



Foro Penal

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MIEDO

SPECIAL REPORT ON
**POLITICAL
REPRESSION
IN
VENEZUELA**

JULY, AUGUST AND
SEPTEMBER 2024
PRE AND POST-ELECTORAL
SITUATION



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to the escalation in the rate of arrests for political purposes in the last three months, we have decided to group, in a single document, the information on repression reported within the period from July to September, in order to facilitate reading and understanding regarding the current situation of repression for political reasons in Venezuela.

On July 28, presidential elections were held in Venezuela, for the next constitutional period of 6 years. The main candidates for this election were Nicolás Maduro, for the Great Patriotic Pole and Edmundo González Urrutia for the Democratic Unitary Platform (PUD), supported by the leader of the opposition, María Corina Machado.

In the early hours of July 29, the National Electoral Council (CNE) announced Nicolás Maduro as the winner of the elections with 51.20% of the votes, while the opposition candidate Edmundo González Urrutia would have obtained 44.2% of the popular support, as reported by the CNE and without showing the tally sheets.

After that announcement, on the same day 29, a series of protests began in the country against the announced results, due to the questioning and discontent of citizens and opposition sectors. In addition to the above, María Corina Machado said she had the minutes that showed the triumph of Edmundo González Urrutia, which were disseminated on a website.

On July 30, Nicolás Maduro on national television from a meeting with the Council of State and the Council of Defense of the Nation, announced, among other points, the following: "...deployment of the special plan for the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) and the police forces to carry out patrols and protection of streets, avenues, urbanizations and communities against these violent "commanders."

He approved a plan for the “protection of the Venezuelan people,” in the face of the actions of cronies intimidating CLAP leaders, street bosses and community spokesmen. He also pointed out that the “VenApp” application would open a window to report criminal and criminal groups, with total privacy and confidentiality¹. In addition, on August 5 he referred to the so-called “Operation Tun Tun”,² when in public he alluded to the following: “Whoever eats the light... Tun tun. Don’t be a crybaby, you’re going to Tocarón”.³

At a press conference, Attorney General Tarek William Saab reported on July 30, from the press room of the Public Ministry (MP), that until that date 749 detainees had been registered for violent acts in public spaces in the country. Indicating that they would be charged with crimes such as public instigation, obstruction of public roads, incitement to hatred, resistance to authority and in the most serious cases, terrorism. All of them would be asked to deprive them of liberty⁴.

Mainly, between the last 3 days of July and the first 2 weeks of August, after the announcements of Nicolás Maduro and official spokesmen, an unprecedented escalation of repression was noted, which resulted in murdered people and a significant increase in detentions for political reasons.

Regarding the figures of “political detainees”,⁵ we differentiate a first group of people detained between July 1 and 27, where the detention of a total of 142 citizens was verified, and a second group of people detained from July 28, 2024 and until the closing date of that report, September 30, 2024 (post-election period), where 1848 people arrested have been verified.

We have also identified the cases of at least 18 people who suffer from some type of disability, of whom 16 remain deprived of liberty. Also 18 indigenous people detained.

As far as the people killed are concerned, we have taken as a reference the figure provided by Human Rights Watch of 24 people⁶.

While this report is being published, the figures continue to be updated in our system, since hundreds of relatives arrive at the offices of the Foro Penal daily to report on cases of detainees and detainees. Therefore, our database continues to be updated daily and the statuses of these people are being verified and updated by the members of the team at the time of closing this report. All this coupled with the lack of official information from the authorities in this matter. Once

1 See: President Nicolás Maduro’s announcements Commission with Russian-Chinese advice will evaluate “the country’s biosecurity system” and “the attack on the CNE’s communications system”
<https://albaciudad.org/2024/07/chinos-rusos-sistema-bioseguridad-ataque-sistema-comunicaciones-cne/>

2 “Operation Tun Tun”: This is an informal operation, which represents an escalation of repression, it is the consequence of the large number of mass arrests carried out after the elections.

3 See: <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2024/08/07/chavismo-villancico-venezolano-represion-que-consiste-operacion-tun-tun-orix>

4 See: Prosecutor Tarek William Saab: 749 criminals arrested for terrorist acts:
<https://www.vtv.gob.ve/fiscal-delincuentes-detenidos-terroristas/>

5 By “political detainees” we mean those detained “for political purposes” (within the categories indicated below), but who have not been formally arrested by court order or who have not passed the 48-hour period after their arrest without being presented before a court. As for the definition of “political prisoner”, which does include persons formally deprived of liberty, we find its definition below. It should be noted that the “political detainees” include all those who have been detained, including those who, for the reasons mentioned above, become “political prisoners”.

6 The number of murders has been taken from what “Human Rights Watch” provided in its report “Venezuela: Brutal repression against demonstrators and voters”. See link: <https://www.hrw.org/es/news/2024/09/03/venezuela-brutal-represion-contra-manifestantes-y-votantes>

all the information provided is verified, the final figures can be determined and will be reported in future reports. We must also emphasize that many relatives have assured fear of reporting and being persecuted, so we have decided to omit some cases and testimonies.

On August 13, 2024, through a statement, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Volker Türk, warned the international community that the continuous arbitrary detentions and disproportionate use of force in Venezuela fuel the climate of fear. In addition, he said the following: “Criminal law should never be used to unduly limit the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.”⁷

Between July and September, in particular, there was an administration of justice that was not in accordance with the law, with serious irregularities committed against the due process of the people, such as the imposition of a public defense, not allowing the detainees private lawyers to defend them in the hearings; absolute incommunicado detention and transfers to maximum security prisons without the relatives even knowing the place of confinement of their loved one.

The massive and surprise transfers to maximum security prisons occurred after the instruction given on August 1, 2024, by Nicolás Maduro and which he shared on his social network account “X”, where in a video recorded in a speech he gave to his supporters, he said: “...Tocorón and Tocuyito, I have Tocorón ready and I’m going to put them all in Tocorón...”, referring to the people arrested in demonstrations, he added: “...in maximum security prisons so that they pay for their crimes...”.⁸

On September 17, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela issued a statement at the presentation of its report on the human rights situation in the country, indicating, among other points, the following: “We are witnessing an intensification of the repressive apparatus of the State in response to what it perceives as criticism, opposition or dissidence...” “A new milestone has been reached in the deterioration of the rule of law following the presidential elections in July...”⁹

KILLINGS IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND POST-ELECTION DEMONSTRATIONS

During this period, at least 24 citizens were known to have been murdered, including an officer of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB).¹⁰ Among the people killed, the Foro Penal was able to verify through an interview and documents provided by relatives, the death of a teenager in the state of Zulia.

The murders in question would have occurred in the context of the protests derived from the presidential elections held on July 28 and the events that followed them, after the result announced by the representative of the CNE, Elvis Amoroso.

