



**Alert of Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean
Network for Democracy (Redlad):
Aggression and violence in Venezuela**

May, 2013.

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

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad) is concerned about existing levels of violence in Venezuela.

The Deputy for the Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (Democratic Unity Table MUD) and International Coordinator of Commando Simón Bolívar, María Corina Machado was severely assaulted by deputies who beat her during a protest in which the ruling party decided to eliminate the right to speak of opposition. Other opposition deputies as Américo de Gracia, Nora Bracho and Julio Borges were also beaten.

However, violence is not restricted to the internal of the powers of the Republic. In areas such as the state of Lara, have been unleashed police and military violence against civilian students who demonstrate peacefully. Excels the case of a 19 years old gun that was a victim of gunfire at close range.

The organization Foro Penal Venezolano (Venezuelan Penal Forum), has denounced serious attacks and human rights violations of youths, accused of subverting the order when exercising their right to peaceful protest. There are 195 cases of arbitrary detention adequately documented by the organization. Of these, 79 cases are from Valencia, 71 of Barquisimeto and 44 of Barinas .

Importantly, the recent arrest of retired Army General Antonio Rivero, after he reported the existence of evidence indicating the interference of Cuban intelligence in the Venezuelan military affairs.

Persecution of organizations has not diminished, the NGO Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (Venezuelan Program of Education-Action in Human Rights-PROVEA) has been the victim of attacks by the Ombudsman, Gabriela Ramírez and Communication Minister, Ernesto Villegas,



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whom in official media had said that PROVEA is fascist because its allegations cast doubt on value judgments put forward by the government on the alleged destruction of Integral Diagnostic Centers (CDI).

The persecution of the Human Rights Defender of Venezuela and President of the organization Control Ciudadano para la Seguridad, la Defensa y la Fuerza Armada Nacional (Citizen Control for Security, Defence and Armed Forces), Rocío San Miguel continues. It is noteworthy that San Miguel has interim protection measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) since January 18, 2012, because of the persecution that has suffered for a long time, however, the court Caracas Control 36 ignored the agreed measures.

The Permanent Secretariat Redlad, a platform for advancing democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms comprising more than 480 organizations, Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and World Regional Chapter Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Reiterates its concern about the levels of military violence, police violence and government violence that happens in Venezuela.
- Condemns the persecution of civil society organizations and Venezuelan student population.
- Expresses its solidarity with Maria Corina Machado and other deputies attacked and ambushed.
- It reminds the government and the president of the National Assembly about that his calls to violence only exacerbate the violation of human rights and criminal behavior in the country.
- Urges the military and police authorities to stop their campaign of violence, intimidation and aggression against Venezuelan civilians, while demanding respect for their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful demonstration.

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