

REDESAYUDA'S ANNUAL REPORT

CONFINED VOICES

1.0

Register and study of cases in which the informative work
of press workers in Venezuela was violated
and restricted during 2020.

2020
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CONFINED VOICES 1.0

Record and study of the events that violated and restricted journalistic work in Venezuela during 2020.

REDESAYUDA

The non-governmental organization RedesAyuda was founded in 2014 to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of the creation of free and independent human social networks (digital or analog) as an indispensable instrument for the promotion and defense of human rights in a democratic society.

Among its main areas of interest are human rights, freedom of expression, media, internet access, and the strengthening, preparation, and training of activists, journalists, leaders, and defenders in digital and information security.

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MOTIVATION FOR THE REPORT

For years, journalistic work in Venezuela has been regularly violated, causing press workers to carry out their work in a repressive, unconstitutional context and under restrictive regulations that have forced them to face arbitrary detentions, threats, harassment, physical and verbal aggression, and even kidnapping attempts. These facts contravene the provisions of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that: *“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media.”*¹

Given the socio-political context in which Venezuela finds itself under the arbitrary power of the regime led by Nicolás Maduro, who, together with his executive cabinet, constantly violates the human rights of citizens in the country, journalistic work to investigate, document, inform and disseminate is fundamental. However, press workers are increasingly limited and censored, facing in their informative work the illegal and repressive actions committed by state security forces, workers of state-owned companies, public officials, and civilians belonging to irregular armed groups.

To document, denounce and disseminate the actions taken against the work of journalists in the country, RedesAyuda initiated this study in which it exposes the cases that occurred during the year 2020 regarding the violations faced by press workers, which evidenced censorship as a tool of the regime to restrict the free exercise of freedom of expression, freedom of the press and access to truthful information for Venezuelans.

¹ United Nations General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. <https://www.un.org/es/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the face of the Human Rights violations of Venezuelans, which are evident in a complex humanitarian emergency and result from the actions of the Venezuelan regime that have limited the living conditions of citizens, journalistic work to report these facts is fundamental. However, it has faced repression and limitations that, for years, have only increased under the restrictive and unconstitutional context in which the country finds itself.

The repression faced by press workers takes the form of arbitrary detentions, threats, harassment, physical and verbal aggression and attempted kidnappings, repressive practices aimed at controlling and violating freedom of the press, in an attempt to ensure that journalistic documentation on acts of corruption, human rights violations, access to public health and adequate food, among others. The regime has an interest in preventing journalists from reporting irregularities and extrajudicial measures carried out by State security forces, state employees, public officials, and civilians belonging to irregular armed groups known as “colectivos,” whose actions are protected under the arbitrary power of Nicolás Maduro.

In the face of repression and censorship to silence truthful information broadcasted in traditional and digital media, **this report aims to be a tool for documenting,**

denouncing, and disseminating the events that attempted against press workers in the exercise of their informative work, thus violating rights such as freedom of the press, freedom of expression and access to information. It also seeks to reaffirm the importance of journalistic work to confront censorship as a fundamental instrument of the regime to silence truthful information in a repressive context such as the one experienced by citizens in Venezuela.

GLOSSARY

STATE AGENCIES

- **CONATEL (Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones de Venezuela - National Telecommunications Commission of Venezuela):** Venezuelan government agency that regulates, supervises and controls telecommunications in the country.
- **TSJ (Tribunal Supremo de Justicia - Supreme Court of Justice):** Highest judicial body in the country.
- **CNE (Consejo Nacional Electoral - National Electoral Council):** Governing body in national electoral matters.
- **AN (Asamblea Nacional - National Assembly):** Body that exercises the Legislative Power in the country.

State security forces:

- **PNB:** Policía Nacional Bolivariana - National Bolivarian Police.
- **GNB:** Guardia Nacional Bolivariana - National Bolivarian Guard.
- **SEBIN:** Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia Nacional - Bolivarian National Intelligence Service.
- **DGCIM:** Dirección General de Contrainteligencia Militar - General Office of Military Counterintelligence.
- **CICPC:** Cuerpo de Investigaciones Científicas, Penales y Criminalísticas - Scientific, Criminal and Criminalistic Investigation Department.
- **FAES:** Fuerzas de Acciones Especiales - Special Actions Forces.
- **CONAS:** Comando Nacional Antiextorsión y Secuestro - National Anti-extortion and Kidnapping Command.

MAIN SOURCES

- **Espacio Público:** Venezuelan NGO that promotes and defends freedom of expression, the right to information, and social responsibility in the media.
- **Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS):** Venezuelan NGO promoting and defending the freedom of expression, the right to information, and social responsibility in the media.
- **Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Prensa (SNTP):** Guild of press workers in Venezuela.
- **Colegio Nacional de Periodistas (CNP):** Autonomous institution authorized to grant the title of Professional Journalist (after completing the career). It is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the “Ley de Ejercicio del Periodismo - Law on the Practice of Journalism” in Venezuela, the “Código de Ética del Periodista Venezolano y su Reglamento - Code of Ethics of the Venezuelan Journalist and its Regulations.”

