



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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www.crisisenvenezuela.org

Caleidoscopio Humano - www.caleidohumano.org

High cost of food violates Venezuelans' right to nourishment

While the different guilds continue their fight on Venezuelan streets in order to achieve decent salaries and wages, without any response, the government boasted about the economic resources for Mardi Gras celebrations in several states throughout the country. According to the Documentation and Social Analysis Center of the Venezuelan Teachers Federation [*CENDAS-FVM by its Spanish acronym*], a Venezuelan family needed USD 486.87 or Bs. 10,418.98 in order to cover the Basic Food Basket [*CAF by its Spanish acronym*] during the month of January; in other words, 26.70% more than in December, indicating that over 80 minimum monthly wages are required in order to guarantee that a family of 4 is able to cover the minimum nourishment requirements.

A research work prepared by Caleidoscopio Humano confirmed the price increase of some basic foods that are part of Venezuelans' diet. On January 25th, one kilogram of precooked corn flour costed Bs. 30.00; in February the price increased up to Bs. 33.90; one kilo of pasta increased went from Bs. 38.74 to Bs. 50.97, while the price



of one kilogram of rice in February was Bs. 30.00, this is Bs. 3.75 more than in January. As to the Regarding the most popular proteins; the price of a whole chicken was Bs. 75.00 in most of the consulted businesses, 3.91% more than in January. The price of beef increased 16.67% between January 25th and February 23rd. Products such as vegetable oil, grains or eggs maintained their prices in US dollars, but increasing in bolivars due to the raise in the Central Bank of Venezuela USD/VED official exchange rate as well as the parallel market exchange rate.

The minimum wage in Venezuela barely covers 1.20% of the basic food basket's total price, which violates people's economic and social rights, especially the right to nourishment that isn't guaranteed by the Venezuelan State.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Venezuelan women face political, social and economic barriers for obtaining political leadership spaces

Women leading Venezuelan politics demand recognition on behalf of the State recognizes in directive political positions and autonomy for their private lives. In the *Entrevista Sin Mordaza* space, the WOMMU Venezuela Director, Marialbert Barrios, and the feminist anthropologist, Mariana Vahlis, point out that even though a new conception of women in politics has been demonstrated through debate and action, there's still some way to go for citizens to be aware of these changes.

Feminists express that Venezuela is the country with the most political restrictions in the region, which forces



most of female leaders to hold lower and middle positions. They also highlight that Venezuelan women's main characteristic in politics is their ability to transform the reality they've lived and to evolve a specific situation.

Likewise, they affirm that women's abilities go beyond leading the Family Commission in the Parliament. In this sense, Vahlis points out that cultural changes usually take a long time, but with affirmative action policies they can speed up. An example of this are reforms that foster gender parity, such as the one approved by the Colombian Congress in 2020, which stipulates that at least 50% of public positions must be held by women.

Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoaljusticia.org

The never-ending persecution: The Venezuelan justice system dismissed Judge María Lourdes Afiuni with neither a subpoena nor a proper defense



The criminal judge María Lourdes Afiuni denounced the following through her Twitter account: “After being suspended for 13 years and one month, I’m just finding out that I’ve been dismissed as the Main Judge through a legal action which I was never notified and with a public defense attorney about whom know nothing about”. The decision was issued by the Judiciary Disciplinary Court, but not this year, not even the year before, but on September 26th, 2019. This can be verified in the subpoena official notification Nº 4-2023 dated January 17th.



case is merely an example of the serious lack of judicial independence that is internationally displayed as a demonstration of everything that could happen to a Venezuelan judge issuing any ruling that is contrary to the interests of those who are in power: also known as the “Afiuni Effect”.

Judge Afiuni’s dismissal shouldn’t, in any way, be surprising, since it was the only thing that the authorities hadn’t been able to do against her. However, the manner in which it was performed is a true reflection of the Venezuelan justice administration system’s failures. This

This decision’s message is very clear: any judge who doesn’t follow the government’s instructions not only puts their job at risk, but also their freedom, and will be subjected to the most indescribable taunts. This means that in spite of the justice reforms made by the Venezuelan State in 2021, there hasn’t been any genuine will for making changes.

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Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

Officer from the state-owned national oil company intimidated a journalist



An employee from the State-owned national oil company, Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. [PDVSA by its Spanish acronym], intimidated the news portal *Qué Pasa en Venezuela* reporter, Ricardo Tarazona, while performing investigative work regarding the explosion of a fuel pipeline from a clandestine take in the Campo Nuevo sector of the Municipality of Sucre, State of Yaracuy, on February 6th.



identification tags were heading towards him, and he tried recording some more in order to have other takes. A person got out of one of the vehicles and asked him if he was authorized to make such recordings and also requested his credentials. “I had left my credential with my bicycle that was parked on the other side. I go get it and it

Tarazona told Espacio Público that he tried to enter the area of the accident in which two people had died, but police officers denied his access and didn’t allow him to perform his job. Nevertheless, with the help of some of the locals, he went to other nearby places where he was able to see and film the fire.

occurred to me to leave the tripod and with my phone still recording, leaving the microphone on. The man took a photograph of my credential, and I asked him twice why was he doing that, and he told me that they were PDVSA security officers and that they needed to monitor all of that”, said Tarazona.

