

38th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 10: General Debate - Venezuela

Joint Oral Statement

05 July 2018

Venezuela's downward spiral, Council action needed

"Spiralling downwards with no end in sight": That's how a group of UN Special Procedures, including the Special Rapporteurs on health, adequate housing, extreme poverty and food categorized Venezuela in January of this year. This is also the title of a report released by the OHCHR on June 22, which paints a devastating picture of arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings coupled with a severe shortage of food and basic medicines.

One Venezuelan mother interviewed by OHCHR said: "I have a little baby that cries and cries because I can't feed her. The baby's milk formula costs 3 million Bolivars and my husband only makes 1.2 million a month. (...) My neighbours told me that if I don't vote for the Government they will take the food, the cash bonus and my house from me. They control the electoral authority, so they know for which party you vote."

The UN Human Rights Council can no longer look away. Venezuela has spiralled into a human rights and humanitarian crisis that demands urgent action. The crackdown on dissent continues. The population has lost an average of [11 kilos](#) in 2017. Most Venezuelans [go to bed hungry](#), and [according to the UNHCR](#), more than 1.5 million Venezuelans have fled the country, for reasons including political persecution, violence, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis. As a result, a [2,000 percent increase](#) in asylum applications has been recorded across Latin America since 2014, and hundreds of thousands remain in an irregular situation, which increases their vulnerability.

Today's joint statement delivered by Peru on behalf of 53 States adds to the chorus of international concern. The Human Rights Council also needs to step up and address the human rights violations suffered by the Venezuelan people at the hands of a member of this Council. We encourage continued reporting by the High Commissioner, and hope that today's joint statement paves the way for the international investigation that the High Commissioner has called for and which is so desperately needed.

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ACCSI Acción Ciudadana Contra el SIDA
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African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
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Convite AC
Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos
Defensa y Justicia Carabobo
Defiende venezuela
Dejusticia
Epikēia, Observatorio Universitario de Derechos Humanos
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Fundación para el Debido Proceso (DPLF)
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Humano Derecho Radio Estacion
Human Rights Watch
Iniciativa Por Venezuela
Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
International Commission of Jurists
International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
International Service for Human Rights
Ipys Venezuela
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