and the police- have become suppliers of tools for committing offences; that makes a hard contrast with the police agents and the military who lost their lives fighting delinquency. As a result, delinquent structures maintain most of the population submitted.

In this scenery, citizens are cornered. They witness impunity daily, as a consequence of corruption and because of the regime’s inertia, that is simply and merely interested in holding power. The hope of living in a safe society has vanished; it is deemed as possible only if one leaves the country... or if we regain a legitimate President of the Republic, who respects and complies with the Constitution, by combating impunity and corruption, by taking our Nation ahead and away from the present crisis.

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

Fernando Alban's death heads for International Penal Court



A case of lese-humanity crimes in Venezuela was opened on November 2017 in the International Penal Court (CPI) by dismissed Attorney General, Luisa Ortega Díaz, against President Nicolás Maduro and four generals of

The Armed Forces. Today, such proceedings are to increase, since the death of opponent councilor Fernando Alban will be included in that demand.

This information was spoken by the director of Procedural Actions of Attorney General's Office in the exile, Zair Mundaray, who assured they are working "to widen the denunciation", in order to incorporate the aforementioned fact into those originally presented.

According to the authorities, the Caracas councilor and Primero Justicia's leader Fernando Alban died

on October 8, 2018, when he jumped from a window of the tenth floor in the Plaza Venezuela headquarters of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN). He had been interrogated there for three days, after his detention by SEBIN's agents at Maiquetia International Airport. Yet, detectable contradictions have led some persons to doubt about the official version, both inside and outside the country.

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PROVEA - www.derechos.org.ve

El Amparo, 30 years: yesterday's and today's massacres

30 years after the occurrence known as "El Amparo massacre" (14 fishermen assassinated by police and military officials that belonged to the Specific Command Jose Antonio Páez (CEJAP), impunity and institutional violence have headed both military and police actings in Venezuela, and patronized abuses against Human Rights. At least, 572 persons have been assassinated in 13 emblematic massacres, which took place in our country since October 29, 1988.

Conditions that caused El Amparo massacre, not only have not been overcome, but, much on the contrary, have aggravated, within the present context of a complex humanitarian emergency -increasing poverty, exclusion, extinction of the Democracy and the State of Rights. In other times of conflict, either social, delinquent or economical, Venezuelan State has historically imposed a vision of the problems referred to territorial security, justifying actions by pretexting a legitimate defense of the nation's soil and values against an internal enemy. Such



actings increased along the past 20 years, under the bolivarian project; and are generally addressed to appease manifestations of disagreement or social discomfort -as well as to strengthen surveillance and control mechanism upon excluded sectors.

Provea regrets to say that, 30 years after El Amparo, massacres are still occurring in our country; also, that these situations might/will increase, due to the absence of democracy, the militarization of citizenry's security, the open incitement to abuse, impunity, and the assumption of terrorism as a State policy in Maduro's dictatorship.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Firemen from Merida were released under a presentation regime



After 48 days in custody, Carlos Julio Varón and Ricardo Antonio Prieto, two firemen in Mérida who were detained for recording a satirical

video about Nicolás Maduro, were finally released on October 31, under caution measures and obligatory monthly presentation.

October 31 was the end of the legal lapse for the Fifth Attorney's Office to render a conclusive act; and the Second Court in Control Functions of the state of Merida ordered the translation of the firemen to that city's Judicial Circuit for the hearing. Varon's and Prieto's legal assistance was entrusted to lawyers Jesús

Quintero and Oscar Ardila.

During the hearing, the defendants were changed their charges qualifications: vilification against the President and public instigation, which are foreseen in arts.147 and 285 of the Penal Code.

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

12.871 persons have been arbitrarily arrested in Venezuela since 2014

Foro Penal Venezolano has registered 12.871 arbitrary detentions in Venezuela since January 1st 2014, which is updated by November 2, 2018.

811 civilians have been presented before Military Courts. Since January 2014 to the present day, we have accumulated 1.575 certified political prisoners. Full liberty or release under diverse modalities have been obtained in 1.344 cases.



By April, 2014, we had 117 political prisoners. Today, the number of that category of inmates is 230, which has been certified by OAS/OEA, based on data provided by Foro Penal. From those, 34 are women. Besides, 7.497 persons are still unfairly submitted to penal processes under caution measures.