



# CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

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[www.crisisenvenezuela.org](http://www.crisisenvenezuela.org)

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

### Transferring prisoners to other prisons without prior notice is a serious violation of their human rights

As of June 7, 2024, Foro Penal had recorded 15,892 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1, 2014. 875 civilians have been brought before military courts. To date, we have a historic total of 3,788 political prisoners, of which 3,509 have been set free or released under various modalities. To date, there are 279 political prisoners in Venezuela. 24 are women.



states that the prisoners are transferred to this detention center without notifying either the parties or their relatives. In addition, they are only allowed sporadic visits from relatives and counsel, and they are only allowed to see them through a glass window under the surveillance of hooded officials (no privacy whatsoever). On these occasions, visitors are taken

According to Foro Penal's records, at least 34 political prisoners have been arbitrarily transferred to the El Rodeo I penitentiary. This is not a new prison, but was recently remodeled, and it is gradually turning into a sort of "concentration camp" where political prisoners are held.

to the meeting site completely hooded, without the possibility of seeing the route, by officials who do not identify themselves and who cover their faces with hoods. In addition, it has been reported that the conditions of detention are precarious and do not meet the minimum domestic and international standards.

The report from the inmates' relatives and counsel

Transferring an inmate from one penitentiary to another without explanation and without notifying the parties and their relatives is a serious violation of their human rights that must be condemned.

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

### Five human rights violated in the arbitrary arrest of Rocío San Miguel

This past February 9, attorney and human rights activist Rocío San Miguel was detained at the International Airport of Maiquetía; she was accused by the Attorney General's Office of being presumably involved in an alleged conspiracy against the President of the Republic through the "White Armband" plot.



This adds to a series of challenges that Rocío San Miguel has faced in recent years. San Miguel has been detained for over 100 days without access to counsel or a fair trial. Her situation has raised great concern both domestically and internationally, raising alarms about the serious threat to human rights in Venezuela.

cessation of persecution of human rights advocates. This is why the team of NGO Defiende Venezuela identified five human rights that San Miguel's arbitrary detention has violated: the right to freedom and personal safety; the right to a fair trial; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel treatment; and the right to judicial protection.

International organizations, such as the UN and the OAS, have called for her immediate release and the

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

### The Supreme Court asks Spain to extradite a businessman accused of defrauding Banded



The number of alleged corrupt individuals in Spain whose extradition is being requested by the Venezuelan judiciary continues to grow. The latest to join the list is José Rubén Lovera Fouscall, who figures as owner and shareholder of a group of companies engaged in the gold business, and who was allegedly involved in a scheme that would have executed a millionaire swindle against Banco Nacional de Desarrollo Social (Banded).

José Rubén Lovera Fouscall is being held in Spain since early 2024, according to the information provided by the Venezuelan Prosecutor's Office. His arrest took place by virtue of an international arrest warrant (red alert) that the authorities filed late last year with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). The process began in 2019 when a businessman named

Francisco Antonio Sbert Mouskso, filed a complaint against José Rubén Lovera Fouscall, as well as Luis Alfredo Delgado Mussa, representative of Corporación Altantics Gold, before the Department against Organized Crime of the Scientific, Criminal and Criminalistic Investigation Service (Cicpc).

Pursuant to the account in the ruling, the informant stated that in 2018 he received an advance payment of over one billion Bolivars (US\$ 14,428,000) from Banded to purchase 50 kilograms of gold. To complete the operation, he contacted the above businessmen, who "noted that their companies sold gold to the Central Bank of Venezuela" (BCV), and could thus provide the precious metal, reads the ruling. Despite the fact that Sbert Mouskso paid these businessmen the amount required, he never received the gold, nor did they return the funds to him or to Venezuela's state-owned bank (Banded). Although Lovera Fouscall, now extraditable, offered his mining services claiming to have a direct relationship with the BCV, the issuing entity denied this.

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

### Jorge Rodríguez ordered that a congressman be censored and sanctioned after speaking up in the National Assembly

PSUV leader, Jorge Rodríguez, ordered on May 21 that Congressman Bruno Gallo be censored and sanctioned for expressing himself in favor of women victims of violations of human rights in Iran, during a debate in the National Assembly (NA) regarding the death of the president of said country.