7 See OHCHR statement dated 13 August 2024: <https://news.un.org/es/story/2024/08/1531971>

8 See: <https://x.com/NicolasMaduro/status/1819174829746008323>

9 See report: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session57/advance-versions/a-hrc-57-57-es.pdf>

10 The number of murders has been taken from what “Human Rights Watch” provided in its report “Venezuela: Brutal repression against demonstrators and voters”. See link: <https://www.hrw.org/es/news/2024/09/03/venezuela-brutal-repression-contra-manifestantes-y-votantes>

All these people would have been killed with firearms.

The Foro Penal team was able to interview the mother and sister of **Isaías Fuenmayor**. A 15-year-old boy was killed in Zulia state on July 29 when he was returning home after attending a birthday celebration.

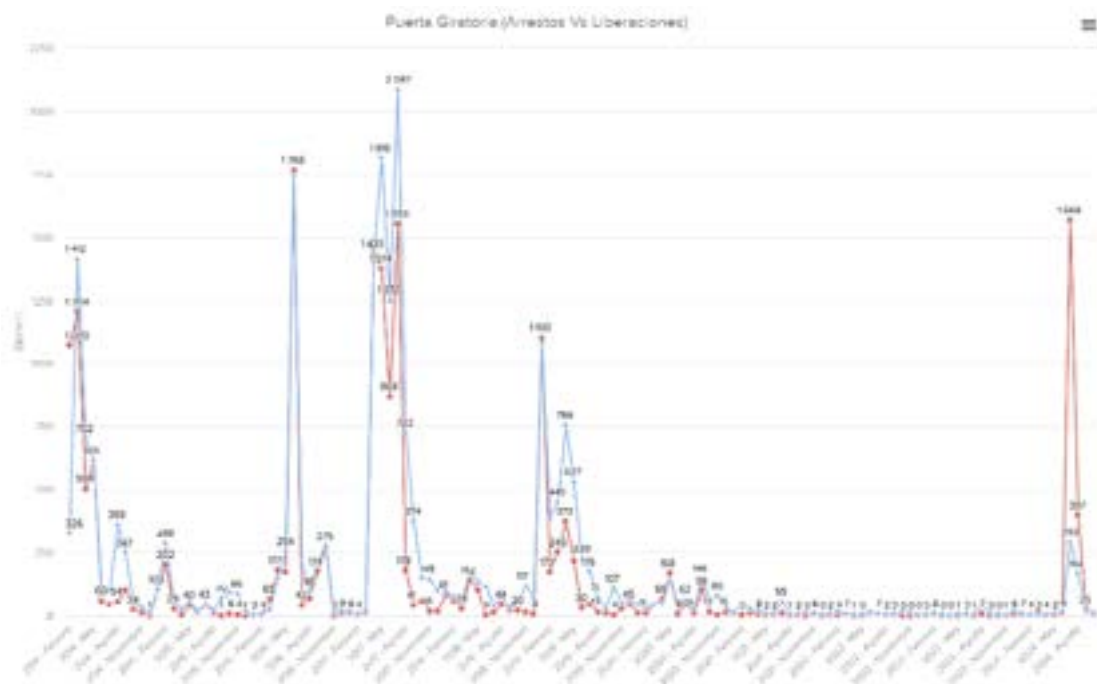
Isaias' sister, in her statement, indicated the following: "...my brother was not in any protest, my brother was passing by, because he was going to "Negro Primero", he had to go through "the 40" forced, he was going about 15 years ago, he was not in any protest, that child was just passing by, he was already coming back late and he could not pass from so many people who were there... covering the street. He was only there because it was happening and that happened..." His mother also expressed: "... He was a child that everyone loved, because he was a good boy who was already coming home, what we want is justice..."

ARRESTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

In this regard, it is important to differentiate two moments. On the one hand, the detentions for political purposes that occurred prior to the presidential elections, that is, from July 1 to 27, when 142 people were arbitrarily detained, including 19 women and 123 men. On the other hand, a second group of arrests that were carried out en masse from July 28, election day, until the closing date of this report, with significant peaks in the first two weeks of August (post-election period). In this last group, at least 1848 arrests have been verified, as of the closing date of this report. Among these 1848 people, there are 252 women and 162 adolescents.

Since 2014, the Foro Penal has registered a total of 17940 arrests for political purposes.

Below is a graph containing the arrest figures (in red), contrasted with the release figures (in blue), from 2014 to September 30, 2024:



Arrests/Releases from 2014 to 09/30/2024

As shown in the graph above, although in previous years there were high peaks in detentions, there were also considerable releases or releases, that is, a more or less constant number of detainees and those released or released from prison remained constant, by virtue of the release of some people and the apprehension of others.

This phenomenon has been called by the Foro Penal as the strategy or the “revolving door” effect¹¹. However, looking at what has happened in the last three months, mainly in July and the first days of August 2024, it can be understood that the number of arrests remained consistently high and there were no significant releases.

This new unprecedented pattern maintains a high number (the highest recorded in our recent history) of people deprived of liberty for political reasons, detained without any legal basis, creating panic among citizens.

It has been common during the arbitrary arrests of the quarter in question, the failure of the acting officials to present the corresponding arrest warrants and the apprehension of citizens when they were not committing any crime, which constitutes a clear violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela¹² and to the provisions of international treaties and conventions signed by Venezuela, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Another recurrent situation is that of holding people incommunicado, from their arrest until after they are brought before the courts and even thereafter.

In all the cases verified, most of the hearings were held in the same detention centres where the persons were detained and held incommunicado, in which the detainees were forced to accept a public defender, against their will, even with their private lawyers and those of the Foro Penal present there.

This constitutes a violation of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela¹³, specifically in articles 44 (2) and 49 (1). It could also constitute a violation of Article 127 numeral 3 of the current Venezuelan Organic Code of Criminal Procedure (COPP).¹⁴

In addition, since private lawyers cannot be sworn in, it is impossible to communicate with the Public Prosecutor or with the detainee, which makes it impossible to obtain information about the cases.

This is important to emphasize, because there are cases of citizens who are adolescents, have health problems or disabilities, on which special requests would have to be made before the court that handles these cases. As a result of the above, it has not been possible to have access to the minutes or the files either.

The hearings have mostly been telematic. It was learned of hearings that were not even held through video calls, but were simply held with only one interlocutor (official) who served as a spokesman for the accused and on the other end of the line, an alleged judge. Without prosecutors from the Public Ministry, or defenders.

11 The “Effect” or “Strategy” of the “Revolving Door” has been defined as such by the President Director of the Penal Forum and university professor Alfredo Romero, in his research work carried out as a fellow of the Carr Center for Human Rights of the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University.

12 Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 36.860 dated December 30, 1999. Article 44 of the CRBV states that personal liberty is inviolable, therefore: 1. No person may be arrested or detained except by virtue of a court order.

13 Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 36.860 dated December 30, 1999

14 See COPP: <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ve/storage/documentos/leyes/ley-organica-de-reforma-del-codigo-organico-procesal-penal-20211004180004.pdf>

In these cases, the principle of immediacy established in Article 332 of the COPP is violated, since the lawyer has no communication with the defendant and the privacy of talking with them is lost.

