



CENTRO PARA
LOS DEFENSORES
Y LA JUSTICIA

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

FIRST TRIMESTER 2022

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SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

Centro para los Defensores y la Justicia (CDJ), documented **98 attacks and security incidents during the first quarter of 2022**, demonstrating the systematic nature of the Criminalization Policy against those who promote, defend, and demand human rights in Venezuela.

FIRST TRIMESTER 202 ATTACKS

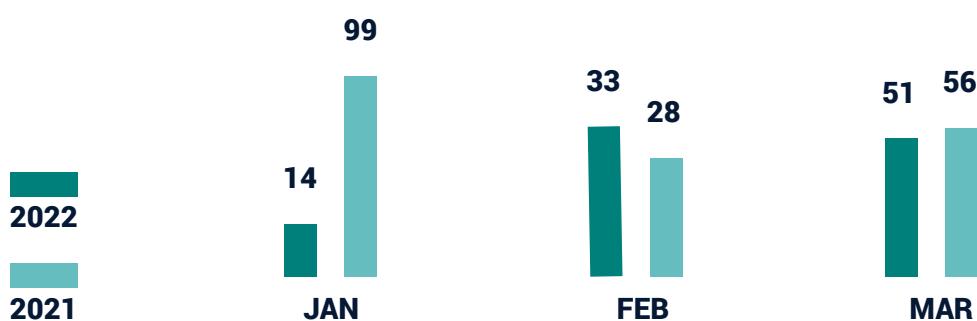


During the first quarter of 2022, we documented how the Venezuelan State continues to attack those who are on the front line of action, responding to the human rights crisis.

Between January and March 2022, 98 new events that compromise and affect the right to defend were documented, which represents a decrease of 46% in relation to the same period in 2021 when 183 situations were registered.

Despite observing a decrease in the number of aggressions, we emphasize that the levels of risk continue to be high for the human rights movement, while the limitations on its activities persist, their criminalization and the threats, acts of intimidation and Harassment and stigmatization campaigns remain severe.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ATTACKS PER MONTH



SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

The 98 documented attacks and security incidents reflect the following among the main patterns of aggression and intimidation:

CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ATTACKS



The CDJ, in the period concerned this report, registered and documented the continuity of speeches and smear and discredit campaigns as a basis for criminalization. These remain the main form of aggression.

From the highest levels of the State, the work of human rights organizations continues to be disqualified, attempting to associate them to criminal activities, such as terrorism, destabilization and attempts against the country's peace. Through different media platforms, accusations and expressions of hate and violence persisted, in order to criminalize a work legitimately recognized by international law.

Acts of intimidation, harassment, threats and other incidents were also documented, which affect the exercise for the promotion, defense and demand of human rights.

01 MEASURES ARE STILL NOT BEING TAKEN TO GUARANTEE CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC SPACE

The human rights movement continues to carry out its activities in an adverse and hostile environment. The State maintains legal and factual authoritarian measures. In this context, attacks continue to occur against those who promote, defend and demand rights.

