



**CENTRO PARA
LOS DEFENSORES
Y LA JUSTICIA**

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

JULY 2021

CONTENT

01

JULY THE MONTH WITH MOST ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS SO FAR THIS YEAR

PAG. 3

02

THE LOGIC OF THE INTERNAL ENEMY APPLIED AGAINST THE DEFENSE AND DEMAND OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PAG. 7

03

THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT REMAINS UNITED AND REJECTS THE STATE'S CRIMINALIZATION POLICY

PAG. 10

04

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN VENEZUELA

PAG. 10

05

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PAG. 13

The Centro para los Defensores y la Justicia (CDJ) documented **140 attacks and security incidents during July 2021** in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan State intensifies the Criminalization Policy against organizations and human rights defenders. *The Logic of the Internal Enemy* continues to deepen and the risks for those who are in the first line of action defending, promoting, and demanding rights increase.

State violence and repression continue to be exercised as a way of limiting the actions of the organizations and individuals that document and denounce the crisis, as part of the social control and measures aimed at reducing the civic and democratic space in the country.

The work of documentation, denounce, visibility and, accompaniment are not a crime. International cooperation, interaction, and advocacy are legitimate actions and the State should not criminalize those who exercise them.

01

JULY THE MONTH WITH MOST ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS SO FAR THIS YEAR

140 violations of the right to defend human rights in Venezuela during July 2021.

The right to defend, promote and demand human rights is under constant attack by the State. The environment for its exercise is more hostile and adverse as the Criminalization Policy deepens

Repressive and social control measures are applied with greater force against those who carry out activities related to the claim and protection of rights. People and organizations that ensure the protection of human dignity face different patterns of violence, repression, and intimidation, without effective mechanisms that guarantee the exercise of their work.

Aggressions, stigmatization campaigns, and obstacles intensify and remain unpunished, placing those who defend and demand human rights in a situation of vulnerability.

Faced with a socio-political environment in crisis and the complex humanitarian emergency, the work of promotion and defense of human rights and humanitarian action is more necessary, so it is essential that measures be established that allow their action without reprisals or arbitrary limitations.

JULY 2021 ATTACKS

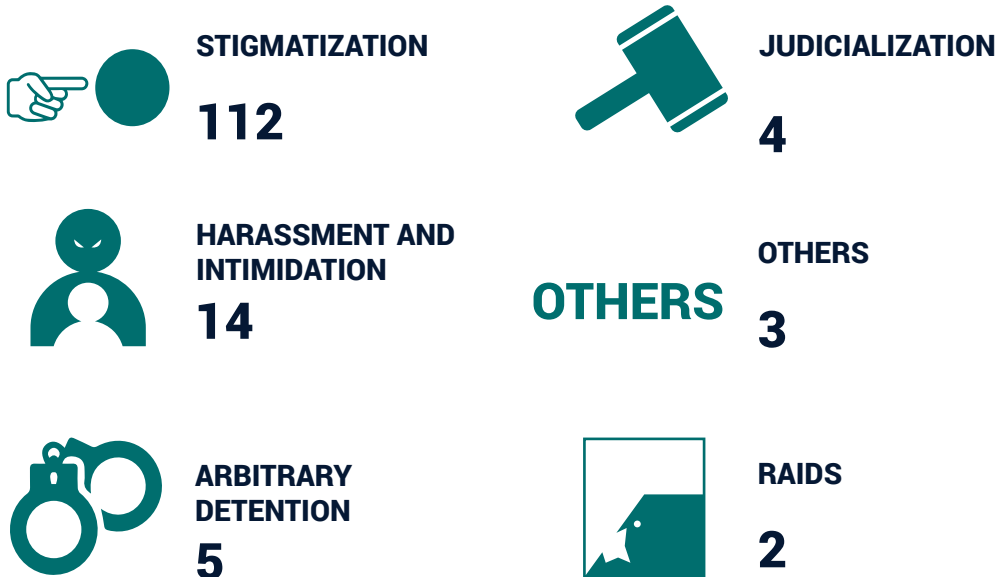


140 ATTACKS

140 attacks and security incidents documented during the month of July show the systematic patterns of aggression that are part of the Criminalization Policy, based on the *Internal Enemy Logic* that is applied against people and organizations that defend human rights and humanitarian action.

