



CENTRO PARA  
LOS DEFENSORES  
Y LA JUSTICIA

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# **SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN VENEZUELA**

## **2024**

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01

## 979 VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS DURING 2024

The Center for Human Rights Defenders and Justice (CDJ) documented **979 attacks and security incidents during 2024**, representing an 87% increase compared to the same period in 2023, when 524 attacks were documented.

In the electoral context, restrictions on civic and democratic space have increased, as has criminalization, repression and social control of civil society, including individuals and organizations that defend, demand and promote human rights.

### ATTACKS 2024



# 979 ATTACKS

2024 was characterized by an increase in repressive and control actions against organizations and people defending human rights.

#### Continued closure of civic and democratic space

In the context of the elections, the State took new actions aimed at curtailing civic and democratic space, consequently increasing violations and limitations on the rights to association, assembly, demonstration, expression, opinion and defense of human rights.

2024 was presented as a year of threats, harassment, intimidation and the use of criminal prosecution as mechanisms to criminalize civil society in Venezuela under the deepening of fear as a mechanism to try to neutralize and inhibit those who defend, demand and promote rights in the country.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ATTACKS PER MONTH

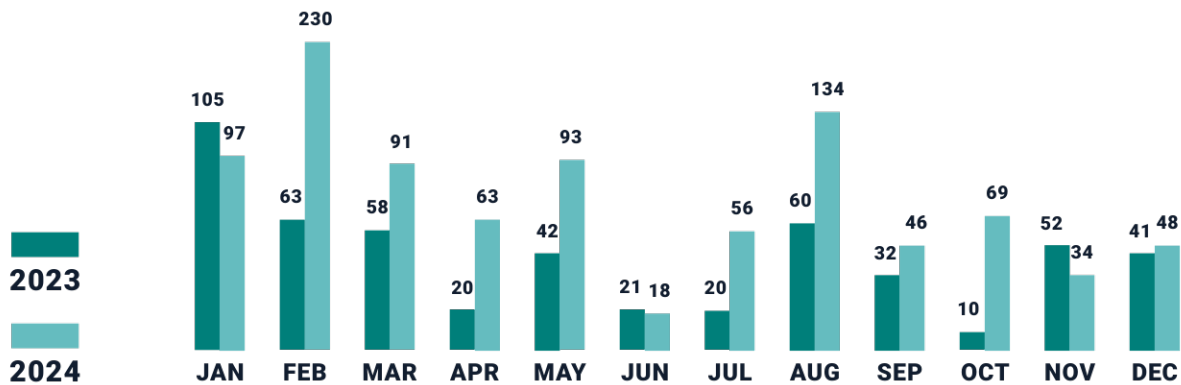
**343 of the attacks occurred in the context following the elections of July 28**

Following the election, 35% of all attacks that occurred during the year were documented, with concern about the increase in aggressions and violations of personal integrity and freedom.

Controls and obstacles to freedom of association, expression and the right to defend rights have been tightened, with an increase in the arrests of human rights defenders and the implementation of new restrictive measures on their rights, such as the cancellation of passports.

The State shows no interest in stopping criminalization; on the contrary, it is intensifying the factual and legal measures to limit and restrict the defense, demand and promotion of rights, increasing the risk levels for people and organizations that carry out these activities in the country.

## COMPARATIVE GRAPHIC 2023 -2024



## 02 STIGMATIZATION, INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT AND THREATS REMAIN THE MAIN DOCUMENTED ATTACK PATTERNS

There was an increase in measures of persecution and social control aimed at limiting and hindering the work of civil society.

The use of more sophisticated and targeted repressive methods to instill fear and neutralize the activities of those who promote, defend and demand rights was also documented.