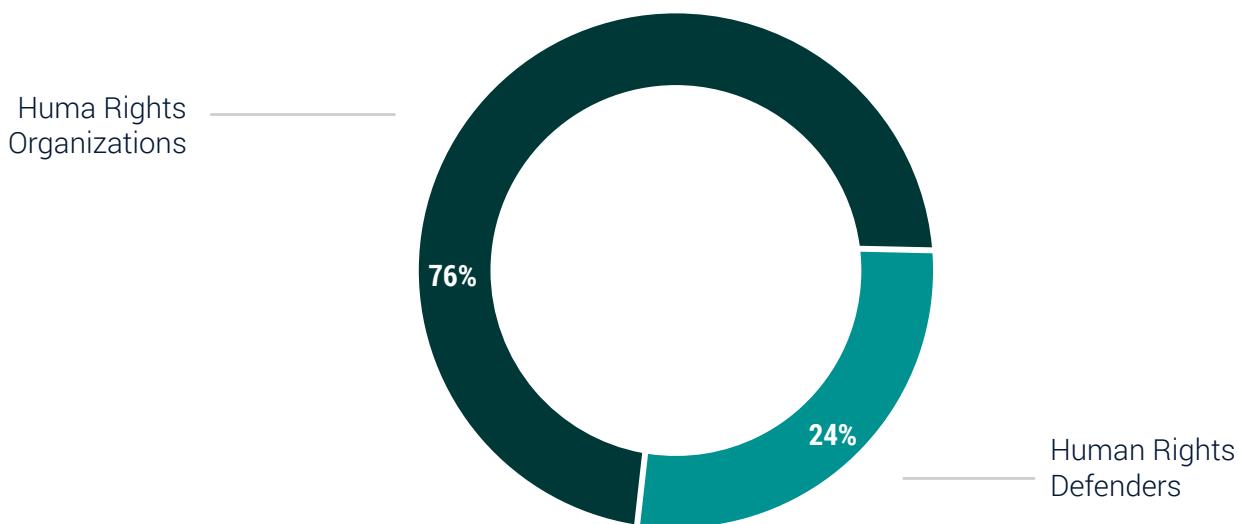
Far from following the recurrent calls of the international community and human rights mechanisms, the State still has not taken the necessary corrective measures to end the Criminalization Policy and, on the contrary, different types of attacks continue to materialize against those who document, denounce and the abuses, crimes against humanity and human rights violations committed in the country.

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

In relation to the total number of attacks and incidents documented during the trimester, the persistence in the use of hate speech and discredit, executed by State authorities and institutions through government media and digital communication platforms and social networks, stands out to stigmatize, intimidate, harass and threaten people and organizations calling them enemies, traitors, liars, among others, especially for their cooperation with the International System for the Protection of Human Rights and for making demands on the Venezuelan authorities.

As long as there is no conducive and safe environment for the exercise and defense of human rights, and as long as the restrictive measures of the civic and democratic space remain in force, the people and organizations that defend human rights in Venezuela will continue to face serious risks for the exercise of their work.

VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

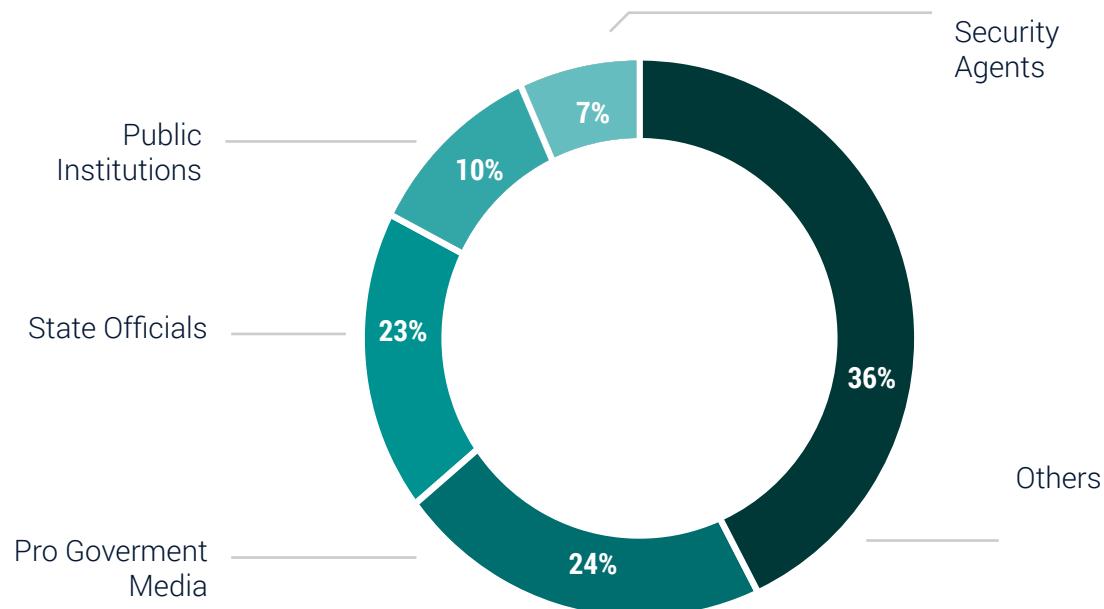


Of the total number of attacks documented during the trimester, 74 were directed against human rights organizations, equivalent to 76% of the total documented. While 24 of the events were individualized against human rights defenders, representing the remaining 24%.