The 140 events registered during the month of July were characterized as follows:

CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ATTACKS



During July the stigmatization campaigns and the accusations by senior State officials intensified accusing the organizations of “destabilizing”, “interventionists”, “terrorists”, among others.

Likewise, within the framework of the actions undertaken by the State as part of its strategy to reduce civic and democratic space, the arrests and accusations against people and organizations considered by it as enemies increased, as they were uncomfortable with the interests of the State.

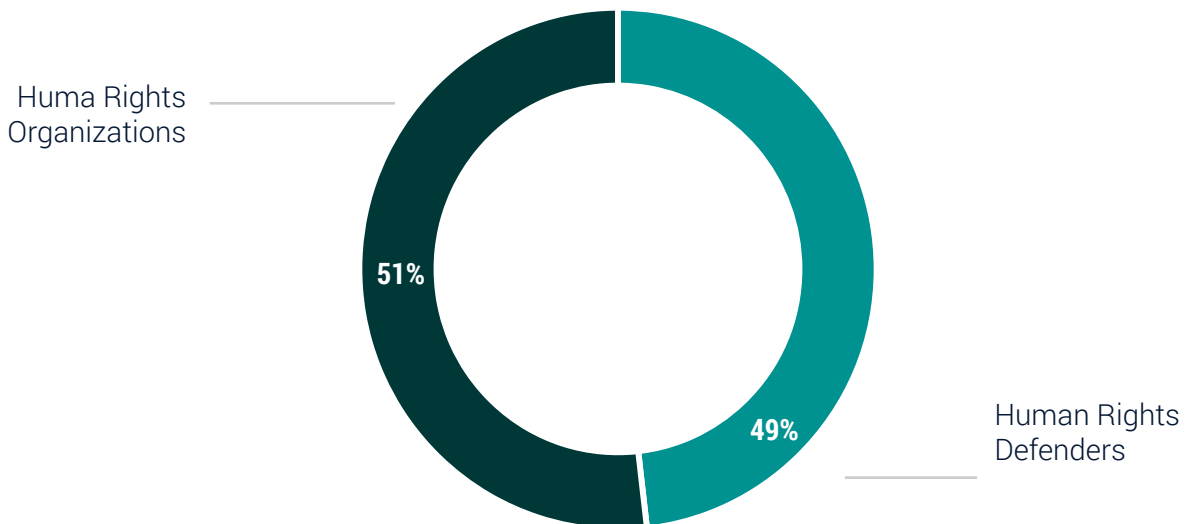
Threats of prosecution, investigation, and detention of human rights defenders materialize in accordance with the application of normative instruments that have been created in order to obstruct the defense and demand of rights and to promote the criminalization and control of organizations, evidencing that defending human rights in Venezuela is constituted as high-risk work.

The use of legislation and courts with competence on crimes of terrorism and organized crime to criminalize the defense and demand of rights is intensifying, while Administrative Ruling N° ONCDOFT-002-2021 remains in force as a threat to the full exercise of the right to freedom of association.

Actions aimed at hindering and limiting the work of Venezuelan civil society continue to increase, and under the *Internal Enemy Logic*, those who act in demand of due compliance with the international obligations of protection, respect, and guarantee of human rights are persecuted and repressed.

VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

Of the total of the documented attacks during the month of July 2021, 72 were individualized directed against human rights defenders, equivalent to 51% of the total. While 68 were directed against human rights organizations and organizations that carry out humanitarian actions, representing the remaining 49%.