INTRODUCTION

In Venezuela, although institutional independence is contemplated in legal figures, the rule of law and constitutional guarantees have deteriorated since the beginning of Hugo Chávez Frías' presidency in 1999. During the last few years, democratic conditions in the country have become almost non-existent due to the arbitrary actions carried out by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, which have submerged the nation in an economic, political, and social crisis, causing a complex humanitarian emergency that has limited the living conditions of Venezuelans.

Given the violations against the human rights of citizens in Venezuela, journalistic work has become a fundamental tool to document and report on them. However, attacks on press workers have increased significantly, so much so that Venezuela ranks 147th out of 180 countries in the world ranking on press freedoms established by the NGO Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in 2020, reflecting how the Venezuelan regime increasingly seeks to censor the work of journalists in the country.

In 2020, the first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed on March 13th and, due to its rapid spread in other countries, Venezuelans entered quarantine on March 15th of the same year, amid deteriorating access to essential public services, such as drinking water, electricity, health, food, telecommunications, among others. In public health emergencies, citizens must be informed about figures, state decisions, prevention, and the progress of events, so once again, the work of journalists to provide timely and accurate information was of utmost importance.

However, amid a pandemic, the worsening shortage of gasoline and difficult access to it, as well as the deteriorated access to basic public services and the serious conditions of the public and private health sector, journalistic work was limited to State police forces, workers of state companies and civilian members of irregular

armed groups known as “colectivos”; who carried out kidnapping attempts, arbitrary detentions, threats, harassment, physical and verbal aggressions against press workers, during their informative work, during the year 2020.

A total of 167 cases of violations of journalistic work were documented in this report, showing how fundamental rights such as freedom of the press, freedom of expression and access to information are violated in Venezuela. **208 press workers were affected during the COVID-19 pandemic**, contravening the provisions of Article 337 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV) and Article 7 of the “Ley Orgánica sobre los Estados de Excepción - Organic Law on States of Exception.”

CRBV, Article 337: “...the guarantees enshrined in this constitution may be temporarily restricted, except for those referring to (...) the right to information and other intangible rights.”²

Organic Law on States of Exception, Article 7: “May not be restricted (...) the guarantees of the following rights: (...) to information.”³

² Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. [CRBV] Article 337 (Venezuela). https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/constitucion_venezuela.pdf

³ Organic Law on States of Exception. Official Gazette No. 37,261. August 15th, 2001. Article 7. (Venezuela) http://www.derechos.org/ve/pw/wp-content/uploads/ley_excepci%C3%B3n.pdf



CHAPTER I:

REPRESSIVE CONTEXT

Chapter I:

- **Aggressions and Restrictions on the Press at the Federal Legislative Palace**
- **Aggressions at Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía**
- **COVID-19: Restrictions on Journalistic Work**
- **Restrictions on Journalistic Work during the Fraudulent Electoral Process of December 6th**
- **Raids on Media Outlets**

For at least two decades, democracy, journalistic work, and human rights in Venezuela have been violated with improper actions regarding freedom of expression and access to information. Although the arbitrary closure of Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV) in 2007, under the instructions of former President Hugo Chávez Frías, was a blow to freedom of expression in Venezuela, since 2002 organizations focused on the defense of human rights, such as Espacio Público and Human Rights Watch (HRW), had already published reports denouncing actions against the practice of journalism.

The non-governmental organization HRW published a report in 2003 in which it denounced, among other points, the Radio and Television Social Responsibility Law (RESORTE) bill, as well as the constant attacks of the former President of Venezuela against the press *“in his television and radio programs, pointing out by name media owners whom he accused of being traitors and coup plotters.”*⁴ By the year 2008, this same organization in its report called *“A Decade of Chávez: Political Intolerance and Lost Opportunities for the Advancement of Human Rights in Venezuela,”* in the section on the media, *“A Decade of Chávez: Political Intolerance and Lost Opportunities*

⁴ Human Rights Watch. (2003). *Entre dos fuegos: La libertad de expresión en Venezuela* [Between two fires: Freedom of expression in Venezuela]. https://www.hrw.org/legacy/spanish/informes/2003/venezuela_prensa.html

for the Advancement of Human Rights in Venezuela,”⁵ in the segment regarding the media it denounced:

- The approval of the RESORTE Law for its “severe penalties for radio and television service providers”. Since 2004, this regulation establishes that traditional media may be subject to suspension and revocation of concessions if they broadcast material deemed to promote, make an apology or incite to war, to alter public order, or to the commission of a crime. The broad and imprecise wording that characterizes this law has made its application subject to the executive power, thus promoting censorship in radio and television media.
- Limitations on access to information that should be public to ensure democracy, promoting accountability.
- Threats, since 2002, to the television channels, with the revocation of their concessions. The first of these threats was carried out in 2007, with the arbitrary closure of RCTV.
- Criminal proceedings and threats against journalists Napoleón Bravo, Julio Balza, Henry Crespo, Miguel Salazar, Marianella Salazar, Ybéyise Pacheco, Luz Mely Reyes, Laureano Márquez and Teodoro Petkoff.
- The absence of an independent communications regulatory agency, mentioning CONATEL as an autonomous agency. However, it was formed by four members, appointed by Chávez’s government, and dismissed at its discretion.