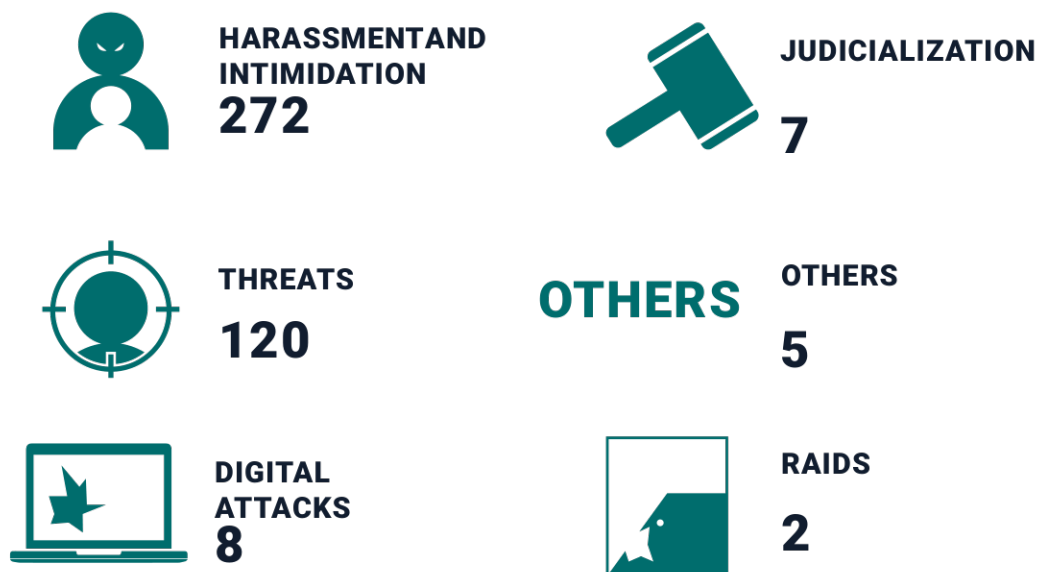
The 979 attacks and security incidents documented in the period are reflected in the following patterns of aggression:

## CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ATTACKS

 **STIGMATIZATION**  
**557**

 **ARBITRARY DETENTION**  
**8**

## CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ATTACKS



Stigmatization remains the main form of attack.

Under the guise of the Internal Enemy, smear campaigns, disparaging speeches, calls for violence, and accusations of “enemies,” “traitors,” “destabilizing agents,” “interventionists,” “fascists,” and others are broadcast and disseminated. These speeches are often accompanied by threats and have an intimidating purpose so that civil society refrains from continuing to act.

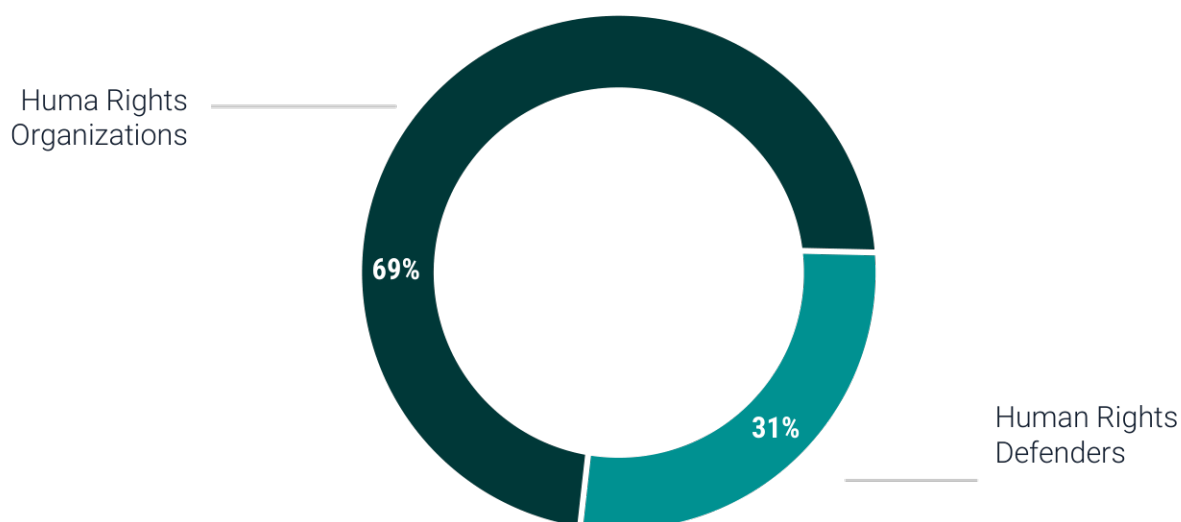
Furthermore, the use of crimes defined in laws against financing terrorism and organized crime, and the law against hate and other normative instruments of a criminal nature persists to intimidate, prosecute and criminalize actions of documentation, reporting, advocacy, cooperation and strategic litigation in human rights.