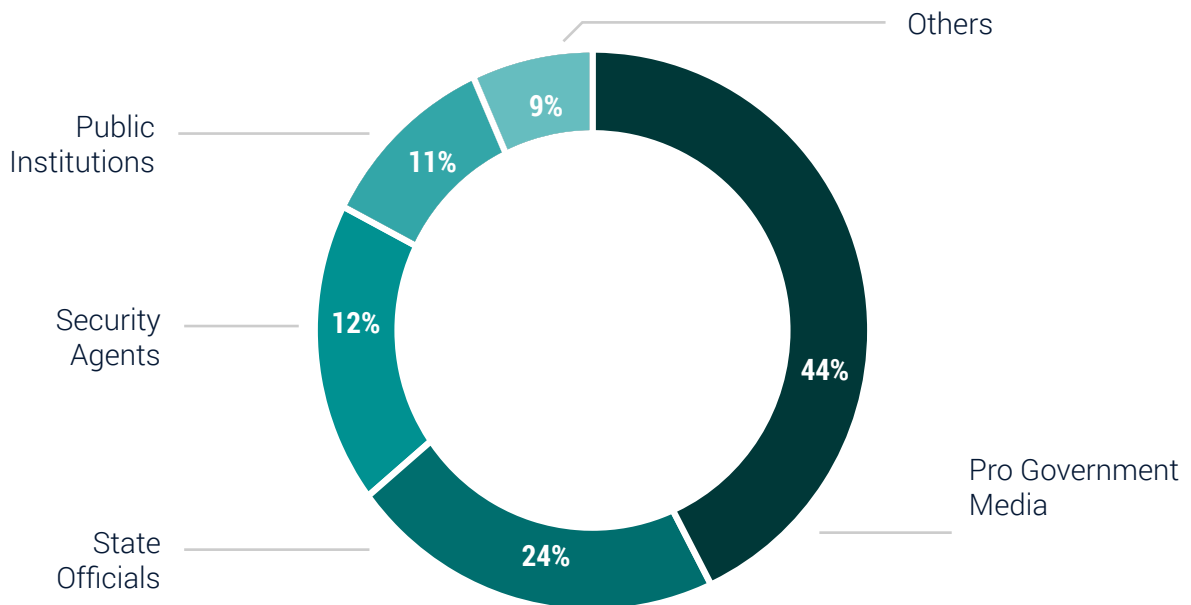
Among some of the cases, we highlight the systematic nature of the stigmatization campaigns against human rights organizations, criminalized for taking actions within the framework of international cooperation. The accusations and acts of intimidation against the *FundaRedes* organization and its director Javier Tarazona. The organizations *Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos – PROVEA*, its general coordinator Rafael Uzcátegui; *Transparencia Venezuela*; the *Observatorio venezolano para la seguridad y defensa nacional - Control Ciudadano* and its president Rocío San Miguel; *Foro Penal* and its directors Gonzalo Himiob and Alfredo Romero were some of the organizations and defenders who were targeted.

Also noteworthy are the cases of arbitrary detention and prosecution of the 3 defenders of the *FundaRedes* organization Javier Tarazona, Rafael Tarazona, Omar de Dios García. As well as that of Jairo Pérez, community leader and member of *Cáritas Venezuela*.

PERPETRATORS

The main perpetrators responsible for the attacks and security incidents documented during the month of July were distributed as follows:

A total of 62 (44%) attacks were perpetrated from the state's traditional and digital media and their social media accounts; 34 (24%) of the events were carried out by public officials, including high-level officials and members of the National Executive Power, who made use of their profiles on social networks, or statements in government media to stigmatize, threaten and intimidate; 17 (12%) of the events were carried out by state security agencies, mainly the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN by its Spanish name) and the Bolivarian National Police (PNB by its Spanish name); 15 were the responsibility of the Public Institutions (11%), who have been executing arms of the State's repression, such as the Public Ministry and the Courts; Finally, 12 (9%) of the attacks were carried out by people or groups affected by the political interests of the State, members of the associated entities or that make up the Popular System of Protection for Peace (SP3 by its Spanish name), the aggressors mainly perpetrated threats and acts intimidation and harassment.