In other cases, most of them, the presentation hearing has been extemporaneous, that is, outside the 48-hour period of the law in the case of adults and outside the 24-hour period prescribed by law in the case of adolescents.

The cases of those detained in outside of the capital were transferred to Caracas, to be processed before courts with jurisdiction in matters of terrorism. The relatives were never notified in a timely manner of the reasons for the arrests or sudden transfers.

There were cases in which people were forcibly taken from their homes or intercepted in the streets without committing any crime, including, without even demonstrating or protesting. Leaving them missing for several days, without their relatives or their lawyers having access to information on their whereabouts. This could constitute the crime of forced disappearance of persons, in violation of Article 45 of the Constitution.

There have also been some cases of detainees who were beaten or threatened by law enforcement officials, which could constitute a violation of Article 10 of the COPP

For example, **Wilmer Javier Guerrero**, 37 years old, arrested on July 29 in the state of Táchira.

This person had to be hospitalized in the morning hours of July 30, 2024 in a Social Security hospital in the city of San Cristóbal because he suffered a seizure, allegedly due to the fact that he received a severe beating in the Zone Command number 21 of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) of the state of Táchira.

According to the relative's complaint, while hospitalized, he was taken out of the care facility and arbitrarily taken back to the detention center by a commission of the GNB, who would have prevented the performance of a cranial tomography and medical tests for an accurate diagnosis. This person has a history of health such as aneurysms and heart pathologies.

TEENAGERS DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

From 2014 to September 30, 2024, a total of 931 adolescents have been detained for political reasons in Venezuela, with the highest number reported to date being 162 minors, arrested in the post-electoral period, specifically since the end of July 2024, as can be seen in the following graph:



Teens detained per month from 2014 to 09/30/2024

The 162 adolescents are between 14 and 17 years old, so they are considered minors according to current Venezuelan laws. Only in three cases were 13-year-old adolescents released, because their criminal indictability was verified.

After the arrest of these adolescents, most were taken to cells that they shared with adults, and even after their presentation hearing, a significant number of adolescents remain deprived of liberty in prisons where they are held with prisoners who have committed common crimes.

As of September 30, the number of adolescents between 14 and 17 years of age who remain deprived of liberty is 67 people. Below is a table detailing the number of adolescents currently deprived of their liberty, by state of the country where they were detained and by gender:

State of the country where the arrest occurred	Number of adolescents deprived of liberty as of 30/09/2024	Male/Female
Anzoátegui	5	4 men/1 woman
Aragua	1	Woman
Barinas	3	Men
Bolívar	2	Men
Carabobo	18	15 men/3 women
Capital District	6	Men
Falcon	1	Men
Lara	7	Men
Miranda	2	Men
Monagas	3	2 men/1 woman

Nueva Esparta	4	Men
Sucre	1	Man
Táchira	1	Man
La Guaira	5	Men
Yaracuy	4	3 men/1 woman
Guárico	2	Men
Trujillo	2	Men
Total: 67 adolescents (between 14 and 17 years old) remain deprived of liberty as of 30/09/2024	7 women	60 men

Cases such as the following stand out:

Vicente (name changed to preserve his identity ¹⁵), 17 years old, student at the “Escuela Taller de los Teques”, Miranda state, where he has developed skills and knowledge in automotive mechanics. We consider it important to note that he suffers from “mild autism”, a minor form within the autism spectrum and takes medication to treat this condition.

He was arrested on July 29, 2024 at 7 p.m. when he was walking back from his job as a mechanic by officials of the Miranda State Police (POLIMIRANDA), in the area known as “La Matica” in Los Teques. At the time of his arrest, they did not show him an arrest warrant, nor did they inform him of the reason why he was being detained.

On August 1, his hearing was held before the First Special Court of First Instance in Functions of Control of the System of Criminal Responsibility of Adolescents with jurisdiction in cases related to Terrorism, with Jurisdiction at the National Level, in which he was prequalified for the alleged commission of the crimes of treason and terrorism. consequently, a preventive measure of deprivation of liberty was issued against him.

Currently, he is being held at the headquarters of the Comprehensive Protection Service for Children and Adolescents of the state of Miranda (SEPINAMI) located in Los Teques.



Vicente (17 years old)

Ernesto (name changed to preserve his identity ¹⁶), 16 years old, student and high-performance athlete in the Carabobo state table tennis team.

¹⁵ Venezuelan legislation requires us to preserve the identity of children or adolescents)

¹⁶ Venezuelan legislation requires us to preserve the identity of children or adolescents)

He was arrested on July 29 at 7:47 p.m. by officials of the Carabobo State Police, without presenting an arrest warrant when he was on his way to a table tennis practice that would take place on the courts of the Military Circle of Valencia.

After his arrest, he was initially taken to Fort Paramacay, located in Naguanagua, Valencia, where he was presented before a court with jurisdiction over terrorism on July 31, 2024. At the presentation hearing, he was prequalified for the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, incitement to hatred and obstruction of public roads.

He is currently being held at the New Liberator Man Training Center, located next to the Tocuyito prison, Carabobo state, along with other minors and also common prisoners, despite being a minor. Ernesto suffers from asthma, constant headaches and stomach aches. Ernesto uses an inhaler to treat asthma.



Ernesto (16 years old)

Elías (a different name to preserve his identity ¹⁷), 17 years old, a high school student at the National Institute of Socialist Training and Education (INCES) and also a student at the Sebastián Echeverría Lozano School of Music in Valencia, Carabobo state.

He was arrested on August 29 at 9 p.m. by Carabobo state police officers while walking back home with a friend, after buying sweets and soft drinks at the Trigus bakery located in the Añil Shopping Center in the Prebo urbanization in Valencia. His friend was also arrested. They both planned to spend the evening practicing some songs that Elías was composing.

He emphasizes that at the time of the arrest they did not ask him for his identity documents, nor did they show him an arrest warrant, nor did they tell him the reason why he was being apprehended, they simply forced him to get on the officers' motorcycles and took him to Fort Paramacay, located in the Naguanagua municipality of Valencia.

He was brought before a court with jurisdiction over terrorism on 30 July. At the presentation hearing, he was prequalified for the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, incitement to hatred and obstruction of public roads.

He is currently being held in the New Liberator Man Training Center, located next to the Tocuyito prison, along with other minors and also with common prisoners despite being a minor. Although he does not suffer from any serious disease, he has a cervical deviation.