It was observed that as processes in international bodies progressed, accusations and threats increased. Organizations and individuals were victims of threats, intimidation and harassment for documenting, denouncing and making visible human rights violations and demanding investigation and accountability.

The State moved forward with the creation of measures aimed at limiting and hindering the work of human rights organizations, and civil society in general, through the approval and promulgation of new regulations contrary to international standards such as the *Law of Supervision, Regularization, Action and Financing of Non-Governmental Organizations and Related Organizations*, the *Law against fascism, neo-fascism and similar expressions*, and the *Organic Law Liberator Simon Bolivar against the Imperialist Blockade and in Defense of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*, which represent a serious threat. for those who are on the ground defending human rights. The freedoms of association, demonstration, expression and defense of rights are in risk due to these and other legal and factual measures that the State has implemented since at least the year 2002.

## VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

During 2024, organizations that are part of the human rights movement in the country were the most affected, with 677 attacks such as stigmatization, intimidation and threats against them; equivalent to 69% of the total documented. While 302 of the recorded situations were committed individually against human rights defenders, who were victims of harassment, threats, arbitrary detentions, stigmatization, among others, representing the remaining 31%.



Of those affected, at least **15 were women defenders**, who repeatedly faced stigmatization campaigns, intimidation, threats and situations of violence related to their work defending human rights.

### VICTIMS PER MONTH

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
85 NGO 12 HRD	99 NGO 131 HRD	77 NGO 14 HRD	44 NGO 19 HRD	77 NGO 16 HRD	13 NGO 5 HRD
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
45 NGO 11 HRD	96 NGO 38 HRD	38 NGO 8 HRD	52 NGO 17 HRD	19 NGO 15 HRD	32 NGO 16 HRD



## RELEVANT EVENTS THAT OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR:

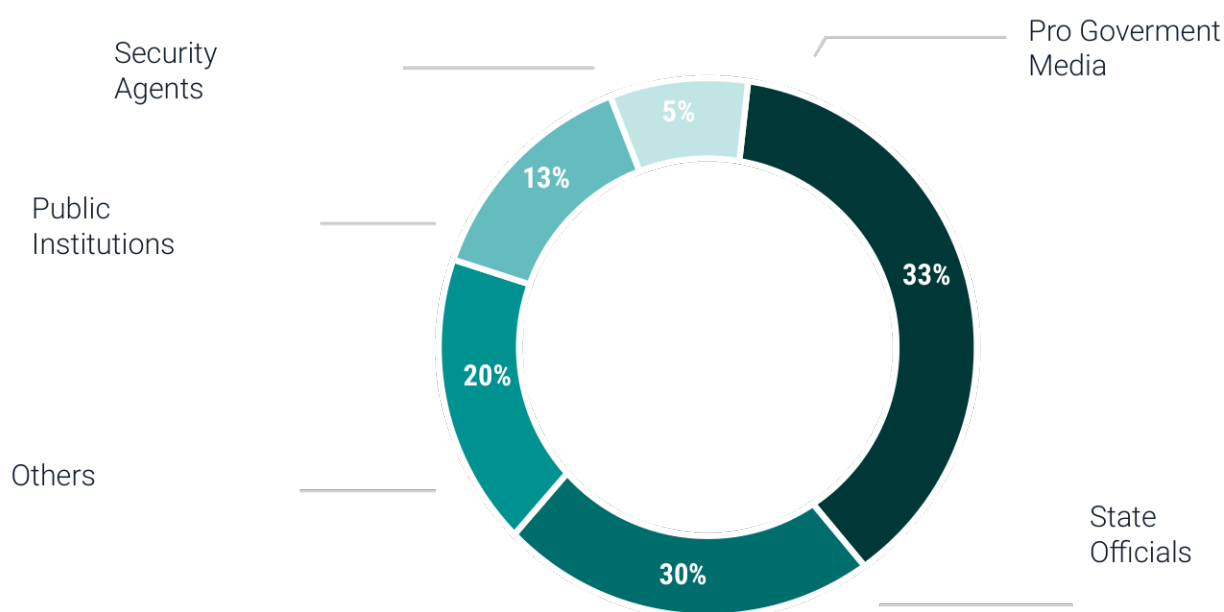
The continuation of judicial harassment against members of the FundaRedes organization Rafael Tarazona, Omar de Dios García and Javier Tarazona; the arbitrary detention and prosecution of the defender Rocío San Miguel. The last two, along with other defenders, also at the time of the presentation of this report, remain deprived of liberty and have been victims of violations to their personal integrity and their health has been affected while in custody.