Espacio Público presented in 2002 its first report called “Situation of the right to freedom of expression and information in Venezuela,” where it documented a total of 138 violations to freedom of expression⁶. In 2013 they

documented 220 violations⁷ and in 2019, under the regime of Nicolás Maduro, a total of 468 cases,⁸ surpassed only by 2017 (with 708 cases) due to the social conflict in the country at that time.⁹ Evidencing that actions against freedom of expression and journalistic work have only increased.

The pattern of arbitrary actions and strategies to limit freedom of expression in Venezuela has evolved under the regime of Nicolás Maduro. According to IPYS, since 2009, at least 110 print media “ceased to circulate throughout the country. Only 104 disappeared from the public space in 2013, the year in which the Alfredo Maneiro Editorial Complex (CEAM) was created¹⁰, by the disposition of the Venezuelan government.”¹¹ According to the SNTp, from 2013 to 2018, 113 media outlets (radio and television) were arbitrarily closed.¹²

In 2020, journalistic work faced severe restrictions. Attempted kidnappings, arbitrary detentions, harassment, threats, physical and verbal aggressions were the attacks that press workers received at the hands of State security forces, workers of State companies, civilian members of irregular armed groups known as “colectivos” and public officials.

⁵ Human Rights Watch. (2008). *Una Década de Chávez. Intolerancia política y oportunidades perdidas para el progreso de los derechos humanos en Venezuela* [A Decade of Chávez. Political intolerance and lost opportunities for the progress of human rights in Venezuela]. <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/spanish/reports/2008/venezuela0908/4.htm#Toc207123517>

⁶ Espacio Público. (2003). *Informe 2002: Situación del derecho a la libertad de expresión y a la información en Venezuela* [Report 2002: Situation of the right to freedom of expression and information in Venezuela]. <http://espaciopublico.org/informe-2002-situacion-del-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-a-la-informacion-en-venezuela/>

⁷ Espacio Público. (2004). *Informe 2013: Situación del derecho a la libertad de expresión e información en Venezuela* [2013 Report: Situation of the Right to Freedom of Expression and Information in Venezuela]. <http://espaciopublico.org/informe-2013-libertad-expresion/>

⁸ Espacio Público. (2020). *Informe 2019: Situación general del derecho a la libertad de expresión en Venezuela* [Report 2019: General Situation of the right to freedom of expression in Venezuela]. <http://espaciopublico.org/informe-2019-situacion-general-del-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-venezuela/>

⁹ Espacio Público. (2018). *Informe 2017: Tres golpes diarios contra la libertad de expresión en Venezuela* [Report 2017: Three daily blows against freedom of expression in Venezuela]. <http://espaciopublico.org/informe-anual-2017/>

¹⁰ Deniz, R. (2016). *El oscuro papel de las cabezas del Complejo Editorial Maneiro* [The obscure role of the heads of the Maneiro Publishing Complex]. ArmandoInfo. <https://armando.info/el-oscuro-papel-de-las-cabezas-del-complejo-editorial-maneiro/>

¹¹ IPYS Venezuela. (2021). *Balance IPYSve Medios impresos: entre el olvido y la sobrevivencia* [Balance IPYSve Print Media: between oblivion and survival]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/balance-ipysve-medios-impresos-entre-el-olvido-y-la-sobrevivencia/>

¹² Rodríguez, R. (2018). *115 medios cerraron en los últimos cinco años en Venezuela, según el Sntp* [115 media outlets closed in the last five years in Venezuela, according to Sntp]. Efecto Cocuyo. <https://efectococuyo.com/la-humanidad/115-medios-cerraron-en-los-ultimos-cinco-anos-en-venezuela-segun-el-sntp/>

AGRESSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS AT THE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PALACE

The day of aggressions against press workers in the vicinity of the Federal Legislative Palace began on Sunday, January 5th, 2020, the day the new Delegate Commission of the National Assembly (NA) was to be elected. This process was not carried out democratically due to actions on the part of officials and politicians loyal to the regime of Nicolás Maduro, who arbitrarily elected Luis Parra, a former militant of the Primero Justicia (PJ) political party and politician accused of corruption,¹³ as president of the AN.

During this event, state police forces prevented journalists from at least 38 media outlets from accessing the AN and carrying out their duty of reporting the event.¹⁴ On the same day, several journalists were victims of physical aggressions by “colectivos” at the site.¹⁵

Subsequently, on January 7th, an ordinary session of the AN was convened in the Federal Legislative Palace. According to Espacio Público, at least 12 press workers were assaulted and restricted in their journalistic work by GNB officers and members of irregular armed groups.