¹⁷ Venezuelan legislation requires us to preserve the identity of children or adolescents)

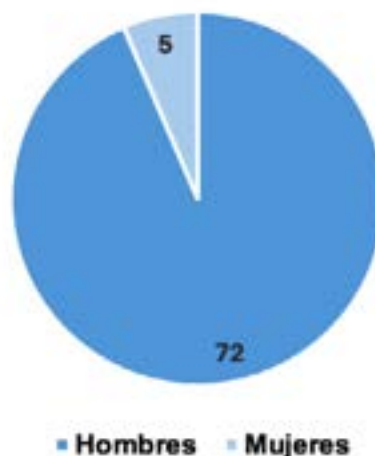


Elias (17 years old)

ADOLESCENTS BETWEEN 18 AND 19 YEARS OF AGE DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

We have differentiated a significant number of young people between 18 and 19 years of age, who have been deprived of liberty, between the end of July and September 2024 (post-election period). Although these people, according to Venezuelan legislation, would not be within the range of minors, they could be considered adolescents, according to international criteria such as that of the World Health Organization (WHO) that defines adolescence as: “the phase of life that goes from childhood to adulthood, that is, from 10 to 19 years old.”¹⁸ Also, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) indicates that «late adolescence» goes from 17 years old and can extend to 21 years old¹⁹. Within this group of people, we find that, as of September 30, a total of 168 adolescents remain deprived of liberty. Two graphs can be seen below. In the first, we have segregated the number of people deprived of liberty aged 18 by gender, likewise, in the second, we have segregated the number of people deprived of liberty by gender, this time, those who are 19 years of age:

Adolescentes privados de libertad con 18 años



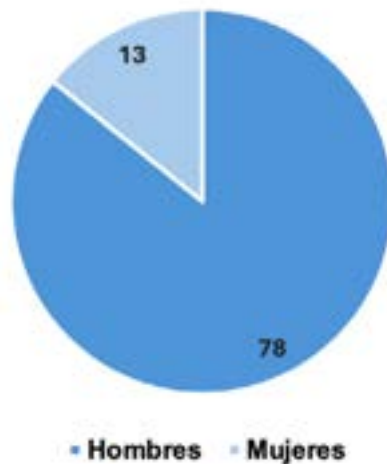
Graph 1: adolescents deprived of liberty (18 years old) as of 30/09/2024

18 See: https://www.who.int/es/health-topics/adolescent-health#tab=tab_1

19 See: <https://www.unicef.org/uruguay/crianza/adolescencia/que-es-la-adolescencia>

Within the 18-year-old group, we observed a total of 77 people behind bars, of which 72 men and 5 women. For its part, within the group of prisoners with 19 years of age, we observed a total of 91 people, including 78 men and 13 women, as can be seen below:

Adolescentes privados de libertad con 19 años



Graph 2: adolescents deprived of liberty (19 years old) as of 30/09/2024

Cases such as the following stand out:

Michel Aurislin Acosta Durán, 19 years old, who at the time of his arrest was working at the Tazón toll booth. She is the mother of a baby girl. According to what was reported by his relatives, on July 29, after handing over his guard at the toll booth, she went home, changed and went down to the roundabout of the sector known as Hoyo de la Puerta, to buy food. However, because a demonstration was taking place, she was unable to do her shopping and decided to go to the toll booth where she worked to wait for the protest to end. Upon arriving at the scene, a contingent of GNB officials detained her without a warrant, without saying a word or explaining the reason for her detention. At the Guard command that is in the vicinity of the toll booth, they brutally beat her and also pulled out locks of her hair. Due to the severe beating, she fell to the ground and lost consciousness. When she woke up, she was being kicked in the ribs. The next day, they took her to the GNB command located in the Maripérez neighborhood of Caracas, where she stayed for a day, without being allowed to see her family, or give them information. Then, she was relocated to the headquarters of the PNB known as “Zone 7”, in Boleíta, where she also had no contact with her family, although her mother was able to leave her food and see her from afar. While confined there, Michel began to suffer severe headaches, due to the hair pulling and blows received. She was prosecuted, without being able to have access to appoint lawyers of her confidence, imposing a public defense on her. She was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, use of adolescents to commit crimes, promotion and incitement to hatred, association to commit crimes, obstruction of public roads, and resistance to authority.

On August 3, she was transferred to the Training Center for Female Defendants “La Crisálida” located in Los Teques, Miranda state. Since his arrival, he began to convulse. The mother unofficially found out about Michel’s condition, so she decided to go and ask about her dau-

ghter's health. At the penitentiary they told her that she was fine, that she only complained of occasional headaches, suggesting that she bring her pain medication.

Days later, Michel was able to contact his mother by phone, to whom she told that she had been given anti-inflammatories and a psychotropic drug, although she did not know who had evaluated her or who prescribed this medication. When her mother was allowed to visit her, she found Michel very disoriented, unaware of the situation, very thin, and had suffered considerable weight loss. She told her that she was very tired and that she had not slept the night before because she had 30 seizures. It should also be noted that, during that visit, Michel convulsed four more times, being taken to the infirmary, where the mother observed that she was kept under the effects of a medication called Diazepam. On the same day, the mother spoke with the director of the prison, who told her that she had recently asked about her daughter's health and had been informed that she was in good condition.

On October 16, during the preliminary hearing, Michel convulsed, so many times, that the judge ordered she be transferred to the Victorino Santaella hospital. There they medicated her and returned her to the prison. On October 17, there was a revolt in the penitentiary and, due to the stress caused by that situation, she had more seizures, so she was rushed to the same hospital, where she was treated on an outpatient basis, returning her to "La Crisálida", where she remains deprived of liberty.

The relatives have expressed their concern about the state in which Michel is, since before being arrested she was in good health. They are making all the necessary arrangements to authorize her transfer to a specialist, in order to obtain an adequate diagnosis and treatment.



Michel Aurislin Acosta Durán

Chiquinquirá Carolina Leal, 18 years old, a nursing student at the National Experimental Polytechnic University of the Armed Forces (UNEFA). Recognized for actively participating in community activities in Los Valles del Tuy where she resides. She was arrested on July 30, when she, along with her brother, were on their way home from visiting a friend. During the journey, they ran out of gas, so the brother asked her to stay at the place while he went to get fuel. Being alone, GNB officials approached her and after a struggle, they took Chiquinquirá. According to the information provided by her relatives, she was mistreated during the detention, being transferred to the GNB headquarters located in the "La Berota" alcabala of Los Valles del Tuy, later she was transferred to Fort Guaicaipuro, then to the command of the GNB of Ocumare. She was prosecuted, without being able to have access to appoint lawyers of her confidence, imposing a public defense on her. She was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of obstruction of public roads, resistance to authority, terrorism and incitement to hatred. On

August 8, she was transferred again, this time to Detachment 442 of the GNB (Yare III), Miranda state, where she is currently being held in prison. Her relatives also indicated that Chiquinquirá was a victim of torture and cruel and inhuman treatment. For example, on one occasion, the officers in charge of her custody removed her clothes, leaving her only with underwear, and beat her with a rod all over her body. The conditions of the place caused urinary infections, since they do not allow her to use a proper bathroom, having to resort to an improvised latrine. In addition, she would be being pressured to assume the charges against her, despite being innocent.