We also highlight the repeated threats and acts of stigmatization against the *Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (Provea)* and members of its coordination; the repeated accusations, intimidation and digital attacks against *Transparencia Venezuela* and members of the team; intimidation and harassment against members of the *Observatorio Venezolano de Conflictividad Social (OVCS)*; stigmatization of *Espacio Público (EP)*, *Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS Venezuela)*; and threats and stigmatization against organizations that cooperate with international protection mechanisms.

## PERPETRATORS

The main perpetrators of attacks and security incidents documented during 2024 were distributed as follows:

A total of 326 (33%) of the attacks were carried out by traditional and digital media outlets of the State and its social media accounts; 293 (30%) of the acts were carried out by public officials, including members of the Executive, deputies, ministers, among others, who made use of their social media profiles, or statements in government media outlets to stigmatize, threaten and intimidate; 199 (20%) were perpetrated by people or groups affiliated with the State and members of entities associated with or that make up the Popular System of Protection for Peace (SP3); 122 were the responsibility of public institutions or government entities (13%); and 39 acts were carried out by State security agencies (4%).



The attacks against those who defend and demand human rights were mainly identified as coming from the national public media system, television programs, radio stations and digital media, which served as a platform for stigmatization campaigns and calls for violence. Likewise, other media that act under the guidelines of the State were spaces to discredit and attack organizations. Among the most notable are Con el Mazo Dando, Misión Verdad, la Hojilla, Zurda Konducta, Correo del Orinoco, La IguanaTV and Venezuela News.

State officials from the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches, responsible for committing systematic acts of stigmatization, and promoted violence against defenders, through threats, accusations and acts of intimidation and harassment.

Other like-minded actors and those related to the State, including members of the structures that are part of the Popular System of Protection for Peace (SP3), carried out violent actions, threats and acts of intimidation and harassment.

Public institutions committed actions contrary to the rights of individuals and organizations defending them and also failed to act and investigate the attacks committed against them. Security agencies, for their part, carried out arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment, short-term enforced disappearances and other acts of intimidation and harassment.

# 03

## **CRIMINALIZATION OF THE DEFENSE, DEMAND AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

At the end of 2024, the defense, demand and promotion of human rights was heavily criminalized. Documentation, reporting, support, enforcement and advocacy actions were affected by measures used by the State to restrict civic and democratic space in the country.

Arbitrary arrests, prosecutions and an increase in acts of intimidation, harassment and threats characterized the period. In addition, the approval of regulatory instruments to control, restrict and criminalize the activity of civil society organizations meant new challenges and led to increased risks for those working in the field.

Repression and persecution in the electoral context made 2024 one of the years with the highest number of documented attacks in recent years. Violence was a constant present in the content of the attacks recorded in the year, serving not only as an exemplary message, but as a key element to strengthen the criminalization policy.