Among the victims of the attacks, we highlight the following: threats, intimidation, harassment and acts of stigmatization against the organization *Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos - Provea*. The systematic stigmatization campaigns against the defender and journalist Luis Carlos Díaz. As well as the repeated accusations and harassment against *Transparencia Venezuela*, its director Mercedes de Freitas and other members of her team. The stigmatization against *Espacio Público (EP)*; *Instituto Prensa y Sociedad Venezuela (IPYS Venezuela)*; *Centro Gumilla*; *Foro Penal*, *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (CDH-UCAB)*, among others. As well as the intimidation against the *Observatorio Venezolano de Prisiones (OVP)*.

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

PERPETRATORS



Among the main perpetrators identified, it is worth noting that a total of 35 (36%) of the attacks were carried out by other actors associated with the structures of the Popular System of Protection for Peace (Sp3) and journalists associated with the national system of public media through their communication platforms; 23 were made through the government media (24%); 23 acts were perpetrated by public officials through social networks and other communication platforms (23%); 10 were the responsibility of Public Institutions (10%); and 7 by state security agencies (7%).

The programs *Con el Mazo Dando, la Hojilla* and *Zurda Konduka* and digital media such as *Misión Verdad, Correo de Orinoco, Aporrea* and *Venezuela News* were the main spaces that served as a platform for stigmatization campaigns and calls for violence during this period. It is also worth highlighting the use of social networks by public officials and State institutions to launch attacks, threats, disqualification and criminalize those who defend human rights.

People who live in the different structures of the Protection System for Peace (SP3) also carried out actions within the Criminalization Policy, mainly acts of intimidation, harassment, stigmatization and threats. For their part, public institutions, mainly entities associated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State security agencies, are also responsible for attacks against human rights defenders in Venezuela.

From the Center for Human Rights Defenders and Justice (CDJ) we continue to warn that the systematic stigmatization campaigns and criminalization of those who cooperate with the international system for the protection of human rights by state officials, generates triggers for other actors to commit threats or aggressions against people and organizations. Reinforcing the thesis that those who defend, denounce and demand human rights are internal enemies of the State through this narrative is dangerous for those who carry out this work, as it can lead to serious harm to life, liberty and personal integrity.

02

CRIMINALIZATION BASED ON THE INTERNAL ENEMY THESIS VIOLATES THE RIGHT TO DEFEND, PROMOTE AND DEMAND HUMAN RIGHTS

By the end of the first trimester of the year, the Criminalization Policy for the promotion, defense and demand for human rights remains in force. Through the execution of different actions, it continues to seek to restrict the work of organizations and human rights defenders under the improvement of the application of the thesis of the internal enemy.

As in the first trimester of 2021, between the months of January and March 2022, stigmatization continued to lead the pattern of attacks against the defense of human rights. The hate speech, discredit and disqualification against organizations and human rights defenders in the country was reiterated.

False accusations that seek to associate those who carry out activities to promote, defend and demand human rights with acts of corruption, terrorism, destabilization and international interference continue to be systematic. During the trimester, there were recurring accusations aimed at discrediting the work of denouncing organizations under justifications that the inputs and documentation they present respond to alleged foreign interests¹. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the stigmatization campaign against the Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos - Provea, for its recent investigative work on the situation of extrajudicial executions in the country, which was discredited and questioned by various officials. and entities associated with the Ministry of Internal Relations, Justice and Peace².