02 THE LOGIC OF THE INTERNAL ENEMY APPLIED AGAINST THE DEFENSE AND DEMAND OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The violence exercised by the State continues to manifest itself in different ways against Venezuelan civil society. Repression, social control, and the Criminalization Policy continue to affect people and human rights, and humanitarian action organizations in a particular way.

Through attacks and legal limitations and administrative obstacles, the State affects the legitimate work of individuals and organizations. The systematic nature of the repressive patterns shows the violation of the right to defense and the demand for human rights in Venezuela.

As the reduction of the civic and democratic space in the country deepens, the patterns of aggression and intimidation that are part of the Criminalization Policy aggravate the risk situation of those who promote, defend and demand respect, guarantee, and protection of human rights. Also remaining in a situation of vulnerability due to the lack of democratic institutions and the lack of independence of powers that avoid impunity for the violations committed.

During the month of July, the highest number of attacks and security incidents against the right to defend human rights were documented so far in 2021. The use of stigmatization campaigns to attack and discredit the work of organizations and defenders remained the main pattern of aggression implemented.

State officials ranging from the executive and legislative branches, members of the justice system, among others, insist on discrediting the complaints and activities carried out within the framework of the defense and promotion of human rights, seeking to link their work with political and partisans objectives in order to question their independence, as well as make their activities seen as illegal, associated with terrorism, organized crime, or with intentions contrary to the peace and stability of the country, as part of the use of the Internal Enemy Logic to persecute and repress.

During July the stigmatization and criminalization against the promotion and defense of human rights continued to deepen. Human rights and humanitarian organizations were accused of “stealing” money from international cooperation for “counterrevolutionary”¹ purposes; of “serving as a front”² for activities of foreign governments and intelligence services, of “managing millions to intervene governments”³, of “generating violence”⁴ and of having “destabilizing and interfering

¹La Hojilla 17.07.21. Minutes. 1: 44: 53-2: 38: 15. Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xpfs2jvZurc&ab_channel=LuiginoBracciRoadesdeVenezuela

²Zurda Konducta 16.07.21. Minutes. 1: 10: 35-1: 12: 35. Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JIZyZ8fsMY&ab_channel=ProgramasCompleto

³La Hojilla 17.07.21. Minutes. 1: 44: 53-2: 38: 15. Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xpfs2jvZurc&ab_channel=LuiginoBracciRoadesdeVenezuela

⁴Tweet by Jorge Arreaza. 03.07.21. Available at: https://twitter.com/jaarreaza/status/1411495627616358405?ref_src=twsrc%5Etf-w%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1411495627616358405%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fmazo4f.com%2Fcanceler-arreaza-eeuu-y-sus-satelites-deben-cesar-su-agresion-supuestas-ong

purposes or ‘media intoxication (...) to destabilize the country with’ civil makeup “⁵. These accusations were replicated by different officials and media that are part of the national system of public media or that have some affiliation with the interests of the State, among them the main platforms used are *Con el Mazo Dando*, *La Hojilla*, *Zurda Konducta*, *Mision Verdad*, *Lechuguinos* and *Correo del Orinoco*.

Different organizations and defenders were victims of the application of the Internal Enemy Logic, through stigmatization campaigns and threats against them materialized.

In this sense, the case of the *Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos - PROVEA* stands out, against which there is a systematic campaign of stigmatization and threats, which has worsened since 2020, and which, by 2021, continues to gain strength, with a greater number of threats and acts of intimidation and harassment against it and his coordinating team. In the month of July, the organization faced accusations and indictments for exercising denunciation work regarding the acts of violence that occurred on Cota 905 in Caracas in the first days of the month. Public officials, including deputies and members of the executive, as well as the media made statements against the organization, accusing it of being associated to and “defending criminal groups through media campaigns”⁶; “Serve as a shield for terrorist acts”⁷; “financed by international institutions in order to “participate in the ‘local and international media; against the government of Venezuela in “*Guarimba times*”⁸.