Stigmatization, as in previous years<sup>1</sup>, was positioned as the main documented form of attack. Derogatory remarks, unfounded accusations, smear campaigns, and insults to the work of human rights defenders were made<sup>2</sup>. The axis of stigmatization is a discourse that seeks to antagonize the independent human rights movement and place it within the logic of the internal enemy that must be neutralized. We see with concern that the systematic nature of stigmatization and the narrative that the State seeks to impose on human rights organizations do not represent isolated events, but are the basis for the materialization of other patterns of attack.

The criminalization of international cooperation and accusations of partisan links and political proselytism in the electoral context persist, and accusations against human rights defenders, accusing them of being terrorists, destabilizing, traitors, among others, are increasing. State officials, media and communication platforms took part in this discourse<sup>3</sup>.

Acts of intimidation and harassment were repeated. Presence in the headquarters of organizations; dissemination of the faces of human rights defenders along with disparaging messages and threats against them; and statements that sought to generate fear and a sense of surveillance, among others. On the other hand, a new measure was documented to affect the work of civil society actors; in the post-electoral context, the cancellation of passports was arbitrarily and discretionarily increased; in this sense, at least 15 cases of human rights defenders whose identity documents were cancelled were documented<sup>4</sup>.

Threats were constant and were generally related mainly to the approval of the Law on Supervision, Regulation, Action and Financing of Non-Governmental Organizations and Related Organizations, which was approved in the second discussion in August<sup>5</sup> and published in the official gazette in December. Likewise, threats were recorded regarding the opening of criminal investigations against organizations and human rights defenders.

The State promoted new actions against civic space. Three new bills were enacted and added to the regulatory framework that restricts and limits fundamental rights such as freedom of association, freedom of expression, demonstration, assembly and the right to defend human rights. These instruments perfect the legal framework that supports and encourages the neutralization of the human rights movement and civic activity.

In April, a Bill against Fascism, Neofascism and similar expressions was presented<sup>6</sup>. This instrument, similar to others approved previously, is characterized by an extremely broad conceptual language, susceptible to discretionary interpretation. Specifically, it falls on expressions and actions associated with “fascism”, without offering a clear and precise concept of the same. This instrument falls on natural persons and legal entities. In this regard, we remember that this term has been used by high officials to characterize the defense of human rights.

<sup>1</sup>Center for Defenders and Justice. Reports available at: <https://centrodefensores.org.ve/?cat=1>

<sup>2</sup>Center for Defenders and Justice. Quarterly Report. Available at: <https://centrodefensores.org.ve/?p=606>

Center for Defenders and Justice. Semiannual report. Available at: <https://centrodefensores.org.ve/?p=623>

<sup>3</sup>Ibid

<sup>4</sup>Center for Defenders and Justice. Situation of human rights defenders in Venezuela - August. Available at: <https://centrodefensores.org.ve/?p=646>

<sup>5</sup>Ibid

<sup>6</sup>National Assembly. AN receives draft law against fascism. Available at: <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ve/noticias/an-recibe-proyecto-de-ley-contra-el-fascismo> // <https://www.observatoriodeconflictos.org.ve/oc/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Ley-antifascismo-Venezuela.pdf>

In August, the Law on Supervision, Regulation, Action and Financing of Non-Governmental and Related Organizations was approved<sup>7</sup>. This instrument has been presented in the media as one aimed at monitoring, controlling and controlling the financing of non-governmental organizations; however, its text shows a punitive content with the possibility of State intervention in the independent management of organizations. The possibility of sanctioning those who do not comply with the stipulated provisions is contemplated. Among these provisions, it should be added that a new registration with the National Registry of Non-Governmental Organizations is required, making the possibility of having a legal personality dependent on it.

