



POLICE BRUTALITY

A FORM OF SOCIAL CONTROL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VENEZUELA: A LAWLESS COUNTRY

In the past 20 years, Venezuela has suffered a significant deterioration in law enforcement. Since 2015, with the worsening of the country's situation and the escalation of confrontations between political parties, these forces have become the Government's political police. In 2018 alone, 7,523 fatalities caused by security forces (1) were recorded. Therefore, the Venezuelan State has been the one carrying out the violence in the country and has been using it as a mechanism of political control.

Because of this, Venezuela has become one of the most violent countries in Latin America, not only due to the high levels of crime, but also because of the constant police abuses that endanger the lives of those who oppose the regime, thus achieving its perpetuation.

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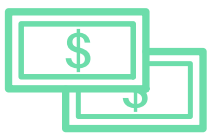
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(1) Según datos del Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia (2018)

POLICE EXTORSION

WHEN THE SECURITY FORCES BECOME THE PERPETRATORS

Venezuelan law enforcement agencies have been committing serious abuses against Venezuelan citizens. By taking advantage of the generalized impunity, they have placed the country at their mercy through different methods:



Demanding money during a police procedure



Arbitrary detentions

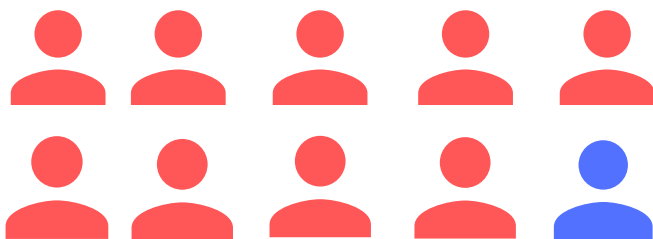


Unlawful deprivation of freedom

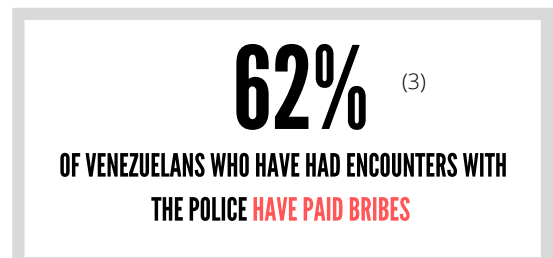


Tortures and cruel treatment

With the worsening of the Venezuelan economic and social situation, it has become more and more constant the involvement of police officers in cases of corruption and extortion to obtain some economic gain.



(1) 9 out of 10 Venezuelans **do not trust** the police (27 million people)



(1) According to Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia (2017)

(2) & (3) According to RFI (2019).

(4) According to Global Corruption Barometer (2019).

(5) According to Proyecto Migración Venezuela (2019).

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

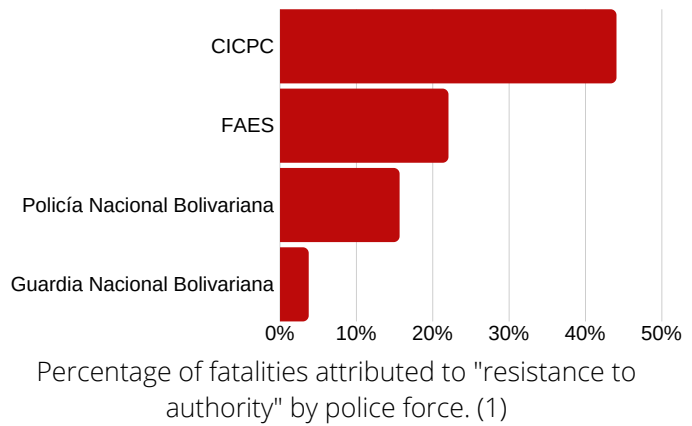
"RESISTANCE TO AUTHORITY" USED TO COVER UP POLICE EXCESSES

The security forces serving the Government of Nicolas Maduro have been protagonists of abuses that have led to extrajudicial executions. Most of these occur in low-income areas or in opposition protests where the deaths provoked are justified as "resistance to authority".

The most lethal security forces

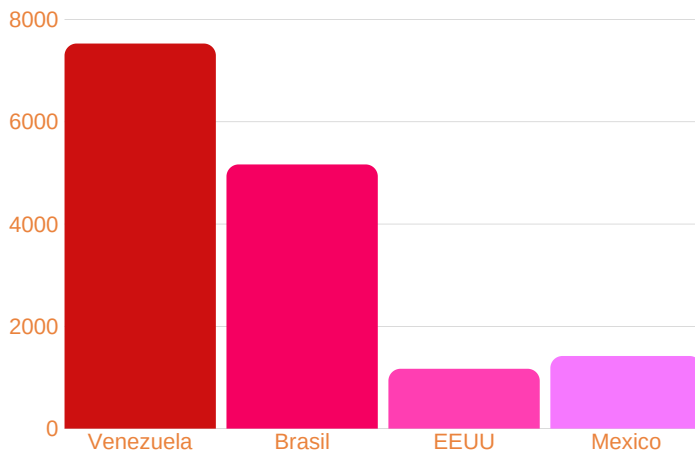
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MURDERS ARE COMMITTED BY POLICE (1)



More Violence than in the United States (2)

The deaths at the hands of police forces in Venezuela have far exceed those caused by the police in other countries with larger populations. However, due to the information blockade in Venezuela and the lack of official statistics, this problem is not so prevalent in the current international scene.



