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Venezuela Report

ECOCIDE AND POWER

Financial profit and corruption destroy
Venezuela's ecosystem

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A TRAGEDY IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE

Due to the oil prices' fall and the poor management of the Venezuelan oil industry, the Maduro regime sought another source of income to financiate it's high spending on repression, surveillance and social control: The Orinoco Mining Arch.

The mining activity impact and lack of maintenance of the oil industry has been systematically hidden by the Venezuelan regime, however the ecocide in process and the human displacements detected due to it are so significant that are impossible to hide.

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ORINOCO MINING ARC

BLOOD GOLD



WHAT IS THE ORINOCO MINING ARC?

In 2016, Maduro declared 111,000 km² located in the Guayana massif as a «National Strategic Development Zone». Granting the State a total control of its exploitation. The area is home to important mineral resources such as gold, coltan and diamond.



DEFORESTATION

More than
1,958 KM² lost ⁽¹⁾
(141,000 soccer fields) .



POLLUTED WATER

From the world's third
largest (320,000 km³)
water reservoir.

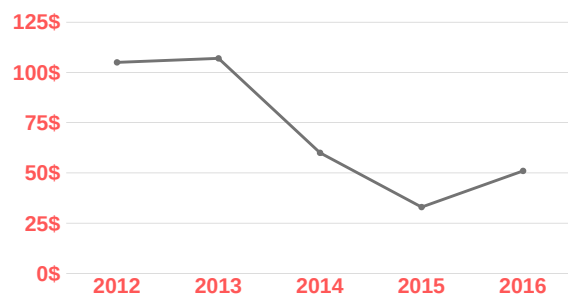


TOXIC CHEMICALS

The regime promotes
the use of cyanide for gold
mining.

2016: OIL PRICES PLUMMIT AND THE REGIME SEEKS MONEY

In 2016, with a 50% fall in oil prices in the last 3 years, Nicolás Maduro seeks a new source of income. Creating the Orinoco Mining Arc for the exploitation of natural resources.



Oil Price downfall

(1) <https://arcominerodelorinoco.com/>

HOW MANY LIVES IS GOLD WORTH?

THE MOST VIOLENT ZONE

El Callao, a town in the Orinoco Mining Arc, has become the most violent zone in Venezuela with 619.8 homicides per 100,000 habitants. This is four times higher than the largest most violent city in the world (Tijuana 139 hom/100k Hab).

619.8 ⁽²⁾
hom/100,000 hab
vs
Tijuana: 139
St. Louis: 61

MASSACRE OF TUMEREMO

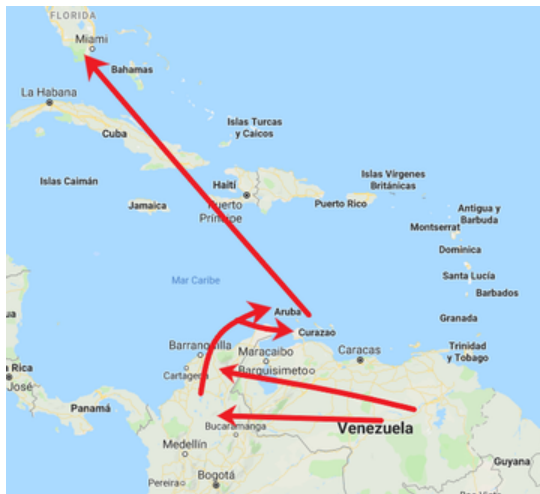
In the massacre of Tumeremo (2016), 28 miners disappeared from the town and four were found quartered, presumably at the hands of the ELN (guerilla warfare group). Today, the investigation remains open and only 17 of the 28 missing people have been found.

28 ⁽³⁾
missing in a
single massacre

DISPLACED INDIGENOUS VILLAGES

The indigenous villages suffer the consequences of mercury intoxication and the violence that this project has brought to their land. Since 2016 more than 50,000 indigenous people have been displaced.

50,000
displaced ⁽⁴⁾
indigenous people



FROM CALLAO TO MIAMI ⁽⁵⁾ THE ROUTE OF GOLD AND BLOOD

Venezuelan gold is trafficked through various entities to cover up its origin and “legalize it”:

- Venezuelan National Guard.
- Venezuelan Border Police at the Colombian border.
- Nearby islands like Aruba or Curacao.
- Important jewelry markets like those in Miami.