On this day, journalists faced physical aggression, persecution, and harassment that hindered their news coverage at the scene of the events. In addition, press workers from at least 23 national media outlets and 15 international media outlets were prevented from entering the Federal Legislative Palace.¹⁶

On January 15th, in another call for an ordinary session of the AN for Teachers’ Day, the press

again faced restrictions and aggressions.¹⁷

“[...] On this day, journalists faced physical aggression, persecution, and harassment that hindered their news coverage at the scene of the events.”

AGGRESSIONS AT SIMÓN BOLÍVAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN MAIQUETÍA:

Last February 11th, Interim President Juan Guaidó arrived in Caracas, Venezuela, after an international tour that he carried out for at least 20 days. Press workers who were at the International Airport of Simón Bolívar de Maiquetía to document Guaidó’s arrival, to later take his first statements, were victims of several attacks perpetrated by violent people who were in the airport facilities.

According to IPYS, at least 14 journalists suffered physical and verbal aggressions, were robbed, threatened, and harassed.¹⁸

On February 13th, several assaulted journalists filed a complaint before the Public Defender’s Office, alongside Espacio Público, the SNTF, and the CNP, due to the aggressions they endured.¹⁹

On the other hand, some of the press workers who faced aggressions at the airport were exposed by Diosdado Cabello, in his program *Con El Mazo Dando*, in which he mocked and justified the attacks against the journalists by saying: “the people will continue claiming and it is very difficult that today our people will go to receive them and thank them for the sanctions they have applied. They are so immoral that they say that there were people disguised as Conviasa workers.”²⁰

¹³ Deniz, R. (2019). *¿Necesita lavar su reputación? Se alquilan diputados para tal fin [Do you need to clean up your reputation? Members of Parliament for hire for this purpose]*. Armando.Info. <https://armando.info/Reportajes/Details/2614>

¹⁴ Espacio Público. (2020). *Resumen especial de la jornada del 5 de enero de 2020 [Special summary of the day of January 5th, 2020]*. <http://espaciopublico.org/resumen-especial-de-la-jornada-del-5-de-enero-de-2020/>

¹⁵ SNTF. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1214587318494998528>

¹⁶ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Prensa agredida durante cobertura en la Asamblea Nacional [IPYSve Alert: Press attacked during coverage at the National Assembly]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-prensa-agredida-durante-cobertura-en-la-asamblea-nacional/>

¹⁷ Espacio Público. (2020). *Enero: golpes a la información política [January: blows to political information]*. <http://espaciopublico.org/enero-golpes-a-la-informacion-politica/>

¹⁸ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve En presencia de cuerpos policiales agredieron a periodistas en Maiquetía [IPYSve Alert: Journalists assaulted in the presence of police forces at Maiquetía airport]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-en-presencia-de-cuerpos-policiales-agredieron-a-periodistas-en-maiquetia/>

¹⁹ Antolínez, H. (2020). *Periodistas denuncian ante MP y Defensoría agresión en aeropuerto de Maiquetía [Journalists denounce aggression at Maiquetía airport before the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Ombudsman’s Office]*. CrónicaUno. <https://cronica.uno/periodistas-denuncian-ante-mp-y-defensoria-agresion-en-aeropuerto-de-maiquetia/>

²⁰ Rodríguez, R. (2020). *Cabello sobre agresiones en Maiquetía: Es una reacción espontánea de un pueblo indignado [Cabello on aggressions at Maiquetía: It is a spontaneous reaction of an outraged people]*. Efecto Cocuyo. <https://efectococuyo.com/politica/cabello-sobre-agresiones-en-maiquetia-es-una-reaccion-espontanea-de-un-pueblo-indignado/>

COVID-19: RESTRICTIONS ON JOURNALISTIC WORK

The first cases of COVID-19 in Venezuela were confirmed on Friday, March 13th, 2020, according to official sources and information issued by Nicolás Maduro's regime. Likewise, a quarantine throughout the national territory and a State of Alarm given the pandemic were decreed. But the arrival of COVID-19 not only meant the confinement to prevent the spread of the virus, but it also represented the deepening of a complex humanitarian emergency. Citizens had to comply with a quarantine amid an economic, social, and political crisis, in addition to facing the deteriorated conditions of essential public services.

Given these facts, the journalistic work of press workers was essential to keep citizens informed. However, they faced restrictions²¹ when covering the quarantine as well as the massive complaints from citizens about labor, health, economic, and food conditions in the country. State police officers prevented journalists from accessing the sites of the events²² or did not allow them to circulate freely despite having their journalists' identification,²³ contrary to what Vladimir Padrino López, Minister of People's Power for Defense of the Venezuelan regime, had said, who would have exempted journalists from mandatory confinement.²⁴

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a crisis to access to gasoline affecting the work of some media outlets that had to suspend their operations. Such was the case of the following media outlets: La Prensa Lara²⁵, El Periódico de Monagas,²⁶ and Diario La Calle,²⁷ which halted their distribution in print version due to

restrictions regarding the supply of gasoline.