POLICE BRUTALITY DEATHS IN 2018

Total population

- Venezuela: 31.980.000 P
- Brasil: 208.500.000 P
- EEUU: 327.200.000 P
- México: 124.738.000 P

(1) According to NTN24 (2018)
 (2) According to Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia (2018)
 According to Mapping Police Violence (2018).
 According to Anuario Brasileiro de Segurança Pública (2018)
 According to Publimetro (2019).

Resolution 008610: License to Kill in Protests (1)

In 2015, the Government adopted Resolution 008610, which establishes that the armed forces may participate in the control of protests, thereby usurping the functions of the National Police and establishing that the protests would be no longer controlled by civilians but by the military.

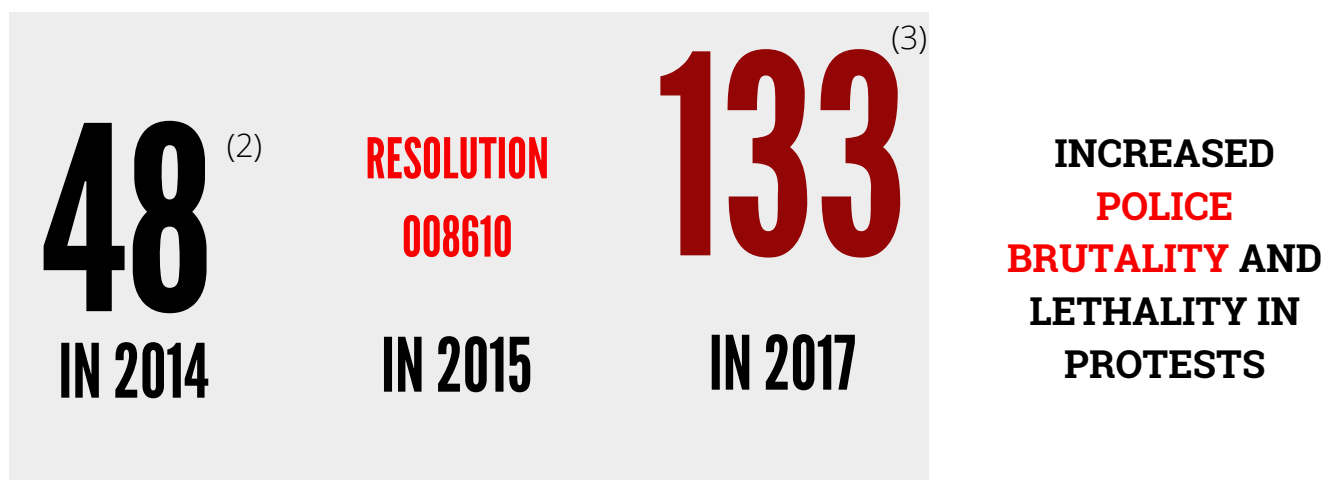
The 7 levels of violence of the National Guard

There are 7 levels of military action allowed to suppress demonstrations.



The results (1)

DEATHS FROM REPRESSION IN PROTESTS



(1) Gaceta Oficial N° 40.589

(2) According to InfoBae (2015)

(3) According to El Mundo (2017)

DETENTIONS AND VIOLENCE IN PROTESTS

THE RIGHTS AND THE LIFE OF VENEZUELAN IN DANGER

The right to protest, established in article 68 of the Venezuelan Constitution (1999), has been violated by the repressive actions of security forces, whom arrest and violently attack opposition demonstrators, **turning a peaceful protest into a violent showdown.**

181 MURDERS (1) **12.500** ARBITRARY ARRESTS (2)

Some of the cases involving violence and repression in protests



Rufo Chacón: 16 year old student who lost his sight on July 2nd, 2019 while protesting due to the lack of cooking gas. Police officers shot a total of 52 pellets at Chacon's face, 16 of which directly impacted his eyes. His 14 year old brother was also hit by a police officer in the head.



Neomar Lander: on June 7th, 2017 the 17 year old was killed during a protest after a tear gas bomb thrown by a police agent exploded on his chest.



Juan Pablo Pernaite: he was an Accounting student killed by police forces during a peaceful protest in Caracas on April of 2017 when a tear gas bomb, shot by a national guard, impacted his chest. His death is proof of the unnecessary and excessive force displayed by Venezuelan authorities when controlling manifestations. He was 20 years old at the time.



Bassil Da Costa: he was killed during a peaceful protest in Caracas on February 12th, 2014 when he was shot in the head after police officers fired at protesters. He was 23 years old at the time.

