



## **CRISIS IN VENEZUELA: JUDGMENT AGAINST DANIEL CEBALLOS, DEPRIVATION OF FREEDOM OF LEOPOLDO LOPEZ AND PERSECUTION AGAINST MARIA CORINA MACHADO AND ROCIO SAN MIGUEL**

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**\*Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) alerts revoking the title of mayor and arbitrary prosecution of Daniel Ceballos, a member of REDLAD, Alternate Chairperson, founder of Democracia Joven de las Américas and elected Mayor of San Cristóbal (Táchira, Venezuela).

Ceballos, was arrested by the military without a warrant and without legal proceedings, he was jailed in a military prison and tried in summary proceedings without the right to a proper defense. In a process not covered by the laws or the constitution was removed from office and sentenced by a non-independent tribunal to twelve months' imprisonment for the crime of contempt of a court decision that was produced later that he was under arrest.

The alleged violation of the law is to have not removed the civic barricades in the streets of San Cristobal. The citizens made the barricades to prevent aggression organized by members of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) and the brutality of paramilitary groups known as "Colectivos" and "Tupamaros". The same government and its military / police has not been able to control the barricades itself.

The cause than remove roadblocks created by the citizens themselves to protect their homes, the mayor was banned, arrested and imprisoned without further



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charges against, subjected to unfair and illegal imprisonment for 12 months, simply by thinking differently.

The Permanent Secretariat of the REDLAD, platform of 540 organizations, Member of the Civil Society Forum of the OAS and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Condemns the partiality of the judiciary in Venezuela, the criminalization of protest, the violation of due process and the persecution of opposition leaders as Daniel Ceballos, Maria Corina Machado, Enzo Scarano and Leopoldo Lopez.
- Condemns the lack of rule of law in Venezuela and systematic violations of human rights.
- Condemns intimidation, threats and direct attacks by President Nicolas Maduro against the director of the organization Control Ciudadano, Rocío San Miguel.
- Urges democratic governments to reject the undemocratic actions that violate the fundamental rights of expression, association, peaceful assembly and press in Venezuela.
- It joins to Parliaments of Guatemala and Costa Rica that have warned the anti-democratic practices developed in Venezuela.
- Sympathizes with the families and loved ones of students killed and condemns persecution, repression, threats, assault and torture against members of the Venezuelan student movement, activists and citizens in general.

**Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD).**



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