



Human Rights Council
34th Session
Speaker: Feliciano Reyna

ITEM 6 – UPR RESULTS - VENEZUELA

Mr. President,

We address the Human Rights Council on behalf of CIVICUS in consultation with 170 Venezuelan civil society organizations¹.

The majority of countries participating in the UPR drew the attention of the Venezuelan State to the undermining of a broad spectrum of human rights, lack of cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and its refusal to invite representatives of Special Procedures to the country.

In its report, the State justifies maintaining a State of Exception that does not comply with Venezuela's international human rights obligations, with the consequent breakdown of the rule of law and democratic freedoms.

As noted in the UPR:

Freedoms of association, peaceful protest and expression are severely restricted;

Journalists, students, political activists and human rights defenders are subject to stigmatization and criminalization, and detainees are subjected to torture and cruel treatment;

¹ Acceso a la Justicia, Acción Solidaria, Accsi, Acceso Libre, Acción Campesina, Almapa AC, Asamblea de Educación, Atención al Adulto Mayor AC, Asoamigos AC, Asociación Civil Phynatura, Asociación Civil Niña Madre, Asoviluz, AVAL, AVESA, AVH, Aula Abierta Venezuela, CDH-UCAB, CDH-UCV, CDH-UNIMET, Cedice Libertad, CEPAZ, CIAAL, Circulo de Reporteros Gráficos de Venezuela, CivilisDDHH, Coalición Cambio Climático, Club de Abuelos Francisco Soto, Club de Abuelos mi Mayor Éxito AC, Coalición Proacceso, CODEHCIU, CODEVIDA, CODHEZ, Colegio Nacional de Periodistas, CONAPRO, ConviteAC, Comisión de DDHH Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Políticas de LUZ, Comité de Derechos Humanos de la Guajira, EDEPA, Escuela de Vecinos de Venezuela, Espacio Público, FCU-UCV, Fenasopadres, FEPAP, Foro por la Vida, Freya, Funcamama, Fundación Aguaclara, Fundación Bengoa, Fundación Reflejos de Venezuela, Funpaz, GHENDU, GTAI-ULA, Gregoria Delfina Chirinos A.C, Ipys Venezuela, Invesp, Juventud Prolongada AC, LabPaz, Laboratorio de Ciencias Sociales, La Cumbre AC, La Deltana A.C, Las Rosas A.C, Los Abuelos de Baruta, Mañana es Hoy AC, Movimiento Vino Tinto, Nialca AC, Observatorio Derechos Humanos-ULA, Observatorio Venezolano de los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres, Observatorio Venezolano de la Salud, Observatorio Venezolano de Prisiones, Observatorio Venezolano de Conflictividad Social, Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia, Padres Organizados de Venezuela, PLAFAM, Plataforma Venezolana de Redes de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, PROVEA, Provene, REDHNNNA, REDLGBTI de Venezuela, Red Rosa, Senos Ayuda, Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Prensa, Sinergia, Sociedad Hominis Iura, Stop-VIH, Transparencia Venezuela, Una Mano Amiga A.C, Unión Afirmativa, Una Ventana a la Libertad, Unión Vecinal para la Participación Ciudadana, Vida Prolongada AC y Venezuela Diversa.



The Supreme Court of Justice, the National Electoral Council and the Ombudsman's Office do not act independently, thus affecting the guarantees of protection of human rights;

The Venezuelan Intelligence Service must stop operating as a parallel justice system and the use of military justice to prosecute civilians must cease.

Mr. President,

These situations and the following issues require urgent attention:

1. 82% of the population lives in poverty today².
2. 1 in 10 children under 5 in 4 states of Venezuela presented Global Acute Malnutrition, in December 2016³.
3. 75% of public hospitals cannot provide adequate minimal care due to lack of medicines and supplies⁴ and there are no reagents for HIV testing.
4. 4 million people have not had access for months to the medicines that their conditions urgently require⁵.

Mr. President and members of the Council,

We live in Venezuela a Complex Humanitarian Emergency. The Venezuelan State must accept the international humanitarian cooperation offered to it, in order to avoid further irreparable damage and loss of life, particularly in children and adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly and people with chronic health conditions, indigenous peoples and persons deprived of liberty.

Thank you, Mr. President.

² Encovi Poverty 2016 at: <http://www.ovsalud.org/publicaciones/salud/encovi-2016-pobreza/>

³ Cáritas Venezuela: Cáritas Presents the basic line of its Sentinel Monitoring of the Nutritional Situation in Children under 5 years of age. At: <http://caritasvenezuela.org.ve/wp/?p=4711>

⁴ National Hospital Monitoring 2016. At: <http://www.ovsalud.org/publicaciones/salud/encuesta-nacional-de-hospitales-2016/>

⁵ Codevida, Provea & Others: Report on Access to medicines to preserve the rights to health and life in Venezuela.

En: <http://www.codevida.org/informes/informe-sobre-el-derecho-a-medicamentos-esenciales-para-proteger-la-salud-y-la-vida>