Likewise, the exercise of press workers was also affected due to the difficult access to fuel.²⁸ IPYS denounced that correspondents of national and international media in the state of Carabobo had to stop documenting due to the scarcity of gasoline, which prevented them from traveling to the different locations where events took place.²⁹

The press agencies affected were TVV Noticias, Vivo Play, El Impulso, Caracota Digital, Venevisión, Televen, Impacto TDN, Crónica Uno, El Venezolano TV, El Pitazo, El Estímulo, Unión Radio, El Carabobeño, Carabobo es Noticia, and Las Noticias de Hoy. For this reason, the reporters created groups and divided the work to request support material from official sources, trying to guarantee the citizens' right to information in the face of the pandemic.

According to IPYS, at least 14 journalists suffered physical and verbal aggressions, were robbed, threatened, and harassed.

²¹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/122255049555981312>

²² CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1240374906057043973>

²³ Mariana De Barros. [@mdebarriosf]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/mdebarriosf/status/1239565004623482881>

²⁴ Luigino Bracci Roa desde Venezuela. (2020). Vladimir Padrino: FANB controlará estrictamente los accesos durante la cuarentena por coronavirus [Vladimir Padrino: FANB will strictly control accesses during the coronavirus quarantine]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLGsA_NRAKc

²⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1265698792743075845>

²⁶ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1242949914461601796>

²⁷ Diario La Calle. [@diariolacallevzla]. (2020). Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/p/B9917DtAfhd/?utm_source=ig_embed

²⁸ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Reporte Especial IPYSve Periodismo sin combustible [IPYSve Special Report: Journalism without fuel]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/2020/08/19/reporte-especial-ipysve-periodismo-sin-combustible/>

²⁹ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1246467568157655042?s=20>

RESTRICTIONS ON JOURNALISTIC WORK DURING THE FRAUDULENT ELECTORAL PROCESS OF DECEMBER 6th:

On December 6th, 2020, the regime of Nicolás Maduro carried out a fraudulent electoral process to renew the Parliament, which lacked recognition, conditions, and democratic guarantees; but which served to install itself in the seat of the Federal Legislative Palace. This process was marked by a series of irregularities reported by journalists of different media, who reported, for example, that citizens at the Ayacucho School, in Barquisimeto, Lara State, denounced that members of the regime were asking for information of senior citizens and offering them money³⁰ to participate and favor them with their vote. They also reported that voting machines were not working³¹ and that some voting centers were closing earlier than expected due to abstention.³²

However, in the exercise of their work to follow up this fraudulent electoral process, press workers were victims of arbitrary detentions, harassment, threats, and obstruction at the moment of documenting. According to IPYS, at least 24 journalists faced aggressions during their news coverage in the voting centers³³ set up for that day, to which officials of the Plan República (military deployment during electoral processes) did not allow them to enter, threatening them with arrest, forcing them to delete audiovisual material from their equipment and physically and verbally assaulting them.

On the other hand, the Venezuelan pollster Meganálisis reported only 19.13% of participation of the total electoral roll registered in the country and an 80.87% abstention rate.³⁴ On December 9th, the Organization of American States (OAS) approved a resolution rejecting the fraudulent elections, seconded by Canada, Chile,

Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The resolution stated the *"rejection of the fraudulent election of December 6th, conducted by the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro with the evident purpose of eliminating the only legitimate and democratic institution elected in Venezuela"*.³⁵

RAIDS ON MEDIA OUTLETS:

15MINUTOS

SEBIN officers arbitrarily raided the offices of international media outlet 15Minutos, located in Las Mercedes, Caracas, on Wednesday, October 14th, 2020.³⁶ During the raid, the headquarters of the news media was closed and vacant since it had been closed since the beginning of the pandemic. Officials seized computers and other work equipment and proceeded to close the office.

CORREO DEL CARONÍ

In the morning hours of Tuesday, October 20th, the news media Correo Del Caroní reported on its Twitter account that its headquarters located in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State, was being illegally raided by SEBIN officials, who after being for 6 hours in the facilities of the news media, took part of its administrative notebooks and a computer.³⁷

³⁰ El Impulso. [@elimpulsocom]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/elimpulsocom/status/1335606703396704257>

³¹ Nicmer Evans. [@nicmerevans]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/NicmerEvans/status/1335606952680943617>

³² Impacto Mundo. [@impactomundo.]. (2020). Twitter. https://twitter.com/ImpactoMundo_/status/1335662757337829378

³³ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Balance #6D Elecciones parlamentarias con cobertura restringida [#6D Balance: Parliamentary elections with restricted coverage]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/balance-6d-elecciones-parlamentarias-con-cobertura-restringida/>

³⁴ Encuestadora Meganálisis. [@meganalisis]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/Meganalisis/status/1335708242819870725>