The journalist commented that after he had finished recording, he realized that two Jeeps with PDVSA

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Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

ICC acknowledges the risks of the possible approval of the Anti-NGO Act in Venezuela



As of February 24th, 2023 Foro Penal recorded 15,800 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 875 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,705 political prisoners, of which 3,434 have been released under different modalities. The number of political prisoners in the country as of February 24th, 2023 is 269, out of which 13 are women. Additionally, 9,430 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures or alternative formulas for serving the sentence.



Non-Governmental and Related Organizations entails human rights defenders, NGOs and civil society in general, which currently under discussion by the Venezuelan Parliament.

The document highlights that the proposed Bill has been reported as a tool seeking to control, restrict, sanction and dissolve non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate in Venezuela. This constitutes a clear acknowledgment, on behalf of the VPRS, regarding the evident risks and possible limitations and retaliations that the proposed law likely to be approved in Venezuela would imply.

Through a document remitted by the Victims Participation and Reparation Section (VPRS) from the Prosecutor's Office on February 20th, 2023 before the International Criminal Court (ICC) to the Pre-Trial Chamber, warns of the risks that the Law on Control, Regularization, Operations and Financing of

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Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

The government keeps imposing its communicational hegemony in Venezuela



The Venezuelan government's communicational hegemony isn't a myth, it exists, and the most recent report from Transparencia Venezuela proves it. The report, developed with the support from Canada, shows the main milestones this communicational strategy's progress and performs a diagnosis of the current freedom of speech situation on a regional and national level.



and taking expressions or criticisms against the government or its officers to court.

It also shows the weight of the judicial system's actions against freedom of speech, such as laws supporting censorship, administrative sanctions against the media and investigations initiated against their owners, as well as the closure and purchase of media as a mechanism for destroying dissidence. On the other hand, it collects the heavy use of social networks from different official sources, as well as the violence led by armed militant groups, and the repression towards press workers carried out by security forces, especially in the context of protests and other media coverage.

This document highlights issues such as ensuring State media, limiting press access to information sources of public interest, official statistics becoming a secret, the lack of information's impact upon citizens, unable to analyze different points of view; press workers' human rights violations, the closure of media, and criminalizing

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Do States guarantee migrants' rights in the Darién region?

The Darien Gap is a region located at the Panamanian-Colombian border, wherein different situations converge affecting people in movement, such as human sex trafficking and other illegal contrabands. Additionally, many women, teenage and little girls are affected in a differentiated manner in this crossing, since they have multiple risks due to organized crime as well as human and drug trafficking, insecurity and unilateral or group sexual violence that they must suffer when passing through this region. The Panamanian National Migration Service [SNM by its Spanish initials] reported that over 71,000 migrants have travelled through this passage, mostly Haitians, Senegalese, Cubans and Venezuelans, among other nationalities.



up in an uncertain context, without adequate medical attention.

Facing the situation, Colombia and Panama have international obligations of respecting and guaranteeing the rights of everyone crossing this territory. According to acquired obligations through

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) made clearly visible a migrant's testimony that travelled through the dangerous Darien Gap, who affirmed: "If you relax yourself, your life is at risk." This same organization also reported that the statistics of the Panamanian Migration Services documented almost 134,000 people that crossed the Darien in 2021, of which 80% came from Haiti. During 2022, the total number of people that crossed this dangerous region tripled in comparison to 2021. From 2,928 during the first two months of 2021 to 8,456 during the same period in 2022. During the first five months of 2022, over 32,000 migrants crossed the region, while in 2021 the number was 16,000, and one out of every five were children and adolescents. Women, teenage and little girls who assume the journey are at high risk due to the presence of criminal groups that subdue them to sexual abuses. In this regard, the IOM has affirmed that the likelihood of suffering physical and psychological violence over there is very high. Other women start their journey while they're pregnant that end

international treaties, they must create actions that promote shutting down said networks through mutual cooperation and a greater migratory control while entering and exiting the Darien, requesting each person's identification, verifying their criminal records, if there is any denouncement made before the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO or Interpol) and other alerts for preventing female human sex trafficking. Furthermore, investigating the officers working at the migration checkpoints is fundamental, due to the fact that there could be a cooperation between human sex traffickers and them. Moreover, Colombia and Panama must opt on creating informative points regarding the entry and exit of the territory. The protection and assistance to victims of sexual or gender violence, human sex trafficking is also essential, as well as dealing with people's needs with an integral regional approach, including gender and intersectional perspective. Lastly, it's important that each measure taken regarding human movement is based on the Inter-American system's standards.

Read more in spanish here 