Chiquinquirá Carolina Leal

Mariangelith Nazaret Marcano Chacón, 19 years old, is studying to be a Prehospital Care Technician and works as a sports coach in the Taekwondo Association of the state of La Guaira and lives in Caracas. According to information provided by her relatives, she was aggressively detained, beaten by armed civilians known as “colectivos”, on July 29 in the vicinity of Plaza O’Leary in Caracas, while waiting for a bus to return to her home located in Magallanes de Catia, who handed her over to PNB officials. She was prosecuted without being able to have access to appoint lawyers of her trust, imposing a public defense on her. She was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of incitement to hatred, terrorism, damage to property, use of adolescents to commit crimes and generic personal injuries. In addition, the relatives indicated that, while in prison, she was coerced to sign a document without knowing its content. Currently, she is deprived of liberty in the Training Center for Female Defendants “La Crisálida” located in Los Teques, Miranda state. Since her arrest, she has only been allowed one visit.



Mariangelith Nazaret Marcano Chacón

Eleazar José Rossell Yance, 19 years old, professional baseball player. He has resided in the Dominican Republic for the past five years, where he attended high school. In addition to his studies, he has developed as a professional baseball player, registered in “Major League Baseball”. Lately, he practiced his profession as a baseball player at the academy and sports club “Villa Liberación”, who granted him a travel permit for seven months to visit his relatives in Venezuela. This leave, which began in January and ended in August of this year, allowed him to share time with his mother and siblings, whom he had not seen for several years. He was arrested on July 29, in the state of Falcón, by GNB officials, when he was on his way to buy food at a bakery. Near that place, a demonstration was taking place. According to his relatives, after his arrest, the officials in charge of his custody beat him, stripped him naked and tied him up, a situation that affected him psychologically. He was prosecuted, without being able to have access to appoint lawyers of his trust, imposing a public defense on him. He was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, incitement to hatred, use of adolescents to commit crimes and possession of explosive or incendiary substances. He is currently deprived of liberty in the Aragua Penitentiary Center known as “Tocorón”.



Eleazar José Rossell Yance

Gabriel Abrahan Blanco Gamboa, 18 years old, high school graduate, currently works helping his uncle in a mechanical workshop, contributing to the expenses and maintenance of his home.

On July 30, 2024, he was arrested by a commission of PNB officials, near the place where he lives, in Los Guayos, Carabobo state. He had his cell phone in his hand while chatting with friends. The police arbitrarily demanded that he stop and asked him if he was recording with the phone, then they took his cell phone. During the arrest they beat him severely and, without explanation, forced him to get on a motorcycle. In the transfer, he received a blow to the face and fractured his ribs.

According to what was provided by his relatives, Gabriel told them that he had been hit on the head with the back of a firearm and had been verbally assaulted by a high-ranking government official of the state of Carabobo. This would have occurred at the headquarters of the PNB where he was detained. He was prosecuted, without being able to have access to appoint lawyers of his trust, imposing a public defense on him. He was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, association to commit a crime, obstruction of public roads and resistance to authority. He is currently deprived of liberty in the Carabobo Judicial Internment known as “Tocuyito”. He suffers from obstructive rhinopathy, lead poisoning, has a left knee injury, and also suffers from heart failure.



Gabriel Abrahan Blanco Gamboa

TEENAGERS EXCARCELATED

From the last week of August until the closing date of this report, we have been aware of the release of at least 90 adolescents, who were imposed by the courts that handle their cases, precautionary measures in lieu of deprivation of liberty.

In most cases, it was observed that the measures imposed were periodic reporting every 8 days to the court or the authority designated by it, prohibition of leaving the country and locality where one resides without authorization, prohibition of attending certain meetings or places, specifically in places where political activities are being carried out.

Among the adolescents released from prison we find emblematic cases such as that of **Susana** (a different name to preserve her identity²⁰), a 15-year-old student.

She was arrested on July 29 in the vicinity of Universidad Avenue in the state of Mérida by officials of the Bolivarian National Guard along with two other colleagues, when they were on their way to visit the home of a mutual friend. It should be noted that Susana was pregnant at the time of her arrest.

After being arrested, she was taken to the headquarters of the Scientific, Criminal and Criminal Investigations Corps (CICPC) in Mérida.

The presentation hearing was held within the CICPC's own facilities in Mérida before a control court, adolescent section. No private defender was allowed to enter or appoint, despite the insistence of the minor's mother, and a public defender was imposed on her.

Due to the criminal type charged against Susana by the court of Mérida, specifically, terrorism, the case was declined to a court with jurisdiction in charge of terrorism in Caracas. This new hearing was held telematically, without allowing private defenders, imposing a public defender on her, and she was deprived of liberty and ordered her confinement in the facilities of the former INAM, in Mérida.

After an intense national and international campaign on social networks, supported by the Foro Penal to make her case relevant, she was released on August 10, 13 days after her arrest, since her case aroused social commotion, as she was a pregnant teenager.

Susana currently has precautionary measures in lieu of deprivation of liberty, imposed by a court. Precautionary measures are presented every 8 days before the court or the authority designated by it; prohibition of leaving the country and locality of residence without authorization; prohibition of attending certain meetings or places, specifically in places where po-

²⁰ Venezuelan legislation requires us to preserve the identity of children or adolescents)

litical activities are being carried out and the presentation to the court of documentation that supports their studies.

We were also able to obtain the testimony of **Victoria** (name changed to preserve her identity ²¹), 16 years old, a high school student and member of the Youth Symphony Orchestra.

On July 29, she was in the vicinity of the El Rosal urbanization in Caracas, where there were a significant number of people from a demonstration that began in Petare and mobilized to that area. Tear gas and pellets were detonated at the scene, leaving Victoria trapped in the crowd.

It is the case that Victoria was arrested along with a group of people, including other minors, by officials of the Bolivarian National Guard.

After her arrest, she was in a detachment located in Maripérez and then in the command of the Bolivarian National Police known as Zone 7, in Boleíta, Caracas, where he shared a cell with approximately 70 women, including adolescents and adults. This cell is colloquially called “King Kong”, due to its large size.

Two days after being in that detention center, an official led her along with two adults and a teenager who were in the same cell to an office. In this office, a kind of hearing took place by telephone, only by voice, without using a video camera, where an official from Zone 7 served as an intermediary between Victoria and the other 3 detainees and an alleged judge on the other end of the telephone line, who only asked them their names and what they did.

At no time did he ask them about the facts for which they were allegedly arrested, nor was the voice of any defender heard, nor did a prosecutor speak to make the accusation. When they hung up the call, they explained that they had been charged, without further explanation.

Two days later, Victoria was transferred with 4 other minors, to the “Dr. José Gregorio Hernández” Women’s Detention Center for Adolescents, located in Antímano, Libertador municipality, also in Caracas.

It is noteworthy that she was not allowed visits until 15 days after her arrest. Her mother managed to see her after an intense campaign on social networks, supported by the Foro Penal so that her case would be relevant, since she was not allowed to have a private defense.

She was released a month later, on August 29, however, it is striking that the release ticket was dated August 28.

Currently, Victoria, 16, has precautionary measures in lieu of deprivation of liberty, imposed by a court. Precautionary measures are presented every 8 days before the court or the authority designated by it; prohibition of leaving the country and locality where of residence without authorization; prohibition of attending certain meetings or places, specifically in places where political activities are being carried out and the presentation to the court of documentation that supports her studies.