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¹ Twitter. Tweet by Erika Sanaja. 05.01.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/erikaosanoja/status/1478812102836039681?s=27>; Twitter. Tweet by Esteban Trajillo. 07.01.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/trapiello/status/1479573991308369923?s=27>; With the Giving Mallet. 19.01.21. Minutes: 46:38 – 48:21. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHU72bBotk>; With the Giving Mallet. 19.01.21. Minutes 1:16:53 – 1:15:26. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHU72bBotk>; Tweet by Pedro Carvajalino. 20.01.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/PedroKonductaz/status/1484238779388993542>; VenezuelaNews. 01.02.22. Minutes 17:22 – 17:57. Available at: <https://venezuela-news.com/antonio-ecarri-el-g4-no-representa-a-los-venezolanos-en-el-dialogo/>; Retweet of Pedro Carvajalino. 02.02.22. Available in: <https://twitter.com/MichelCaballero/status/1488834758197002240>; Retweet of Pedro Carvajalino. 02.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/MichelCaballero/status/1488834758197002240>; Statements by Oswaldo Rivero during the weekly broadcast of the program Zurda Konducta Min 42:30 – 43:10. 03.02.22. Available at: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x87m77d>; Olsen Martinez. "Politicians versus NGOs". The universal. 07.02.22. Available at: https://elpais.com/opinion/2022-02-08/politicos-versus-ong.html?utm_source=TW_CCT; Tweet by Rafaelita82. 08.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/Rafaelita82/status/1491056484389916679>; Retweet of Pedro Carvajalino. 10.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/PedroKonductaz/status/1491965504738705413>; Tweet from Mario Silva. 10.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/hojillasilva/status/1491941758040694802>; Twitter. Tweet by Michel Caballero Palma. 02.13.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/MichelCaballero/status/1492983933927149571>; Tweet by Michel Caballero Palma. 17.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/MichelCaballero/status/1494360807215403008>; Retweet of Zurda Konducta. 17.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/MichelCaballero/status/1494360807215403008>; Retweet of Pedro Carvajalino. 18.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/PedroKonductaz/status/1494527721334005763>; Chávez, the 4F and the imitators. 26.02.22. Mission Truth Journal. Available at: <https://misionverdad.com/chavismo/chavez-el-4f-y-los-imitadores>; Twitter. Alert tweet from Raquel Sánchez. 24.02.22. Available at: https://twitter.com/Raquelysc/status/1497013165531541505?t=_fxWyi8QIYy4CWkDeFnQ&s=08; Twitter; With the Giving Mallet. "Malaverismo: For a fistful of dollars". 27.02.22. Available at: <https://mazo4f.com/malaverismo-por-un-punado-de-dolares>; Youtube. Nicholas Maduro | 49 Ordinary Session of the Human Rights Council. 28.02.22. Minutes: 5:38 – 6:29 Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJWUHaioTSM>; SHAMELESS! Almagro tried to use Venezuela again to attract attention and Twitter users even hit him with the bucket. 04.03.22. Lettuce. Available in: <https://www.lechuguiños.com/almagro-intento-usar-venezuela-llamar-atencion-y-tuiteros-le-dieron-hasta-con-el-tobo/>; Tweet by Lugino Bracci Roa. 16.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/lubrio/status/150381467685294082>; Retweet of Pedro Carvajalino. 16.03.22. Available at: https://twitter.com/lubrio/status/15038153787909160977t-3zY0pnW3HaS_a_8JVYmsYQ&s=19; Retweet of Pablo Fernandez. 16.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/pabloefb/status/150408748610235904?s=19>; Tweet by Pablo Fernandez. 16.03.22. Available at: https://twitter.com/pabloefb/status/1504278862582190082?t=g-KuvZ0_gSOIGmtKOnaaQ&s=19; Tweet by Pablo Fernandez. 17.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/pabloefb/status/1504276573070966785?t=qzIK1gu6p8Q0f06HMZCIA&s=19>; Tweet by Pablo Fernandez. 17.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/pabloefb/status/15044204369348648987t=D0J80zPmf12Mj4gLy5Q&s=19>; Twitter. Tweet by Remigio Ceballos. 03.15.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/Ceballosichaso/status/1503813032501260289>; Twitter. Tweet from the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Peace. 03.15.22. Available at: https://twitter.com/MIJP_Vzla/status/1503865496416002053?t=TZUpABdHOKOUBuKuAuVhwh&s=08; VenezuelaNews. They denounce a report from Provea that promotes a campaign against the Carabobo Police. 24.03.2022. Available at: <https://venezuela-news.com/denuncia-informe-provea-promueve-campana-contra-policia-carabobo/#~text=E%20secretario%20de%20Seguridad%20Ciudadana,proveniente%20de%20EUU%20and%20Colombia>.