Likewise, he highlighted the continuity of the systematic stigmatization campaign against the organization Observatorio venezolano para la seguridad y defensa nacional - Control Ciudadano, and acts of intimidation against its president, Rocio San Miguel. San Miguel was repeatedly accused and questioned about her work in relation to the areas of the military, security, and defense sectors and her implications for the fulfillment of the human rights of Venezuelans. In this sense, the defender was mentioned in government media as “creating media propaganda for the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB by its Spanish name) and the various intelligence and defense institutions of the country”⁹ and of “working closely with the international agency USAID.” and the United States government¹⁰.

On the other hand, the Foro Penal organization and members of its board of directors, Alfredo Romero and Gonzalo Himiob, were accused of working with foreign governments, in order to create media campaigns against the government administration, and of collaborating with interventionist actions in the country¹¹.

⁵The true role of NGOs. Correo del Orinoco printed version (PDF) pages 8-9. 08.07.21. Available in: <http://www.correodelorinoco.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CO4073.pdf>

⁶Zurda Konducta 08.07.21. Minutes. 30: 58-31: 30. Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bvqh0uQyfw&ab_channel=ProgramasCompleto

⁷Tweet from Mario Silva. 08.07.21. Available in: <https://twitter.com/hojillailva/status/1413207179088236552>

⁸The true role of NGOs. Correo del Orinoco printed version (PDF) pages 8-9. 08.07.21. Available in: <http://www.correodelorinoco.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CO4073.pdf>

⁹The true role of NGOs. Correo del Orinoco printed version (PDF) pages 8-9. 08.07.21. Available in: <http://www.correodelorinoco.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CO4073.pdf>

¹⁰ibid

¹¹Mision Verdad. “The true role of NGOs in Venezuela” 07.05.21. Available at: <https://misionverdad.com/venezuela/el-verdadero-papel-de-las-ong-en-venezuela>

It is also necessary to highlight the case of the social leader Jairo Pérez, from the La Vega parish, in the Libertador de Caracas municipality, who for the second time in the year was arbitrarily detained¹², for the exercise of his activities of promotion and defense of human rights in his community. The arrest was based on alleged accusations of engaging in terrorism activities, for which he was detained for 9 days, and was released on bail and with a precautionary measure as a substitute for deprivation of liberty. We recall that, despite being released from prison, the prosecution process against him continues and his situation of risk due to the exercise of his activities persists.

Also noteworthy is the case of the FundaRedes organization and its members, who have been the object of a systematic stigmatization campaign against them and threats, which worsened between April and May as a result of the complaints made by the organization regarding the events. occurred in the context of the conflict in Apure state. Due to the documentation and reporting work carried out, threats regarding the initiation of an investigation increased, as well as acts of intimidation and harassment against the organization and its members. At the beginning of July, the attacks materialized with the arbitrary detention, forced disappearance, and prosecution of three members of the organization, its Director, Javier Tarazona, Rafael Tarazona, and Omar de Dios García¹³.

Since their arrest, the defenders have been in an arbitrary prosecution process against them, plagued by irregularities that have been detrimental to the right to due process, such as the imposition of public defense at the presentation hearing. The three defenders were charged with the crimes of incitement to hatred, treason, and terrorism, imposing against them a custodial measure at the Centro de Formación del Hombre Nuevo “Simón Bolívar”, located in El Paraíso parish, in the Capital District. Likewise, in the framework of the arbitrary prosecution process against him, the residence of Javier Tarazona and the headquarters of the FundaRedes organization in the state of Táchira were raided; in view of the facts, its members reported damage to the facilities within the framework of the procedure. As of the date of presentation of this report, the defenders have been illegally deprived of their liberty for more than 40 days.