(2) <https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/ovv-lacso-informe-anual-de-violencia-2018/>

(3) <https://www.diariolasamericas.com/denuncian-masacre-estado-minero-venezuela-n3668416>

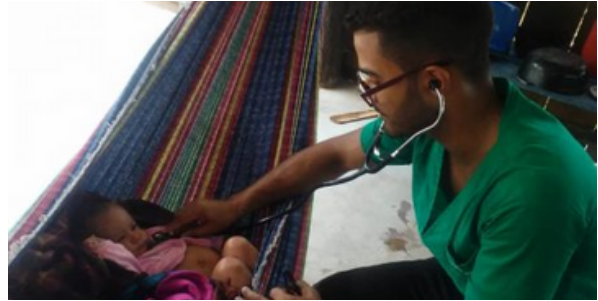
(4) <http://cronica.uno/ambientalistas-advierten-que-arco-minero-puede-generar-etnocidio-de-pueblos-indigenas/>

(5) <https://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/mundo/america-latina/venezuela-es/articulo232540632.html>

HIDDEN CASE IN THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

WHERE ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS?

Although the environment is a central issue in the international stage, there has been very little concern about one of the most dramatic cases of environmental destruction and indigenous displacement in the world.



THE RESISTANCE: NGOs, PRESS AND CONGRESS

The Maduro regime has systematically hidden data on diseases, pollution, violence and migration in the Orinoco Mining Arc. This has forced the press, NGOs and deputies of the National Assembly to investigate and inform against this situation.



After 4 months there is still no justice for the murder of an indigenous captain of Amazonas.



Orinoco Mining Arc: crime, corruption and cyanide.



Ecological disaster of the Orinoco Mining Arc accentuates the dramatic situation of indigenous people.

SOS ORINOCO

Devastation in the Orinoco and the Venezuelan Amazon

Americo De Grazia Deputy

De Grazia denounced the massacre of several miners by the ELN.

AMO

A mafia disguised as a labor union is in charge.



Venezuela, the smuggler's paradise.

THE CONVERSATION

The complicit silence of global environmentalists regarding the mining ecocide.



Mercury: Another hidden killer in Venezuela

GAS WASTE & CO2 EMISSIONS

In the country with the largest gas reserves in the world

THE 6TH LARGEST GAS-FLARING COUNTRY (6)

Currently Venezuela produces only the 12% of its gas consumption. However, daily gas flaring amounts to more than 17.8 million cubic meters⁽⁷⁾, inflicting major damage to the atmosphere and the well-being of the people that live near the production plants.



BIGGEST FLARING SITE ON THE PLANET

In 2012 only Punta de Mata City (Monagas) flared⁽⁸⁾

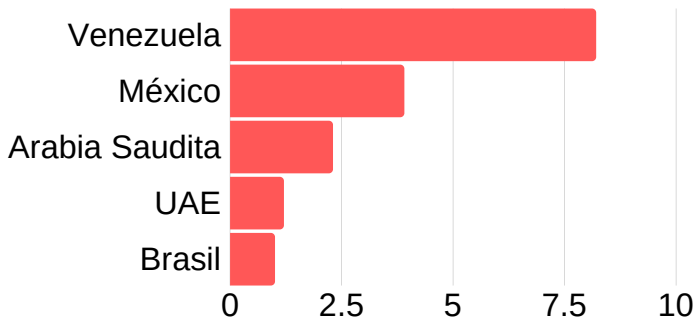
1,059
Billion cubic meters

VS

In 2019⁽⁹⁾

Brasil	1,000
Ecuador	900
Australia	900
Kuwait	900

NO INVESTMENT = NO INTEREST IN SOLUTIONS



Gas burned in billions of cubic meters in 2018

Other countries have invested in taking advantage of natural gas as energy sources or reinjecting it in petroleum wells. Venezuela has increased the amount of gas it flares, despite decreasing its production of crude oil.

(6)(7)(9) <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/603281560185748682/pdf/Gas-flaring-volumes-Top-30-countries-2014-2018.pdf>

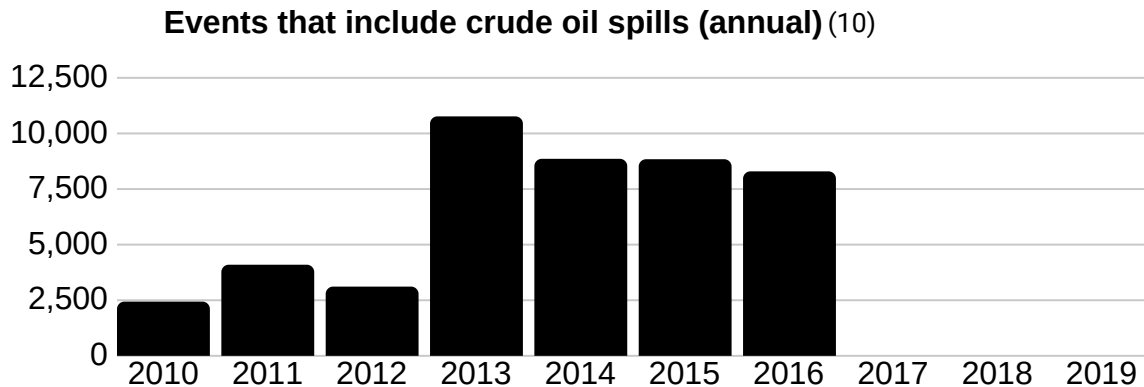
8) <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2016/01/150113-methane-aliso-canyon-leak-noaa-flaring-map/>