Finally, the Organic Law Liberator Simon Bolivar Against the Imperialist Blockade and in Defense of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was approved<sup>8</sup>. This instrument falls on those who are considered to support the sanctions imposed by foreign governments and international organizations. Like other laws, the Simon Bolivar Law has extremely imprecise and broad language, specifically with regard to the subjects to whom the law applies, making it possible for the law to be applied to natural or legal persons who oppose the current government management and the result of the presidential elections<sup>9</sup>. Likewise, it must be taken into account that independent human rights activity has been associated by high officials with the request and support of sanctions and alleged interventionist actions.

The justice system continues to be used to criminalize the defense of human rights. Criminal proceedings against human rights defenders are still ongoing without guaranteeing due process. In February, the Director of the NGO *Control Ciudadano*, Rocío San Miguel, was arrested and the victim of a short-term enforced disappearance. At the time of this report, she is still under criminal proceedings<sup>10</sup> and remains deprived of her liberty, without a conviction having been issued against her. On the other hand, other human rights defenders were also arrested in the context of the elections, several of whom were brought before courts with jurisdiction over terrorism, some of whom remain deprived of liberty. Finally, the proceedings against the defenders Javier Tarazona, Rafael Tarazona and Omar de Dios García remain ongoing; this has been riddled with irregularities, such as unjustified suspensions of hearings<sup>11</sup>.

2024 presented major challenges for the defense of human rights in the country and sets an adverse precedent for 2025. Widespread impunity, the lack of democratic institutions, the persecution of those perceived as dissidents, and institutional violence make the defense of human rights an increasingly risky activity. It is in this context that the CDJ warns of the probable intensification of the persecution of the independent human rights movement.

The increase in attacks recorded this year reveals the lack of will on the part of the State to correct, reverse or stop implementing factual and legal measures and address the structural problems that allow or encourage the commission of acts of aggression and intimidation against human rights defenders and organizations in Venezuela.

<sup>7</sup> BBC. Venezuela approves anti-NGO law amid allegations of arbitrary arrests. 15 August 2024. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/cjw3v4217np0>

<sup>8</sup> National Assembly. Extraordinary Official Gazette No. 6859. November 29, 2024. Available at: [http://spgoin.imprentanacional.gob.ve/cgi-win/be\\_alex.cgi?Documento=T028700050673/0&Nombrebd=spgoin&CodAsocDoc=3870&Sesion=118849449](http://spgoin.imprentanacional.gob.ve/cgi-win/be_alex.cgi?Documento=T028700050673/0&Nombrebd=spgoin&CodAsocDoc=3870&Sesion=118849449)

<sup>9</sup> For more details on the Law, see Access to Justice: <https://accesoalajusticia.org/ley-organica-libertador-simon-bolivar-contra-el-bloqueo-imperialista-y-en-defensa-de-la-republica-bolivariana-de-venezuela/>

<sup>10</sup> Amnesty International. Venezuela: More information: Freedom for Venezuelan defender: Rocío San Miguel. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr53/7734/2024/en/>

<sup>11</sup> Center for Defenders and Justice. Semiannual report. Available at: <https://centrodefensores.org.ve/?p=623>



## 04

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRIMINALISATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENCE IN VENEZUELA

Given the continued criminalization policy and the restrictions on civic and democratic space in Venezuela, international human rights protection bodies, international organizations with a mandate to protect human rights defenders, and representatives of the international community continued to monitor and accompany civil society in the country, demanding an end to the criminalization, persecution, repression, stigmatization, and harassment exercised by the State.

During the year we recorded a series of statements made regarding the protection of people and the need to safeguard civic space in the country, including:

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (RELE) issued various statements regarding the situation of attacks on human rights defenders, the closure of civic space, post-electoral violence, and normative instruments contrary to human rights standards. They also expressed concern about specific cases of human rights defenders in Venezuela who have been victims of criminalization<sup>12</sup>.