21 Venezuelan legislation requires us to preserve the identity of children or adolescents)



Victoria, after being released, with her mother Carmen and Alfredo Romero, director of the Foro Penal

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

The Foro Penal has been able to verify the detention of at least 18 people suffering from different types of disabilities, who would not be in the full use of their physical, mental or intellectual faculties to be able to face a situation of arbitrary detention, or who are being held in a non-specialized penitentiary. Some of these people must take medication according to their specific needs.

Below is a list of the 18 people with some type of disability, reported to the Foro Penal, who were arrested as of July 28 within the post-electoral period. We have omitted the names for safety reasons:

Name initials to preserve identity	State of the country	Date of arrest	Type of disability
R.D.B	Yaracuy	31/07/2024	Hearing loss, hearing impairment/deafness
Y.J.S	Capital District	30/07/2024	Clinical depression, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
E.D.P	Apure	30/07/2024	On the autism spectrum
J.J.M	Capital District	31/07/2024	Intellectual disability
O.J.I	Merida	30/07/2024	Motor disability/Unable to walk without crutches as he suffered a fractured tibia and fibula.
D.J.R	Capital District	29/07/2024	Total loss of hearing and speech, not able to use sign language, not able to read or write
A.E.C	Miranda	29/07/2024	On the autism spectrum
D.T.B	Barinas	02/08/2024	Motor Disability/Difficulty Walking
R.E.H	Zulia	31/07/2024	Psychosocial Disability/Suffering from schizophrenia
E.A.O	Capital District	02/08/2024	Spinal injuries
W.G.G	Miranda	29/07/2024	Suffers from idiopathic epilepsy (Medicated)/Mild Neurodevelopmental Impairment/Attention Deficit Type II (ADHD) (Predominantly hyperactive, impulsive)
T.A.A	Miranda	29/07/2024	Motor disability/Prosthetic femur (in recovery). Injuries to the kneecap (right leg)

J.M.R ²²	Capital District	30/07/2024	Intellectual Disability/Down Syndrome
F.D.R	Apure	31/07/2024	Patellar chondromalacia in both knees and injury to the meniscus of the right knee. L4-L5 radiculopathy
F.J.R	Carabobo	30/07/2024	Motor disability/Fracture in both arms
R.P ²³	Zulia	29/07/2024	Motor disability/difficulty walking from a motorcycle accident
B.A.S	Zulia	29/07/2024	Speech disorder
A.J.F	Portuguesa	30/07/2024	Motor disability in the right leg

The 18 people with disabilities that we have been able to verify to date are all men, of whom 16 are currently deprived of liberty.

We can highlight the case of **D.J.R.**, 27 years old, arrested on July 19, in the El Valle urbanization, Federal District, by officials of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) while waiting to be picked up, outside his work, located in Fuerte Tiuna, Caracas.

This person has a hearing impairment and absence of speech, does not handle sign language and also does not know how to read or write.

After his arrest, he was taken with other people to the command of the Bolivarian National Police, known as Zone 7, in Boleíta. Unofficially we have learned that while in the Zone 7 command he was beaten by the guard officials because they gave him instructions and he did not comply with them, since, due to his disability, he could not hear them or communicate.

The date of his appearance in court for the presentation hearing is unknown, although he was allegedly transferred from detention center to the Yare III Penitentiary Center, located in Miranda state, along with other detainees for political reasons and prisoners who have committed common crimes.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

At the close of this report, we have been able to verify 17 arrested people, belonging to different indigenous ethnic groups in the country. The arrests in question were carried out in the post-electoral period, in the following states of the country: Amazonas (9 detainees), Aragua (3 detainees), Zulia (3 detainees), Cojedes (1 detainee) and the Capital District (1 detainee).

As an emblematic case we can point out that of **Henry Alexander Gómez Fernández**, 40 years old, lawyer and human rights defender, belonging to the Baré indigenous people of the state of Amazonas.

He was arrested by GNB officials on August 17 while he was traveling in the vicinity of Paseo Atures, in the state of Amazonas, being transferred to Detachment 63 of the GNB located in Puerto Ayacucho, Amazonas state.

The presentation hearing, in which he was imposed a public defender, took place on August 22. At the aforementioned hearing, he was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, promotion or incitement to hatred with aggravating circumstances of hatred and intolerance and resistance to authority.

22 J.M.R. He was released on August 31, under a substitute measure of periodic appearance before the courts.

23 R.P. He was released on the same day of his arrest, July 29, 2024, in the state of Zulia

He is currently deprived of liberty in the Aragua Penitentiary Center known as “Tocorón” along with prisoners who committed common crimes.



Henry Alexander Gómez Fernández

WOMEN DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

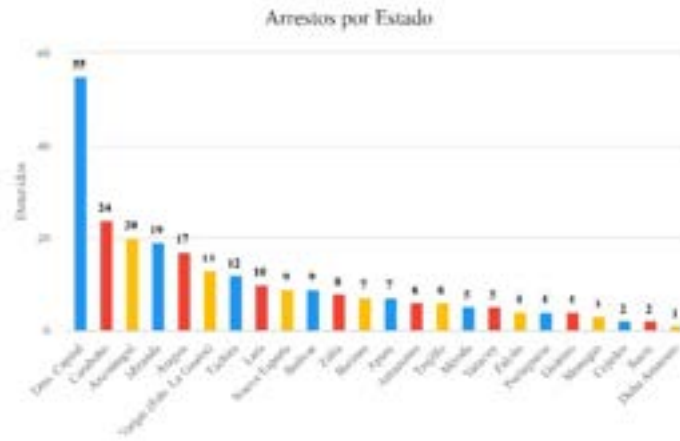
In this regard, we differentiate, as we have done before, two moments or periods. The period between July 1 and 28 in which the total number of women detained was 19 and the second period, which occurred from July 29, 2024 and until the closing date of that report, September 30, 2024 (post-electoral period), where 252 women arrested for political purposes have been verified so far.

Within the pre-electoral period, we find cases such as that of **Mary Rodríguez Díaz and Mayra Montilla Mejías**, 63 and 54 years old, respectively. Leaders of the opposition political party “Vente Venezuela”. They were arrested in the early hours of July 14 by officials of the DGCIM, PNB, GNB and CICPC who would have been carrying out raids in homes in sector 3 of the neighborhood known as “El Progreso” in Guanare, Portuguesa state. These raids would have occurred prior to the planned visit by opposition leader María Corina Machado to that state of the country. Both Mary and Mayra were subjected to forced disappearance for several days, without their relatives or lawyers knowing their whereabouts. Unofficially, it was learned that they were detained at the headquarters of the DGCIM in Guanare. On July 16, the presentation hearing of both was held. In this hearing they were charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of obstruction of roads, conspiracy and association to commit a crime, being deprived of liberty. The judge ordered the General Police Command (PNB) of Guanare as a detention center. On September 25, the preliminary hearing of Mary Rodríguez and Mayra Montilla took place, on this occasion, the judge admitted the accusation, so the measure of deprivation of liberty was maintained and the legal qualification of conspiracy, obstruction of roads and association to commit a crime was accepted, so they are currently deprived of liberty at the headquarters of the PNB.