³⁵ Infobae. (2020). La OEA aprobó una resolución en rechazo a las "elecciones fraudulentas" en Venezuela [OAS approved a resolution rejecting "fraudulent elections" in Venezuela]. <https://www.infobae.com/america/venezuela/2020/12/09/la-oea-aprobo-una-resolucion-en-rechazo-a-las-elecciones-fraudulentas-en-venezuela/>

³⁶ 15minutos. (2020). Régimen de Maduro allana oficina de 15minutos.com en Venezuela [Maduro's regime raids 15minutos.com's office in Venezuela]. <https://www.15minutos.com/latinoamerica/libertad-de-expresion-latinoamerica/regimen-de-maduro-allana-oficina-de-15minutos-com-en-venezuela/>

³⁷ Correo del Caroní. [@correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1318543922340179969>

CHAPTER II:

**CASES IN WHICH JOURNALISTIC WORK
WAS VIOLATED AND RESTRICTED**

Chapter II

- **Affected press workers**
- **Cases per month:
January to December 2020**

The informative work of press workers is increasingly facing violent and arbitrary actions that jeopardize rights such as freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and access to information, including restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms such as the right to free transit, access to essential public services and even the right to due process.

In a repressive scenario characterized by human rights violations, censorship, disinformation, and opacity, journalistic work is fundamental. However, during the year 2020 and during the COVID-19 pandemic, which further aggravated the deteriorated living conditions of citizens in Venezuela under the arbitrary power of a regime focused on silencing civil society, journalistic work was significantly restricted.

A total of 167 cases were documented during 2020, in which at least 208 press workers faced violent and arbitrary actions such as attempted kidnapping, arbitrary detentions, threats, harassment, physical and verbal aggression. These attacks were perpetrated by State security forces, workers of State companies, civilians belonging to irregular armed groups also known as “colectivos,” and public officials aimed at hindering the work of press workers to further reinforce censorship.

Agressors

109

State security
forces

02

Workers of
State-owned companies

31

Unidentified

10

Civilian members of
irregular armed groups
("colectivos")

15

Public officials
and employees

167
total cases

208
affected
press workers

Press workers

1. Adixson Hernández
2. Adreina Itriago
3. Adriana Nuñez
4. Adylene Peñalver
5. Alberto Rodríguez
6. Alexander Olvera
7. Alexander Zerlin
8. Alfredo Zapata
9. Alonso Centeno
10. Alonzo Calatrava
11. Ana Rodríguez
12. Anabel Carrillo
13. Anderson Piña
14. Andra Espinoza Martínez
15. Andreina Ramos
16. Andrés Rodríguez
17. Ángel Zambrano
18. Ángela Peroza
19. Anthony Mujica
20. Antonieta La Rocca
21. Antonio Betancourt
22. Argelys Torres
23. Ariadna García
24. Armando Díaz
25. Arnaldo Sumoza
26. Astryd Pérez
27. Aymara Alonso
28. Bárbara López
29. Beatriz Adrián
30. Benis Reyes
31. Bleima Márquez
32. Boris Plotnikov
33. Carla Angola
34. Carlos Becerra
35. Carlos García
36. Carlos Padilla
37. Carlos Rojas
38. Carmen Betancourt
39. Carol Romero
40. Carolain Caraballo
41. Carolina Campos
42. Carolina Villanueva
43. César Díaz
44. César Saavedra
45. Claudia García
46. Cristian Hernández Fortune
47. Dangert Zorrilla
48. Daniel Blanco
49. Daniel Sosa
50. Daniela Salcedo
51. Danilo Sarmiento
52. David Betancourt
53. David Natera
54. Dayrí Blanco
55. Deivis Mendoza
56. Edecio García Sosa
57. Eduard Rojas
58. Eduardo González
59. Eduardo Padrón
60. Edwin Ortiz
61. Efraín Roa
62. Eladio Muchacho Unda
63. Elena Fernández
64. Eliana Millán
65. Eliana Palencia
66. Elvis Rivas
67. Enmanuel De Sousa
68. Estefany Brito
69. Esteninf Olivarez
70. Esther Yáñez
71. Euseglimar González
72. Fabiola Matheus
73. Federico Black
74. Frabizio Montes
75. Francesco Manetto
76. Francis Tineo
77. Francisco Figuera
78. Francisco Sandoval
79. Francismar Rivas
80. Franklin Rodríguez
81. Gabriel Labrador
82. Gabriela González
83. Gabriela Jiménez
84. Gleybert Asencio
85. Hidalgo Rincón
86. Ibéyise Pacheco
87. Irene Revilla
88. Irios Méndez
89. Iván Reyes
90. Jade Delgado
91. Jairo Alcalá
92. Jamel Louka
93. Jean Carlos Macero
94. Jennifer Orozco
95. Jesús Alberto Segovia Bastidad
96. Jesús Bermúdez
97. Jesús Fonseca
98. Jesús Medina
99. Jhonatan Bello
100. Jhonatan Useche