The CDJ is concerned that, so long as the defense of human rights continues to be stigmatized, and impunity continues in the face of threats, intimidation, harassment and other attacks; the levels of risk for those who defend human rights increase. Due to a matrix of opinion generated by the highest officials of the State, the thesis of the internal enemy against them is strengthened, encouraging other actors to be motivated to materialize aggressions of some kind against those who defend rights in the country. as well as joining the disqualifying campaigns that affect the work and moral integrity of organizations and defenders.

On the other hand, acts of intimidation and harassment were documented, as well as threats against people and organizations, by public officials, particularly those with competencies in citizen security and intelligence, as well as non-state actors. In this regard, they highlighted the presence of officials from the Scientific, Penal and Criminal Investigations Corps (CICPC, by its Spanish acronym) at the offices of the *Observatorio Venezolano de Prisiones (OVP)*³, and the robbery at the facilities of the organization *Movimiento Somos* in Mérida⁴; as well as the threats and acts of intimidation against a member of the *Observatorio de Derechos Humanos of the Universidad de los Andes (ODHULA)*.

In light of this, we warn that the consolidation of the Criminalization Policy, which in the past has led to the materialization of attacks and aggressions that compromise the operability and integrity of organizations and defenders, is still in force and constitutes a serious affectation to the rights to freedom of association, expression, and defense of rights.

On the other hand, we continue to observe with concern the use of criminal law to criminalize. At the end of the first quarter of 2022, the arbitrary judicial processes against the members of the organizations Azul Positivo and FundaRedes were still ongoing. In this regard, we highlight the use of judicial harassment against the defender and director of FundaRedes, Javier Tarazona, who has been a victim of ill-treatment and torture⁵, during his deprivation of liberty, and his health condition has deteriorated without being given timely and independent medical care⁶.

Finally, we highlight that in the period covered by this report, the criminalization of international cooperation continued to be one of the characteristic factors of the generalized attack on the human rights movement. Most of the documented attacks were focused on accusations against the organizations for the use of resources from the cooperation to allegedly carry out destabilizing actions against the country. Around this, accusations and threats with the opening of arbitrary criminal investigation processes were registered⁷.

Likewise, in the framework of international denunciation and advocacy activities, attacks and accusations were documented as retaliation against people and organizations that carry out activities in the framework of cooperation with United Nations agencies. Thus, within the framework of the Sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the interventions in the interactive dialogues of the oral updates of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Fact-Finding Mission for Venezuela (FFM), regarding the human rights situation in the country, the State, in response to the pronouncements, issued statements to discredit the international human rights system, based particularly on the alleged politicization of the sources, among them, humanitarian and human rights organizations⁸. Similarly, organizations such as *Transparencia Venezuela*, as well as the members of its board, faced acts of intimidation and harassment, threats and stigmatization after their participation in the interactive dialogue on Venezuela at the 49th session of the Human Rights Council.