After their arrest, the media and state officials have made stigmatizing statements, in order to criminalize and harass the three defenders and the activities carried out by the organization. Being accused of participating in criminal actions associated with drug trafficking and terrorism¹⁴, of working with national intelligence services in order to create an opinion matrix in favor of foreign interference actions, “doing dirty work” and of being “mercenaries” of foreign governments¹⁵.

We reiterate with concern what was evidenced in July in relation to the systematic nature and institutionalization of the Internal Enemy Logic, since, starting from an official discursive line that points out those who defend and demand human rights as adversaries or hostile people who must be neutralized, attacks are derived that compromise the freedom, life and integrity of human rights defenders, and the state and institutional apparatus has adapted around the criminalization of the work of defense of rights.

¹²Diario Tal Cual 07.24.2021. Social leader Jairo Pérez was released from prison after nine days of arbitrary arrest. In: <https://tal-cualdigital.com/fue-excarcelado-lider-social-jairo-perez-tras-nueve-dias-de-arresto-arbitrario/>

¹³See: <https://www.observatoriodeconflictos.org.ve/oc/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COMUNICADO-FINAL-FUNDAREDES.pdf>

¹⁴Imputed director of the NGO Fundaredes for terrorism. Mission Truth. Available at: <https://misionverdad.com/imputado-director-de-la-ong-fundaredes-por-terrorismo>

MP: Three men from an NGO have been charged with crimes of promoting hatred and terrorism. Orinoco Mail. 06.07.21. Available in: <http://www.correodelorinoco.gob.ve/mp-imputados-tres-hombres-de-una-ong-por-los-delitos-de-promocion-al-odio-y-terrorismo/> Statements by Tarek William Saab. 06.07.2021. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F3CpdsfS_w

¹⁵Youtube. Situational analysis. 18.07.21. Minutes 23:43 26:40. Available in: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgAzucooyUI>

03 THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT REMAINS UNITED AND REJECTS THE STATE'S CRIMINALIZATION POLICY

Faced with the increase in aggressions, limitations, and obstacles against the work of human rights and humanitarian action organizations in Venezuela, civil society has remained united, demonstrating that its activities for the promotion and defense of rights are necessary to face the humanitarian emergency. complex existing in the country.

Through different activities that range from campaigns on social networks, public demonstrations, statements, and other protest actions, the State was demanded to stop criminalization and was urged to respect and guarantee humanitarian and human rights work.

During the month, for example, the various protest actions carried out by organizations at the national level in front of the respective offices of the Public Ministry, demanding the full release of *FundaRedes* members, stood out. Likewise, the campaigns on social networks for the release of the defenders Jairo Pérez¹⁶, Javier Tarazona, Rafael Tarazona, and Omar de Dios García¹⁷, which became a trend supporting that defending rights is not a crime.

Despite the worsening patterns of aggression and the increase in violence that adds to the various difficulties and limitations resulting from the socio-economic crisis, it should be noted that the human rights movement in the country remains firm in the exercise of its activities for the benefit of the population, and despite the risks, remain at the forefront of the action, carrying out their work despite the Criminalization Policy, demonstrating that their actions in favor of peace and human dignity are necessary for the validity of human rights and the recovery of a democratic system and the rule of law.

04 INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN VENEZUELA

Faced with the advances in the Criminalization Policy for the defense and demand of human rights in Venezuela, international organisms and international organizations for the protection of human rights continue to speak out in rejection of the attacks committed and demanding that the State complies with its duty to promote and protect the work of human rights defenders.