101. Joan Goddeliett
102. Joel Barreto
103. Johan Ramírez
104. Jorge Cortez
105. Jorge Luis González
106. José Alberto Ramírez
107. José Ángel Maicabares
108. José Fontainés
109. José Galindo
110. José González
111. José Gregorio Rojas
112. José Meza
113. José Montes
114. José Ramírez
115. José Rengel
116. Juan Carlos Hernández
117. Juan Carlos Neira
118. Judith Valderrama
119. Karen Aranguibel
120. Katiuska González
121. Kerlin Mosquera
122. Larry Alvarado
123. Larry Castro
124. Lenin Danieri
125. Leomara Cárdenas
126. Leonaibeth Díaz
127. Leopoldo Castillo
128. Lisbella Páez
129. Liz Gascón
130. Lizauro Noriega
131. Lucelys Rodríguez
132. Luis Cobaría
133. Luis Gonzalo Pérez
134. Luis López
135. Luis Miguel Rodríguez
136. Luis Patiño
137. Lysaura Fuentes
138. Maiker Yriarte
139. Manuel Cobela
140. Marcos Villegas
141. María Fernanda Bolívar
142. María Fernanda Roddríguez
143. María Gabriela Briceño
144. María Graterol
145. María Ramírez Cabello
146. Marialejandra Meléndez
147. Mariana De Barros
148. Mariangel Moro
149. Mariangela García
150. Marthy Barbera
151. Mayerlin Villanueva
152. Mayker Yrirarte
153. Miguel Brito
154. Mildred Manrique
155. Milton Moreno
156. Mónica Salazar
157. Nadeska Noriega
158. Natalia Roca
159. Neidy Freites
160. Nelson Bocaranda
161. Nurelyn Contreras
162. Oriana Cardozo
163. Oscar Avilez
164. Osmary Hernández
165. Otilio Rodríguez
166. Ovidio Mora
167. Pascual Filardo
168. Pedro García
169. Pedro Lárez
170. Rafael Hernández
171. Rafael Riera
172. Rayber Alvarado
173. Rayner Peña
174. Reynaldo Mozo
175. Ricardo Tarazona
176. Richard Montilla
177. Richard Rodríguez
178. Robert Delgado
179. Roberto Lobo
180. Roger Luna
181. Roland Carreño
182. Rolando Rodríguez
183. Romina Uzcátegui
184. Ronald Montaña
185. Rosalí Hernández
186. Rosalinda Hernández
187. Rosimar Sánchez
188. Rosmel Montes
189. Rubens Di Prado
190. Ruth Laverde
191. Sandino Yaguare
192. Sarahi Gómez Esaa
193. Sergio Novelli
194. Shiley Gómez
195. Sofía Torres
196. Sydeny Díaz
197. Tairy Gamboa
198. Valentina Crespo
199. Valeria Rodríguez
200. Virginia Serrano
201. William Anteliz
202. William Urdaneta
203. Wilmer Barrero
204. Yanitza Martínez
205. Yarnaldo Tovar
206. Yelitza Figueroa
207. Yoyerli Viloría
208. Yonathan Torres





January

VALENTINA CRESPO – TVV NOTICIAS

(Tuesday, January 7th):

Reporter from news media TVV Noticias Valentina Crespo was intimidated by a man, who, according to IPYS, was identified as a civilian member of irregular armed groups, also known as “colectivos,” who recorded her while the journalist was taking the statements of the president in charge Juan Guaidó outside the Federal Legislative Palace. Subsequently, the subject chased her and threatened her, telling her that “if she did not leave the place, it could be bad for her.”³⁸

FRANCESCO MANETTO AND MANUEL COBELA – EL PAÍS AND VENEVISIÓN (Tuesday, January 7th):

Armed civilians, belonging to irregular groups known as “colectivos,” beat and stole the equipment and personal documents of journalists Francesco Manetto from news media El País and Manuel Cobela, of Venevisión.³⁹ The attack occurred when they were outside the Federal Legislative Palace, documenting the events during the first session of the National Assembly of the year 2020.

ADRIANA NUÑEZ (Tuesday, January 7th):

According to the SNTP, journalist Adriana Núñez was intimidated and harassed by a group of persons affiliated with the regime of Nicolás Maduro. In addition, they tried to steal her telephone, asked her to delete all the material she had filmed⁴⁰ with her device on the repression and restrictions on opposition parliamentarians and journalists by officials of the State security forces, as well as by armed irregular groups that were outside the Federal Legislative Palace.

38 IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve: Prensa agredida durante cobertura en la Asamblea Nacional* [IPYSveAlert: Press attacked during coverage at the National Assembly]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-prensa-agredida-durante-cobertura-en-la-asamblea-nacional/>

39 SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1214565654507839492>

40 SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1214568990368051200>

ANA RODRÍGUEZ AND MAYKER YRIARTE – TELEMUNDO AND TVV NOTICIAS (Tuesday, January 7th):

People allegedly associated with the ruling party robbed and beat journalist Ana Rodríguez from Telemundo and journalist Mayker Yriarte from TVVenezuela Noticias⁴¹ outside the Federal Legislative Palace. Due to the aggressions, both journalists had to flee the place. The video documenting the incident showed how state security officials who arrived at the site did not take action against those who assaulted the journalists.