³ Twitter. OVP alert tweet. 19.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/overprisiones/status/1495137827360804864?t=teMvWmzVCL0dx2QVRqoyQ&s=08>

⁴ Alert tweet from the LGTBQ+ Center. 24.02.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/CentroLgbtq/status/1497211930120888326>

⁵<https://talculadigital.com/acceso-a-la-justicia-exigio-investigacion-sobre-las-torturas-que-sufre-tarazona/>

⁶ Twitter. Tweet by Gonzalo Himiob. 13.01.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/himiobsantome/status/1481677072661716993?s=27>

⁷ Con el Mazo Dando. 30.03.2022. Minutes 2:42:30 – 2:44:54. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuyutJGX3Y>; Con el Mazo Dando. "Cabello: PSUV will investigate if the US enters resources through the NED to conspire against the country. 30.03.2022. Available at: <https://mazo4f.com/cabello-psuv-investigara-si-euu-ingresa-recursos-por-medio-de-la-ned-para-conspirar-contra-el-pais>

⁸ Youtube. Nicholas Maduro | 49 Ordinary Session of the Human Rights Council. 28.02.22. Minutes: 5:38 - 6:29 Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJWUHai0TSM>

Given the work of documentation, denunciation and advocacy that human rights organizations maintain before the International Protection Systems, from the CDJ we warn that the criminalization of these activities represents, together with the implementation of the thesis of the internal enemy, a serious threat to the promotion, defense and demand of human rights, since it keeps those who carry out this work in a permanent situation of being the object of attacks or aggressions; as well as limiting and compromising their work of denunciation, documentation and accompaniment. For this reason, we demand the immediate cessation of the criminalization of actions of cooperation and interaction with international protection procedures and mechanisms.

03 THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REMAINS ALERT AND CONDEMNS THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN VENEZUELA

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Among the main actions and pronouncements registered we can find:

On January 25, Venezuela was examined under the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations Human Rights Council, a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the State's compliance with its human rights obligations, taking as a starting point the recommendations issued by the States in previous cycles, as well as the challenges that have arisen during the new period analyzed (2017-2021).

The review of Venezuela was attended by 116 United Nations Member States, of which 115 issued a total of 328 recommendations to the Venezuelan State⁹.

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Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela. 34th meeting, 49th Regular session of the Human Rights Council. Minutes 15:38 - 19:29. Available at: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1c4g4dw1>; EVEN WHEN? Venezuela regrets the use of human rights as a weapon to attack the country. Lettuce. 18.03.22. Available in:

<https://www.lechuguios.com/venezuela-lamenta-el-uso-de-los-ddhh-como-arma-para-atacar-al-pais/>; Venezuela reiterated at the UN its ignorance of the alleged Fact-Checking Mission on Human Rights. Orinoco Mail. 19.03.22.

Available at: <http://www.correodelorinoco.gob.ve/venezuela-reitero-en-onu-su-describo-a-supuesta-mision-de-verificacion-de-hechos-sobre-ddhh/>; Twitter. "Operacion Tun Tun" tweet. 21.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1505937510328852482>; <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/150604323533901828>; <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1505934407412203520>; Twitter. "Operacion Tun Tun" tweet. 21.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1505929031136460800>; <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/150604292772012544>; Twitter. Tweet from Operation Tun Tun. 03.21.21. Available at: <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1506046744580304903>; Twitter. "Operacion Tun Tun" tweet. 22.03.2022. Available at: <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1506340977270833157>; Twitter. "Operacion Tun Tun" tweet. 23.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1506803265262006273>; Twitter. "Operacion Tun Tun" tweet. 23.03.22. Available at: <https://twitter.com/OperTunTun/status/1506804029204176897>

9 A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.4 Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic

Review 1 * Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA

Among the recommendations issued, it is worth emphasising those aimed at the protection of human rights defenders, the need to guarantee safe and favorable environments for civil society organizations, as well as the protection of civic space through the guarantee of fundamental liberties. With a total of 34 recommendations, Member States of the United Nations demanded respect for the right to defend human rights.

The recommendations revealed the aggravation of the situation of human rights defenders, who, because they carry out their work in Venezuela, face a hostile and adverse environment. The recommendations presented by the member states evidenced the lack of guarantees and lack of protection in the face of the work carried out by human rights defenders and organizations, as well as for those who carry out humanitarian work, including journalists and union leaders.

The Venezuelan State was asked to proceed with the adoption of concrete measures, both positive and negative, to guarantee the protection of defenders and the restoration of civic space. Specifically, it was urged to lift and cease the application of restrictive measures to people and organizations that defend human rights, making specific mention of instruments such as Administrative Ruling ONCDOF-002-2021 and the Law Against Hate, for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance.