OIL SPILLS

Covering up the magnitude of the disaster

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING OILS SPILLS TRIPLED

Between 2010 and 2016 the figures provided by state-owned PDVSA show an increase of more than triple the number of events that include crude oil spills, from 2,393 in 2010 to 10,722 in 2013.



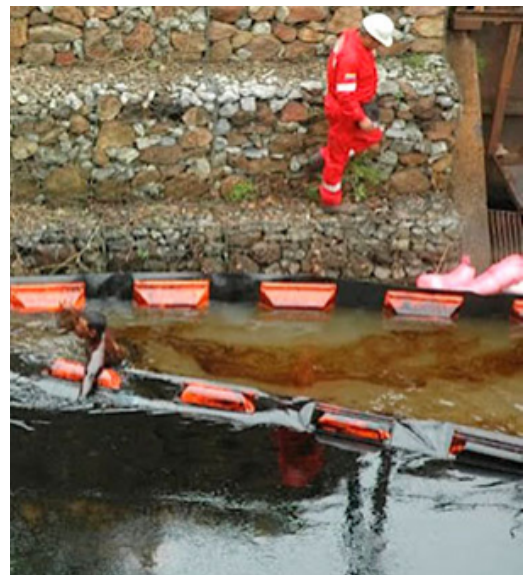
AFTER 2016 THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL FIGURES

Since 2016, PDVSA has not published any data about events involving petroleum spills. However, multiple events have been recorded that affected beaches and rivers in the country.

THE BIGGEST FRESHWATER SPILL IN HISTORY⁽¹¹⁾

In February of 2012, a spill in the Guarapiche River affected at least 75 kilometers of freshwater, though the actual magnitude could never be confirmed because of the cover-up by PDVSA and the Maduro regime.

- City of Maturin without running water for more than a month.
- Natural reserves affected, putting 218 fish species in danger.
- Between 64,000 and 120,000 barrels of oil spilled in the accident
- No accountability.
- Another spill into the Guarapiche River in 2018.



(10) <https://www.derechos.org/ve/actualidad/entre-2010-y-2018-pdvsa-derramo-al-menos-856-72285-barriles-de-petroleo-al-medio-ambiente>

(11) <https://es.mongabay.com/2018/08/derrames-de-petroleo-rios-contaminacion-venezuela/>

STATE, THEN ENVIRONMENT

Since Maduro, a new doctrine reigns the Ministry of Environment

ECOSOCIALISM: THE BIG LIE

Venezuela was the first country in Latin America to establish a ministry exclusively dedicated to the preservation of the environment. With Maduro's arrival to power, State priorities were greatly altered, relegating the conservation of the environment to an inferior level.

Currently, the regime has taken control of high value environmental zones due to its natural resources under the excuse of implementing the Ecosocialism doctrine.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT IN RISK

70% of the electricity Venezuela consumes comes from hydroelectric plants that are totally dependent from natural parks and their water streams. The consequence of government negligence is easily seen in the energetic crisis the country is going through.

This measure was established with the objective of obtaining control over the territory and taking advantage of its resources, causing significant environmental damage that is already affecting Venezuelan daily life.



HOW TO DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT

There are common practices in organizations and companies that have resisted environmental care policies:

Hide Information

Handle Data

No Accountability

All of which are violations of fundamental practices of a fully democratic system. All have been deliberately executed by the Maduro regime, in regards to the environmental policy in Venezuela.

Cases demonstrating the practice of hiding data and hindering access to information

Malaria and HIV

Increased due to uncontrolled practices in mining, forced displacement, human trafficking and poor health conditions in the Orinoco Mining Arc areas.

No official information since 2013

Oil spills

The lack of investment in maintenance and corruption have affected the quality of PDVSA operations.

No official information since 2016 and prohibition of access to independent research

Massacres of Tumeremo

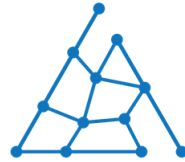
28 miners killed in 2016 and 7 in 2018. In both cases the regime has refused to recognize the events.

No official recognition

Forced migration

Forced migration of indigenous people, due to the diseases and violence that affect the region. This fact is denied by the Venezuelan regime.

No official recognition



PROYECTO
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