¹⁶See #LiberenAJairoPerez: https://twitter.com/search?q=%23LiberenAJairoPErez&src=typed_query

¹⁷See #LiberenALos3DeFundaRedes: https://twitter.com/search?q=%23LiberenALos3DeFundaRedes&src=typed_query

Among the actions taken during July by international organizations are the following:

On July 5, within the framework of the presentation of the Report on the situation of human rights in Venezuela at the 47th session of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet indicated that: “the Restrictions on civic space remain a matter of concern. I highlight, in particular, the stigmatization, criminalization, and threats against dissident voices, especially towards civil society, the media and members of the opposition”. She stated that her office between June 2020 and May 2021 was able to document 97 incidents “related to human rights defenders, many accused of criminal offenses for legitimate forms of civic participation.” She specifically spoke about the case of the 3 members of the FundaRedes organization, stating that “the arrest of three members of FundaRedes just three days ago is a worrying example. I take advantage of this intervention to request urgent access to defense attorneys of your choice”¹⁸.

On July 6, at the close of the interactive dialogue that followed the presentation of her report, the High Commissioner expressed in relation to the Administrative Ruling that, even though some requirements were made more flexible, “the bill (as it referred to the administrative instrument), continued to establish exacerbated demands and limitations”, and urged that a dialogue be established between civil society organizations and the government. Likewise, she reiterated her concern regarding the case of *FundaRedes* members¹⁹.

On July 3, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and its Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE by its Spanish name) expressed concern about the detention of FundaRedes members and recalled that defender Javier Tarazona is a beneficiary of precautionary measures granted by the international organization. They also recalled that “the work of defenders is essential for the construction of a democratic society” and called on the Venezuelan State to “protect and respect life, integrity, and judicial guarantees through due process”²⁰.

In relation to the pronouncements of international organizations, the following stand out:

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint program of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), issued two urgent actions in relation to the case of the FundaRedes organization and its members Javier Tarazona, Omar de Dios García and Rafael Tarazona. On July 5, in the first call, they warned that the detention was framed “in a context of a systematic policy of stigmatization, persecution, and criminalization of human rights defenders in the country” and urged the immediate release and protection of the defenders²¹. On July 16, they issued a new call for the illegal search of the headquarters of *FundaRedes* and the maternal home of its director. They demanded, among other things, “to put an end to all types of harassment, including at the judicial level, against him and his family members, and to take the necessary measures to guarantee the protection of *FundaRedes* membership, who are at serious risk of threats and harassment for their work in defense of human rights”²².

11

#HABLEMOSDDHH

¹⁸Report on the situation of human rights in Venezuela. 47th session of the Human Rights Council. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Geneva, July 5, 2021. At: <https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27265&LangID=S>

CONTINUED - Presentation of report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, on the human rights situation in Venezuela, followed by an interactive dialogue <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1br6fgm8r>

¹⁹Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1411375453819092993> and <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1411375455198920707>

²⁰URGENT INTERVENTIONS VEN 004/0721 / OBS 077. Venezuela: Arbitrary detention of three members of Fundaredes <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/llamamientos-urgentes/venezuela-detenci%C3%B3n-arbitraria-de-tres-miembros-de-fundaciones>

²¹URGENT INTERVENTIONS SEE 004/0721 / OBS 077.2. Venezuela: Illegal raid on the headquarters of Fundaredes and the maternal home of its director <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/llamamientos-urgentes/venezuela-allanamiento-ilegal-de-la-sede-de-fundaredes-and-from-the-maternal-house-of-its-director>

²²Venezuela: Venezuelan defenders, detained. July 5, 2021 Index Number: AMR 53/4398/2021 <https://www.amnesty.org/es/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/08/AMR5343982021SPANISH.pdf>

For its part, the organization Amnesty International, on July 5 issued an urgent action regarding the arrest of the 3 members of FundaRedes. They requested “to immediately release Javier Tarazona and Omar de Dios García, to close all criminal investigations into these human rights defenders and to put an end to the harassment and criminalization of civil society in Venezuela”²³.

On July 7, 10 international organizations that include Amnesty International, the Center for the Opening and Development of Latin America (CADAL), Civil Rights Defenders, Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), Citizenship and Development Foundation, Freedom House, International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Institute of Press and Freedom of Expression and the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights; Through a joint statement, they rejected and expressed concern about the arrest and imprisonment of the three human rights defenders of the FundaRedes organization. They affirmed that “their detention demonstrates the rapid escalation of the political persecution and criminalization of human rights defenders in Venezuela, who independently monitor, document and report on the critical human rights situation in the country”²⁴.