Mary Rodríguez Díaz y Mayra Montilla Mejías

Regarding the post-electoral period, we observe that the largest number of detentions for political purposes against women would have occurred in the Capital District (55 arrests). In other states such as Carabobo (24), Anzoátegui (20), Miranda (19) and Aragua (17), high numbers of women arrested were also reported. Below is a graph showing the number of women detained by states in the country, within the post-electoral period:



Women detained by states of the country (post-electoral period)

In this period, from July 29 to September 30, we find cases such as that of **Genesis Leticia Riera Chirinos**, 22 years old, who at the time of her arrest worked as a social media administrator and event organizer. She was arrested on August 8, 2024, after attending an opposition march in Falcón state. During the march, she spoke with several attendees, explaining that the police officers and guards who were on duty at the site were there because it was the only option they had as a job. This moment was captured in a video that quickly went viral. That same day, officials from the Scientific, Criminal and Criminal Investigations Corps (CICPC) arrived at her home without a warrant, in an operation known as “Tun Tun.” Without giving her explanations, they forcibly put her in a vehicle and took her to the CICPC Investigations headquarters, located in Punto Fijo. She was prosecuted, without being able to have access to appoint lawyers of her confidence, imposing a public defense on her. She was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of Terrorism, Damage to Property, Insulting the Sentinel and Promotion or Incitement to Hate, being deprived of liberty. Since her arrest, she has been sporadically allowed to receive visits from her mother only, although these have been under strict surveillance and very short. On one of the visits, Genesis told her that she was being pressured to plead guilty to the crimes she is accused of, but she has refused to do so.



Genesis Leticia Riera Chirinos

Rosa Carolina Chirinos Zambrano, 33 years old, Venezuelan. She lived and worked in Peru, where she met Renzo Yasir Huamanchumo, a man of Peruvian nationality, who had lived in the United States for several years. Both established a love relationship and decided to formalize their engagement.

On September 22, 2024, Rosa Carolina Chirinos, who was visiting Valencia, Venezuela, traveled to the city of Cúcuta, Colombia with her friend Raymar Pérez. They had agreed to meet Renzo there, who would later go to Venezuela to meet Rosa's family and ask for her hand in marriage. After meeting in Cúcuta, the three of them began the journey to Valencia. During the trip, when passing through an alcabala in the town of Peracal, Táchira state, they were detained by GNB officials. Subsequently, they were handed over to officials of the DGCIM.

At the close of this report, the relatives of these people do not know the reasons for their detention, the crimes they are accused of and even their current whereabouts. The uncertainty and lack of information have generated great concern among his relatives.



Rosa Carolina Chirinos Zambrano

POLITICAL PRISONERS

As of September 30, 2024, the number of political prisoners in Venezuela is 1905 people ²⁴. Among them are 1669 men, 236 women and 67 adolescents.

²⁴ For practical purposes, the notion of "political prisoner" is handled by our NGO, considering, on the one hand, the concept of "prisoner" in its broad sense, and on the other hand, considering the political purpose of incarceration that gives the adjective "political" to the prisoner so qualified.

As for the concept of "prisoner", it covers all those formally deprived of liberty who have not yet been convicted, those under house arrest, and those already convicted, accepting the distinctions contained in the section "Use of Terms" (paragraphs "b" and "c") of the UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (Resolution 43/173, of December 9, 1988). The person arrested is not referred to by our NGO as a political "prisoner", but as "detained" or "arrested". He is only considered a "prisoner" when, in reference to that detainee or arrestee: 1) There is a formal decision of the judicial authority ordering his preventive deprivation of liberty; or (2) when the maximum legal and constitutional period (48 hours from the date of arrest or detention) expires without being released or brought before the competent judicial authority.

As for the qualification of the deprivation of liberty as "political", whether a detainee or a prisoner, the Penal Forum analyzes the political purpose or ends with respect to the unlawful deprivation of liberty. In this sense, political detainees or prisoners are separated into six (6) categories:

Category 1: Those persecuted or political prisoners, detained or convicted, for individually representing a political threat to the regime, for being political or social leaders and for the purpose of the deprivation of liberty is political exclusion.

Category 2: Those people arrested or imprisoned not for representing a political threat. In this case, the goal is intimidation. This group includes students, communicators, soldiers, political activists, among others.

Category 3: Those people who, without being considered a political threat by the regime individually or as part of a social group, are arbitrarily detained or imprisoned to be used by the regime to support a campaign or a certain ►

The number of political prisoners increased exponentially if we take into account that of June, when, as of June 30, there were 287 people classified as such by the organization.

The number of political prisoners includes people who have been formally deprived of their liberty by court order for political purposes.

The case of our colleague **Kennedy Fernando Tejada**, 24 years old, lawyer, member of the team of volunteers of the Foro Penal, stands out.

He disappeared on August 2 while he was exercising his activities as a human rights defender, when he was visiting the Rural Command of Montalbán in the state of Carabobo, to inquire about the situation of some people who had been arrested for demonstrations in that state.

The Foro Penal team was at the scene, but they did not give him information. It was learned through his mother, who also went to Montalbán's command to obtain information from her son, that, after the arrest by GNB officials, on August 3, they transferred him to the headquarters of the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM) located in Valencia, but they did not inform her of details about the reasons for his arrest.

On August 4, it was confirmed that his case would be investigated in Caracas, specifically in a court with functions in matters of terrorism. Unofficially, it was known that he was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism and promotion or incitement to hatred with aggravating circumstances of hatred and intolerance. It is important to note that as in cases described above, he was imposed a public defender, denying him the constitutional right to be defended by lawyers of his confidence.

The organization's lawyers, not being able to be sworn in, have not had access to their file or the minutes, which has deprived secrecy in this case. It was learned through his mother that the detention center designated for Kennedy would be the Aragua Penitentiary Center, known as "Tocorón."

On August 27, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ruled on this case, condemning his arbitrary detention ²⁵.



Kennedy Fernando Tejada

political narrative of power with respect to certain situations of national importance of political interest to the regime. In this case the purpose is propaganda.

Category 4: Those persons who are detained or imprisoned for the purpose of extracting information that allows the location of other persons to be neutralized or to pressure or intimidate other persons.

Category 5: They are not part of the previous categories, here we include those people illegitimately deprived of liberty for a personal purpose of an authority of the regime, who abuses his authoritarian political power to deprive a person of liberty as a reprimand.

Category 6: Those foreign citizens, or those with dual nationality, who are arbitrarily persecuted or detained to force other States or international organizations to comply with the demands of the repressive State that, otherwise, would not have to be satisfied.