In the same way, the State was urged to refrain from attacking and assaulting human rights defenders, mentioning different forms of the pattern of attack, such as intimidation, and prosecution.

The recommendations issued in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review, moreover, are consistent with the various pronouncements of other United Nations mechanisms and bodies on the subject, particularly by Special Procedures, the International Fact-Finding Mission, as well as by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In the same order of ideas in the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council, within the framework of the interactive dialogues held after the oral updates of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Fact-Finding Mission for Venezuela (FFM) on March 17 and 18, respectively, representatives of various States once again expressed their concern about the situation of criminalization of people and organizations that defend human rights in Venezuela and demanded guarantees of a civic and democratic space. Member countries of the European Union such as France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden; as well as Chile, Uruguay, United States, Israel, Japan; Canada were some of those who spoke out on the matter¹⁰.

For her part, within the framework of her recent oral update to the Human Rights Council, in March 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights denounced that her office *"has documented 93 incidents related to restrictions on civic space and democracy in Venezuela, including the criminalization, threats, and stigmatization of civil society activists, independent media, and trade unionists"*. Just as she also expressed her concern about *"the prosecutions of members of the human rights NGO Fundaredes"*, the conditional release of two of its members, the continuation of criminal charges and the health of Javier Tarazona. She finally spoke out regarding the documentation of *"24 cases of stigmatization of human rights defenders, journalists and other members of civil society by State agents, on social networks or public speeches, since*

¹⁰ <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1p2lwse2> and <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1c4g4dw1>

September 2021". She urged the authorities to "promote dialogue and cooperation, and to build a safe and inclusive environment for all the people of Venezuela"¹¹.

Finally, with regard to international organizations, we found that on January 14, the Amnesty International organization once again spoke out regarding the situation of human rights defender Javier Tarazona, due to the deterioration of his health, indicating that he should "*be released immediately and unconditionally. His health situation is serious and as well as his arbitrary detention*"¹². Likewise, during the 49th term of the Human Rights Council, the organizations Freedom House, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); Amnesty International spoke about the situation of human rights defenders¹³. For its part, the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), in the same period of sessions during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism, presented an intervention in which it denounced the "*widespread misuse of counter-terrorism measures by states to criminalize and silence human rights defenders, including in the context of exercising the right to peaceful assembly, in many countries around the world*", including Venezuela¹⁴.

04 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Venezuelan State maintains a repressive policy of criminalization and social control as part of its authoritarian nature, which continues to seriously affect the free and full operation of organizations and human rights defenders, due to the strategies used to reduce civic and democratic space that affects the promotion, defense and demand of human rights.

Despite the repeated calls for an end to the criminalization of defenders and for the construction of an environment that guarantees the exercise of their activities, we continue to document aggressions and attacks that affect the life, liberty and personal integrity of the victims, as well as the operation and legality of organizations.

During the first trimester of 2022, the elements that make the context for the defense of human rights an adverse and hostile scenario continued to be present, resulting in the exercise of these actions being of high risk, and there are still no efforts by the State to move forward in the promotion, respect and protection of the work of defenders.

From the CDJ we continue to insist that the work of those who document, denounce, spread the violations committed by the State and those who provide humanitarian assistance in response to social needs are essential for respect for human dignity and the maintenance of democracy and Rule of law. By criminalizing and attacking those who exercise such actions, the State transgresses its international obligations.

The criminalization of international cooperation, classifying as "enemies" those who interact with and make use of international systems for the protection of human rights contributes to impunity for violations and affects the rights of victims to obtain truth, justice and reparation.

The State must move forward in complying with the recommendations of the international community and adopt all necessary measures to advance in the construction of conducive and safe environments that allow the exercise of the right to defend human rights without fear of being victims of aggression or retaliation.

The right to defend human rights and the exercise of humanitarian action must be promoted and protected and not criminalized.

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