The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (FFM) also spoke out on several occasions and kept in mind in its reports concerns about the closure of civic and democratic space, the promulgation of restrictive laws and how the repressive and criminalization policy also affects people and organizations defending human rights. During the period, they also demanded the release of defenders arbitrarily detained and demanded guarantees for those who defend, demand and promote rights in Venezuela<sup>13</sup>.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) repeatedly expressed concern over the situation of human rights defenders throughout the year, demanding their protection and guarantees for their work, as well as the enactment of restrictive laws. Specific cases were highlighted in its reports, as well as recommendations and demands to the State to guarantee and protect Civic Space<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/CIDH/prensa/comunicados/2024/022.asp> ; <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1757157849153589756> ; [https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023\\_Cap\\_4B\\_Venezuela\\_SPA.PDF](https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF) ; <https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/083.asp> ; <https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/083.asp> ; [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=1151785158878161](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1151785158878161) ; [https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/302.asp&utm\\_content=country-ven&utm\\_term=class-mc](https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/302.asp&utm_content=country-ven&utm_term=class-mc) ; <https://x.com/pvacav/status/1859597902416400454?s=12>

<sup>13</sup> <https://waps.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/venezuela-fact-finding-mission-expresses-profound-concern-over-detention> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/03/statement-marta-valinas-chair-independent-international-fact> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/venezuela-fact-finding-mission-calls-end-repression-thorough-investigations> ; 57th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council. <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16by1ruup> ; [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=1151785158878161](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1151785158878161)

<sup>14</sup> <https://twitter.com/UNHumanRights/status/1757307231614202368> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/es/statements-and-speeches/2024/03/deputy-high-commissioner-updates-human-rights-council-venezuela> ; 24th Meeting – 56th Regular Session of Human Rights Council. 3rd July 2024 <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wbjhh8j> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session56/advance-versions/a-hrc-56-63-unofficials.docx> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/es/documents/country-reports/ahrc5663-situation-human-rights-bolivarian-republic-venezuela-report> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/es/press-releases/2024/08/venezuela-ongoing-arbitrary-detentions-disproportionate-use-force-fuelling> ;

Special procedures of the Human Rights Council and United Nations Treaty Bodies also expressed their concerns about the increase in attacks against human rights defenders, the closure of civic space and the advance of regulations contrary to human rights standards<sup>15</sup>.

Diplomatic delegations to the Human Rights Council, the European Parliament, and representatives to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States also expressed their support for the protection of civic and democratic space in Venezuela and for the criminalization and repression of civil society, including against individuals and human rights organizations, to cease<sup>16</sup>.

Regarding the statements of international organizations:

Organizations such as Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), the Center for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) (within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders), and the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation, Front Line Defenders (FLD), Civicus Alliance, Civil Rights Defenders, repeatedly during 2024 expressed their solidarity with defenders, condemned criminalization, demanded respect for civic space and rejected the enactment of restrictive laws; They also spoke out on the case of detained defenders, demanding their release and protection of their integrity<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/es/press-releases/2024/04/alarmed-rise-enforced-disappearances-ahead-venezuelas-presidential-poll-un> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/es/press-releases/2024/09/venezuela-must-stop-human-rights-violations-following-elections-say-experts>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2024-0179\\_ES.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2024-0179_ES.html) ; <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1ijtwz8c6> and <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k19/k19r5giq82> ; 24th Meeting – 56th Regular Session of Human Rights Council. 3rd July 2024 <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wbjhh8j> ; 7th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council. <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16by1ruup>