25 See: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/198.asp&utm_content=country-ven&utm_term=class-mon

We must also emphasize that within the total number of political prisoners, there are at least 158 political leaders. Within this group we find cases such as the following:

Freddy Superlano Salinas, 48 years old, former deputy to the National Assembly, who, at the time of his arrest, served as National Coordinator of the political party Voluntad Popular. On July 30, he was intercepted in Caracas by alleged SEBIN officials, who, hooded, aboard unidentified vehicles, took him by force along with two other people from his entourage. The relatives do not know his state of health and whereabouts, so they filed a writ of habeas corpus that was declared inadmissible. On August 26, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued precautionary measures in his favor, through Resolution 55/2024, after considering “that he is in a situation of gravity and urgency of risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela.”²⁶ Unofficially, it was learned that he is being held at the SEBIN headquarters, despite the fact that his relatives have denied that he was deprived of liberty there. He has been denied the right to appoint lawyers of his confidence, nor has he been allowed visits.



Freddy Superlano Salinas

Mónica Carolina Martínez Bowen, 43 years old, has a degree in education and political activist. As a leader of the political party “Primero Justicia” in the state of Yaracuy, she has worked in the communities of that state, especially in Sabana de Parra, where she lives with his family.

On July 30, 2024, while she was preparing to travel to Colombia, while she was at the Simón Bolívar airport in Maiquetía, along with her husband and two daughters, she was detained by officials of the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM) without a court order and under the pretext of solving a problem with her passport in a SAIME office. Her relatives did not know of her whereabouts until July 31, when she was transferred to the PNB headquarters located in Maripérez, Caracas.

The presentation hearing was held on August 2, imposing a public defense on her. She was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism and promotion or incitement to hatred with aggravating circumstances of hatred and intolerance. Mónica Martínez is currently deprived of liberty in the Training Center for Female Defendants “La Crisálida” located in Los Teques, Miranda state.

²⁶ See IACHR Resolution: https://www.oas.org/pt/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/193.asp&utm_content=country-ven&utm_term=class-mc



Mónica Carolina Martínez Bowen

Amérigo Giuseppe de Grazia Veltri, 64 years old, member of the Guayana Libre platform and former mayor of the Piar municipality of Bolívar state. He was arrested on August 8 in Caracas, where he was living in hiding, since, according to his relatives, he was allegedly being threatened, after the elections of July 28. The details of his arrest are not clearly known. His relatives have not been able to access him, not even by telephone. He is not allowed visits, nor the appointment of private lawyers of his trust. They would have imposed a public defender on him, to which his relatives have not had access either. It was unofficially known that he would be held at the SEBIN headquarters, located in El Helicoide, Caracas. It highlights that lawyers from the Foro Penal team have met with the Italian Consul in Caracas, who has shown interest in the case, since he has dual nationality, Venezuelan and Italian. On August 17, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) adopted the Resolution on the Follow-up and Modification of the Precautionary Measures with respect to Américo de Grazia in Venezuela, through Resolution 51/2024 “the IACHR analyzed the lack of measures implemented for the protection of the beneficiary. The IACHR regretted the lack of substantive information and the implementation of protection measures by the State, which would place the beneficiary in a situation of lack of protection and vulnerability in the context of the country.”²⁷

It should be noted that you suffer from diabetes and vitiligo and must take medication to treat these health conditions.



Amérigo Giuseppe de Grazia Veltri

Perkins Rocha Contreras, lawyer and university professor, Legal Coordinator of the political party Vente Venezuela and legal advisor to opposition leader María Corina Machado. He was intercepted in the Las Mercedes neighborhood of Caracas, on August 27, by alleged unidentified officials, who took him into custody by force. He was held in forced disappearance until the early hours of August 29, when his wife was informed via text message that

²⁷ See IACHR resolution: <https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/187.asp>

Perkins had been presented in court and had been given a public defender. He was charged with the alleged commission of the crimes of terrorism, treason, conspiracy, association to commit a crime and incitement to hatred. He was deprived of liberty at the SEBIN headquarters, located in El Helicoide, Caracas. On September 2, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued precautionary measures in his favor, through Resolution 61/2024²⁸.

On 30 September, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Margaret Satterthwaite, expressed her concern about this case, stating, among other things: "I am seriously concerned that Mr. Rocha may have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment while his whereabouts were unknown and now that he is being held in El Helicoide, and that communication with his private defense attorney and his family has not been allowed."²⁹



Perkins Rocha Contreras

Biagio Pilieri Gianninoto, 59 years old, journalist, businessman, former mayor of the Bruzual municipality in the state of Yaracuy and currently, national coordinator of the political party Convergencia. He was persecuted and arrested on August 28, along with his son Jesús Pilieri, who was later released. The arrest would have been carried out by alleged SEBIN officials, after having participated in a peaceful street demonstration, that same day. On September 7, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued precautionary measures in his favor, through Resolution 63/2024³⁰. Unofficially, it was learned that he is being held at the SEBIN headquarters, located in El Helicoide, despite the fact that his relatives have denied that he was deprived of liberty there. He has been denied the right to appoint lawyers of his confidence, nor has he been allowed visits.

Biagio Pilieri requires medical attention and medication, as he suffers from cardiovascular pathologies and high blood pressure.

28 See IACHR resolution: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/204.asp&utm_content=country-ven&utm_term=class-mc

29 See: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/press-releases/2024/09/venezuela-un-expert-concerned-reported-retaliation-against-lawyer-perkins>

30 See IACHR Resolution: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/209.asp&utm_content=country-ven&utm_term=class-mc



Biagio Pilieri Gianninoto

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As this report is being written, reports of new arrests and persecutions continue to be received.

In accordance with the systematic patterns that we have observed in the country on previous occasions, acts of repression could continue to be perpetrated.

As evidenced in this report, the figures have increased significantly in these months. It continues to be observed that repression in Venezuela is directly directed at a specific group of the population, in this case citizens considered to be in the opposition, which shows that the criminalization of peaceful protest is used as a mechanism of control and retaliation.

As a human rights organization, we demand that all civil and political rights of citizens be guaranteed.



Foro Penal

Foro Penal

Alfredo Romero – Director Presidente
Gonzalo Himiob Santomé – Director Vicepresidente
Robiro Terán (†) – Director
Eleazar Medina – Coordinador Estado Aragua
Luis Armando Betancourt – Coordinador Estado Carabobo
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Raquel Sánchez – Coordinadora Estado Táchira
José Armando Sosa – Coordinador Estado Monagas
Lucía Quintero – Coordinadora Estado Barinas
José Reyes – Coordinador Estado Falcón
Abraham Cantillo – Coordinador Estado Lara
Fernando Cermeño – Coordinador Estado Mérida
Alberto Iturbe – Coordinador Estado Miranda (Altos Mirandinos)
Arelys Ayala – Coordinadora Estado Anzoátegui
Olnar Ortiz – Coordinador Estado Amazonas y Pueblos Indígenas
Néstor Gutiérrez – Coordinador Estado Cojedes
Pedro Arévalo – Coordinador Estado Nueva Esparta
José Torres Leal – Coordinador Estado Portuguesa
Daniel Salazar – Coordinador Estado Sucre
Wicza Santos – Coordinadora Estado Apure
Stefania Migliorini – Coordinadora Distrito Capital
Julio Henríquez – Coordinador jurídico internacional