Likewise, within the framework of the interactive dialogue held at the Human Rights Council after the presentation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for Venezuela, the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) organizations together with the Centro para los Defensores y la Justicia (CDJ); the International Commission of Jurists; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), together with Provea; the World Organization Against Torture, together with the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and the *Comité de Familiares de Víctimas de los sucesos de Febrero Marzo de 1989 – Cofavic*; Amnesty International, among others, spoke out and denounced the criminalization of the increase in restrictions on the work of organizations and defenders in Venezuela²⁵.

Finally, we highlight the statements expressing concern on the part of the representations of more than 20 States before the Human Rights Council of the United Nations organization about the situation of persecution, repression, and criminalization of organizations and people who defend human rights in the country²⁶. As well as the statement of the delegation of the European Union in Venezuela on the case of the FundaRedes organization and its members²⁷.

²³July 7, 2021. VENEZUELA: THE AUTHORITIES MUST IMMEDIATELY RELEASE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS JAVIER TARAZONA, RAFAEL TARAZONA AND OMAR GARCÍA DE FUNDAREDES: <https://freedomhouse.org/article/venezuela-authorities-ould-immediately-release-reshould-immediately-human-rights-defenders-javier-tarazona>

²⁴ID: Human Rights in Venezuela - 22nd Meeting, 47th Regular Session Human Rights Council. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1nyjma0p1> Minutes 1.11.52 to 1: 20.25; and ID: Human Rights in Venezuela (Cont'd) - 23rd Meeting, 47th Regular Session Human Rights Council <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1br6fgm8r>

²⁵ID: Human Rights in Venezuela - 22nd Meeting, 47th Regular Session Human Rights Council. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1nyjma0p1>.

²⁶ID: Human Rights in Venezuela - 22nd Meeting, 47th Regular Session Human Rights Council. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1nyjma0p1>

²⁷European Union in Venezuela: https://twitter.com/UEenVenezuela/status/1411783077014216704?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1411783083460804615%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es2_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Frun.es%2Fnoticias%2F448015%2Famnistia-internacional-y-la-union-europea-piden-la-liberacion-de-los-activistas-de-fundaredes%2F

05 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Organizations and human rights defenders continue to be victims of the ***logic of the Internal Enemy***.

The violence, repression, and social control of the State continue to have negative impacts on the enjoyment of human rights in Venezuela. As the political and social crisis in the country deepens, actions aimed at promoting and defending these rights become more necessary.

However, the lack of conducive and safe environments for the exercise of their actions and the continuous reduction of civic and democratic space represents a great challenge and risks for those who defend and demand human rights and for those who carry out humanitarian actions in the country.

We reiterate that, in the face of the Complex Humanitarian Emergency, which has been aggravated by the Covid19 pandemic, Venezuelan society requires the work and actions of documentation, denunciation, accompaniment, and assistance exercised by the human rights movement.

We urge the State to fully comply with its international obligations to respect, protect and guarantee rights, including that of defending human rights and humanitarian action, refrain from describing the people who work in the framework of these as enemies, and immediately cease the Policy. of Criminalization.

We insist that, in accordance with international standards and regulations, acts of intimidation, harassment, stigmatization, aggression, threats, and other types of retaliation must be investigated and punished; Laws, mechanisms, and instruments contrary to the defense and demand of rights must be repealed and the State must seek the re-establishment of democratic institutions and the rule of law in accordance with Constitutional mandates.

We continue working for the establishment of effective public policies and mechanisms that seek and promote the effective protection of people and organizations that defend human rights in Venezuela.

From the Center for Human Rights Defenders and Justice (CDJ) we reaffirm our commitment for the effective appliance of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, known as Declaration of Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1998.

CENTRO PARA LOS DEFENSORES Y LA JUSTICIA