<sup>17</sup> <https://twitter.com/cejil/status/1745935746987405667> ; <https://dplf.org/en/news/international-organizations-express-concern-over-legislation-aiming-criminalize-and-obstruct> ; <https://twitter.com/parescolombia/status/1748089453107642641/photo/1> ; <https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr53/7602/2024/es/> ; <https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2024/02/venezuela-la-escalada-de-represion-del-gobierno-e-intentos-de-evadir-el-escrutinio-enfrentan-el-forceful-rejection-of-international-civil-society/> ; [https://twitter.com/fidh\\_es/status/1757149420708135179](https://twitter.com/fidh_es/status/1757149420708135179) ; <https://twitter.com/cejil/status/1757147930014720206> ; <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/venezuela-desapari-cion-cortada-y-detencion-arbitraria> ; <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/case/incomunicado-detention-woman-human-rights-defender-roc%C3%ADo-san-miguel> ; <https://monitor.civicus.org/watchlist-march-2024/es/> ; <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1ijtwz8c6> and <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k19/k19r5giq82> ; <https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr53/7949/2024/es/> ; <https://www.amnesty.org/es/location/americas/south-america/venezuela/report-venezuela/> ; 25th Meeting – 56th Regular Session of Human Rights Council. 4th July 2024 <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16zmc33my> ; <https://x.com/AmnistiaOnline/status/1819853624970772574> ; <https://x.com/AmnistiaOnline/status/1819801340261937260> ; <https://x.com/AmnistiaOnline/status/1820492784882876846> ; <https://x.com/amnistia/status/1820856873882399030> ; <https://x.com/AmnistiaOnline/status/1821290694981607512> ; <https://x.com/amnistia/status/1823548362336985541> ; <https://x.com/AmnistiaOnline/status/1824246891644694553> ; <https://x.com/CRDLatin/status/1824194774171017369> ; <https://x.com/CIVICUSespanol/status/1824475504608494006> ; <https://x.com/cejil/status/1824816063990624688> ; [https://x.com/OBS\\_defenders/status/1832083668124483901](https://x.com/OBS_defenders/status/1832083668124483901) ; <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/venezuela-detencion-arbitraria-de-kennedy-tejeda-edward-ocariz-y> ; [https://x.com/DPLF\\_info/status/1859621613743813024](https://x.com/DPLF_info/status/1859621613743813024) ; [https://x.com/OBS\\_defenders/status/1858950975824031750](https://x.com/OBS_defenders/status/1858950975824031750) ; <https://dplf.org/condenamos-persecucion-a-provea-ya-la-sociedad-civil-venezolana/> ; <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/venezuela-hostigam-iento-judicial-a-oscar-murillo-y-provea> ; <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/declaraciones/venezuela-nueva-legis-laci%C3%B3n-contra-la-libertad-de-asociaci%C3%B3n-y-la-defensa-de-derechos-humans> ; <https://x.com/amnistiaonline/status/1858888101453578346?s=12>

# 05 CONCLUSIONS Y RECOMMENDATIONS

The exercise of the right to defend, demand and promote human rights freely and without reprisals must be guaranteed.

Human rights defenders and organizations in Venezuela continue to face risks in carrying out their work, as a result of the closure of civic space. Their actions are threatened by regulatory restrictions, administrative obstacles, and other violent actions that affect their work and the full operation of their organizations.

In 2024, repression and violence against people and organizations increased as a result of institutional violence in the electoral context. The lack of guarantees for the defense, demand and promotion of human rights demonstrates the authoritarian nature of the State and the lack of interest in assuming international recommendations and solving the socio-political and human rights crisis that the country is facing.

We reiterate the importance and essential nature of documentation, reporting, and the enforcement of human rights. In a context such as that of the country, these actions are essential for the support of victims. They are legitimate activities and should be able to be carried out without fear of reprisals or arbitrary and discretionary restrictions.

We urge that progress be made in complying with the recommendations of the international community and that all necessary measures be adopted to advance the construction of enabling and safe environments that allow the right to defend human rights to be exercised without fear of being a victim of aggression or reprisals.

From the Center for Human Rights Defenders and Justice (CDJ), we insist on the need to use the necessary measures to reverse the measures that tend to close the civic and democratic space, the repeal of restrictive laws that are not in compliance with international human rights law. Likewise, the defenders arbitrarily detained must be fully released and the judicial persecution that criminalizes the work of civil society must cease.

We call for efforts to build enabling and safe environments so that those who promote, demand and defend rights can carry out their activities freely and without fear of reprisals. As long as legal and factual actions that reduce civic and democratic space do not cease, there will continue to be risks for civil society in the country.

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## CENTRO PARA LOS DEFENSORES Y LA JUSTICIA

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