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(1) Fatalities in protests during 2014 and 2017 referenced in previous pages

(2) According to Human Rights Watch (2019)

THE COTA 905 CASE

HOW A POLICE RAID ENDED IN A MASSACRE

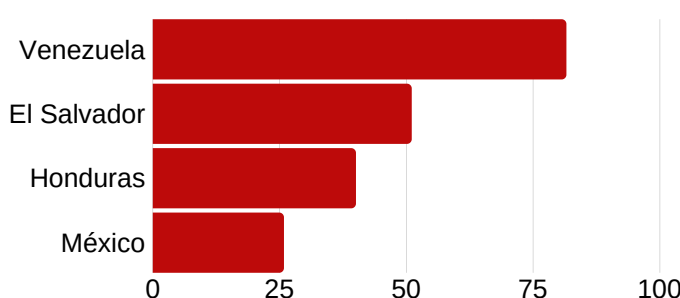
The OPL (Operation People’s Liberation) were special operations set up in 2015 by President Maduro in response to the increase in violence in Venezuela. **Since their creation, they have presented numerous human rights violations and extrajudicial executions.** The excesses committed in these maneuvers have been recognized even by the Government itself, granting them a name change in 2017 to OHLP Operation of Humanist Liberation of the People.

In June 2015, an operation in Cota 905 (Libertador Municipality) **ended up in a 9-hour confrontation, resulting in 14 deaths and numerous complaints of human rights violations and police abuse.** Being an emblematic case of the excesses committed by the security forces.

These operations were aimed at finding specific people, **but they lend themselves to a violent response to the problems of a society in crisis, presenting murder as an instrument of the State used to exercise control.**

500
people have been killed in OLP operations (2)

The most violent country in Latin America (3)



QUALIFIED AS AN EPIDEMY BY THE WHO

The government’s "hard-line" tactics have served only to make the citizen the enemy

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(1) Days of the year/ 24 hours * Number of cases
 (2) According to the Attourney Generals Office (2017)
 (3) Violent deaths cases for every 100.000 people.

FAES

THE REGIMENS SELECTIVE EXTERMINATION FORCES

FAES is a special security force created by Nicolas Maduro in 2017 with the excuse of ending terrorism and organized crime in Venezuela. These forces led by the army general and politician Nestor Reverol are loyal to the government and have been one of the main perpetrators of police abuses and human rights violations.

How do they act? (1)



Show up to the scene heavily armed and masked.



Arrive in unmarked trucks, breaking into houses.



Subject women to violence, even making them undress.



Plant drugs and weapons making it look like a case of "resistance to authority"



Usually shoot to the chest.

Michelle Bachelet's Report Reveals Government Support (3)

In July 2019, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report on the Venezuelan crisis. This touched upon the country's serious economic and social situation, the censorship of the media and the violations committed by the security forces against the population.

In an update published in September of the same year focusing on police abuses, Michelle Bachelet called for **the dissolution of the FAES** due to the numerous cases of human rights violations that this institution entails. **The government has not yet complied with this request and, on the contrary, has shown its most visible support for the police force.**

"My Office has not received information on the measures taken to implement the report's recommendation on the dissolution of the FAES and the prevention of the possible commission of extrajudicial executions. On the contrary, the FAES have received support from the highest level of government." (4)

More than 10.000.000 dollars
granted to the FAES after the
report (2)

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(1) According to Human Rights Watch

(2) According to Diario Tal Cual (2019)

(3) According to VOA (2019)

(4) Michelle Bachelet (2019) retrieved from El Universal

THE OSCAR PEREZ CASE

VENEZUELAN REBEL EXECUTED BY THE REGIME

Who was he?



Oscar Pérez first appeared on the Venezuelan political scene on June 27, 2017 when he stole a police helicopter and threw stun grenades at the Supreme Court and the Interior Ministry in Caracas as a sign of repudiation towards the Venezuelan tyranny. The former CICPC agent made several appearances in protests after the incident, being part of an irregular armed group that sought to confront the government.

El Junquito massacre

On January 15, 2018, a FAES squad joined by a group of paramilitaries surrounded the cottage where Pérez was hiding in El Junquito (Caracas). During an armed confrontation that lasted 6 hours, Pérez and his companions tried to negotiate their surrender, but they ended up being executed. Pérez died from the impact of 7 bullets to the neck and head area. Everything was lived through social media.

DESPROPORCIONATE USE OF FORCE (1)

- Over 120 shots visible in the ruins of the house
- Rocket launchers of Soviet origin
- Tanks
- Grenades
- Use of military weaponry to confront 7 people.
- A surrender attempt that got denied



6

hours of
confrontation

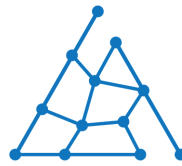
7

bullets in Pérez's
neck and head

500

police and
paramilitary

(1) According to Efecto Cocuyo (2018)



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