In the parliamentary session, Congressman Gallo (Avanzada Progresista political party) asked "to pay a solidarity tribute to women who do not cover their heads, who do not lower their gaze, who wish to study and be treated as equals" at the end of his speech during the debate on an agreement concerning the recent death of Ebrahim Raisi, accused of violating the fundamental rights of Iranian women.



By way of response, Jorge Rodríguez - who presides the AN - demanded that Gallo's words be removed from the minutes of the session "for being rude, improper and inadequate". In addition, he said that the board would "impose sanctions pertaining to the Congressman's right to speak".

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

### The government prohibits the presence of international observers: a serious democratic setback



supervision of recognized observers, suspicions of manipulation and fraud increase, which could trigger further public distrust and further undermine the country's democratic system. This not only has an impact on the nation's political stability but may also have repercussions on diplomatic and economic ties with other countries and international

The recent decision to withdraw the invitation extended to the European Union to act as an international observer in the upcoming presidential elections of July 28, together with the failure to confirm the attendance of the Brazilian and Colombian delegations, is a serious setback in the struggle for transparency and democracy in Venezuela. Un Mundo Sin Mordaza strongly condemns these decisions by the Venezuelan State that undermine our confidence in the impartiality and legitimacy of the electoral process.

The presence of international observers is essential to ensure that the elections are fair, free, and transparent. The exclusion of the European Union and the absence of key delegations such as Brazil and Colombia convey an alarming message both to the international community and to the Venezuelan people: the electoral process lacks the guarantees required for its results to be accepted beyond question. The consequences of this situation could be profound and long-lasting. Without the

organizations.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza demands the Venezuelan State to reconsider its position and to extend the invitation once again to the European Union and other international delegations to participate as observers in the elections. Only through a transparent process monitored by impartial entities will it be possible to guarantee the legitimacy of the results and the confidence of the Venezuelan people in their electoral system. Democracy and the future of Venezuela rely on concrete actions that promote transparency and electoral justice.

## Caleidoscopio Humano - [www.caleidohumano.org](http://www.caleidohumano.org)

### The crisis affecting public services in Venezuela deepens



For over a decade, Venezuela has been experiencing a profound crisis regarding public services which, together with economic instability and violations of human, political and civil rights, has undermined quality of life of its people.

In our recent thematic report *El declive de los servicios públicos en Venezuela: crónica de un colapso anunciado* (The decline of public services in Venezuela: a chronicle of a foretold collapse), we pointed out that drinking water, trash collection, electricity, telecommunications, domestic gas, public transportation, education and health services are normal in any country, as they dignify people, given that public services are inherent to quality of life. Hence, the general interest and the demand that they be guaranteed and respected.

Since July 2023, Caleidoscopio Humano has been monitoring social networks and the media to document complaints of violations of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (DESCA) related to the deficiency and/or absence of public services provided by the Venezuelan State. Between July 2023 and March 2024, the organization documented 1966 complaints of violations of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (DESCA), of which 63% (1,083) concern social rights, which are those directly linked to public services.

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## Acción Solidaria - [www.accionsolidaria.info](http://www.accionsolidaria.info)

### Acción Solidaria was awarded the Triángulo 2024 Award for its outstanding work in the fight against HIV in Venezuela

Acción Solidaria is proud to announce that Feliciano Reyna was awarded the prestigious Triángulo 2024 Award, granted by Spanish human rights organization COGAM, in the Positive category. Our chair received the award on behalf of the HIV Response Unit for its work and efforts to ensure that people with this illness may live freely and equally in terms of dignity and rights.

César Pacheco, director of Acción Solidaria's HIV Response Unit, expressed his gratitude and satisfaction regarding this news. Pacheco believes that the award validates the work, time and passion



invested in the organization's day-to-day activities. He stressed that every effort and dedication, as well as the warmth and affection with which this mission is conducted, are fundamental to improve the quality of life of the people who turn to Acción Solidaria for help.

"This award comes at a crucial time for Acción Solidaria because we are strengthening teamwork and networking with other organizations. Acción Solidaria has always had such an idea, to work with others, for others, and Triángulo 2024 comes as a reward for this effort," explained Pacheco.

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

### The new Anti-Society Bill: a wolf in sheep's clothing?



After being left for over a year behind closed drawers, the National Assembly (NA) resumed the discussion on the controversial bill of the Law for the Control, Regularization, Performance and Financing of Non-Governmental Organizations and Non-Profit Organizations, also known as the Anti-Society Law.

However, the new bill that was unofficially released shows serious differences with the first text that came to light. Even so, it was not submitted again to first discussion or public consultation (we do not know which text was submitted to public consultation in January of this year), but went directly to second discussion and,

during that session, nine articles were passed on May 21.

The new document eliminates requirements such as that non-profit civil organizations and their members be entered into the Integral Defense registry, as well as the obligation to file a sworn statement of net worth before the Comptroller General of the Republic, as if they were public officials. To register with the National Office against Organized Crime and Financing of Terrorism is also not required.

Undoubtedly, these changes are a step forward, but a deeper review of the bill reveals that the amendments are simply a coverup or an attempt to disguise as sheep a wolf that is ready to devour organized civil society. We made this clear in the text entitled "Menos malo, pero sigue siendo malo: análisis de un proyecto de ley aparentemente "potable" aunque contrario a los derechos humanos" (Less bad, but still bad: analysis of a bill that appears to be "potable" although contrary to human rights).

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**CEPAZ - [www.cepaz.org](http://www.cepaz.org)**

## Over 140 cases of persecution in the first quarter of 2024

During March, Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz) documented at least 55 acts of persecution and criminalization conducted under the administration of Nicolás Maduro in order to remain in power. With these over 50 cases, 141 acts of persecution have been documented in the first quarter of 2024. In an electoral year, it is no coincidence that people linked to politics have been the most persecuted and criminalized in the first quarter of this year. The irregularities regarding the exercise of free and plural political participation have included acts such as threats, particularly through the activation of the Bolivarian Fury and the vandalization of the headquarters of political parties, as well as political banning, the invalidation of political parties by the National Electoral Council, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances and irregularities in court proceedings.



Cepaz warns about the escalation of arbitrary detentions in which the State has neither admitted to the detention nor informed of the person's whereabouts. This very serious practice has been recognized as one of the most serious violations of human rights and is considered, pursuant to the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as forced disappearance of persons. In the first quarter of this year, at least 17 individuals arbitrarily detained have been victims of forced disappearance. Meanwhile, censorship and self-censorship continue to increase through the arbitrary shutdown of television channels, radio shows, radio stations and the blocking of web pages, as well as the impediment to record news events as a part of the continuous harassment and threats received by press workers.

In March, the director of the campaign staff in Barinas of political party Vente Venezuela, Emill Brandt Ulloa; the leaders in the state of Monagas of political party Causa R, Whilfer Piña Azuaje and Renzo Estibenz Flores; the electoral secretary of political party Causa R in Aragua, Luis Enrique Vegas, were all arrested. Also, Joe Villamizar, coordinator of Vente Venezuela in the municipality of Girardot, state of Aragua, and the coordinators in Caracas of political party Vente Venezuela, Dignora Hernández and Henry Alviarez. The Attorney General assured that Brandt Ulloa, who was arrested early in March, had declared during an interrogation that there was a "structured and organized plan" to "subdue the country to new periods of violence in the middle of the electoral period". Seven arrest warrants were also requested against other members of María Corina Machado's campaign staff: Oswaldo Bracho, Pedro Urruchurtu, Omar González Moreno, Humberto Villalobos, Claudia Macero, Fernando Martínez Mottola, and Magalli Meda. The documentation of 141 cases of persecution and criminalization during the first quarter of this year shows us that the repressive apparatus escalates during electoral periods, which leads us to warn about a possible increase of cases and a harshening of the patterns as the presidential elections draw nearer.

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