SARAHÍ GÓMEZ ESAA – EL DIARIO (Wednesday, January 15th):

Reporter Sarahí Gómez Esaa, from El Diario press agency, was beaten by a man identified as a member of irregular armed groups, known as “colectivos,” who also stole her phone. Gómez Esaa was recording the caravan of deputies who were on their way to the National Assembly⁴² trying to enter the Federal Legislative Palace in the face of repression and restrictions by security forces of Nicolás Maduro’s regime to carry out an ordinary session in which possible actions to solve the educational crisis in Venezuela would be debated.

GABRIELA GONZÁLEZ – W RADIO COLOMBIA (Wednesday, January 15th):

Journalist Gabriela González was attacked by a man who tried to steal her backpack with her work equipment, causing her to fall off the motorcycle on which she was following the opposition deputies who were about to enter the Federal Legislative Palace.⁴³ González and her team continued documenting the tour, and a woman grabbed her by the bag while verbally assaulting her causing her to fall again from the vehicle.⁴⁴

41 SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1214587318494998528>

42 Sarahí Gómez Esaa. [@saraahiesaa]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/SaraahiEsaa/status/1217471372148035589>

43 SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1217476451823431680>

44 IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Prevalecen agresiones a la prensa en el centro de Caracas* [IPYSveAlert: Aggressions against the press prevail in downtown Caracas]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-prevalecen-agresiones-a-la-prensa-en-el-centro-de-caracas/>

**LUIS GONZALO PÉREZ
AND RUBENS DI PRADO**
– **NTNT24 AND CNVE24**
(Wednesday, January 15th):

Journalists Luis Gonzalo Pérez and Rubens Di Prado were attacked by civilian members of irregular armed groups, also known as “colectivos,” who attempted to steal their work equipment⁴⁵ while documenting a teachers’ protest in Bolívar Square in Caracas.

CARLOS BECERRA
– **BLOOMBERG**
(Wednesday, January 15th):

During the day of protest by educators in Venezuela at the Plaza Bolívar in Caracas, Carlos Becerra, a photojournalist from international media Bloomberg, was assaulted by subjects who stole his camera while pointing a gun at him.⁴⁶

Other reporters documented the incident, and Oswaldo Rivero, host of the program *Zurda Konducta*, broadcast by the state channel *Venezolana de Televisión (VTV)*, recorded how Becerra was pointed at and robbed.⁴⁷

MILDRED MANRIQUE
– **IMPACTO VENEZUELA**
(Wednesday, January 29th):

After attempting to ask Diosdado Cabello a question, the GNB lieutenant colonel and Head of Security of the Federal Legislative Palace, Leandro Malaguera Hernández, detained journalist Mildred Manrique for at least 45 minutes.⁴⁸

In an interview for *Efecto Cocuyo*, Manrique said Cabello’s security team approached her, and Malaguera Hernandez asked her to accompany her back to the Parliament facilities. Once inside, she told her that she could not ask

⁴⁵ Luis Gonzalo Pérez. [@luisgonzalopr]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/luisgonzalopr/status/1217475448147529729>

⁴⁶ Getty Images News. [@gettyimagesnews]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/GettyImagesNews/status/1217496127924310016>

⁴⁷ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Prevalecen agresiones a la prensa en el centro de Caracas. [IPYSve Alert: Aggressions against the press prevail in downtown Caracas]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-prevalecen-agresiones-a-la-prensa-en-el-centro-de-caracas/>

⁴⁸ Mozo, R. (2020). “No pueden abordar a Diosdado Cabello, no le pueden preguntar nada”, dijo militar a periodista en la AN [“They can’t approach Diosdado Cabello, they can’t ask him anything,” said a military officer to a journalist at the National Assembly]. *Efecto Cocuyo*. <https://efectococuyo.com/la-humanidad/no-pueden-abordar-a-diosdado-cabello-no-le-pueden-preguntar-nada-dijo-militar-a-periodista-en-la-an/>

questions to Diosdado Cabello because she was not accredited for the National Constituent Assembly (ANC).

February

JADE DELGADO
– **CARAOTA DIGITAL**
(Monday, February 3rd):

Two police officers from the state of Merida intimidated and threatened correspondent Jade Delgado from press agency Caraota Digital after he took footage of the Instituto Autónomo Hospital Universitario de Los Andes.⁴⁹ The officers demanded Delgado to show what he had recorded and later forced him to delete the material.

**IRIOS MÉNDEZ AND
ALFREDO ZAPATA – EL SIGLO**
(Tuesday, February 4th):

Journalist Irios Méndez and photojournalist Alfredo Zapata from media outlet *El Siglo* were intimidated by a group of people who identified themselves as members of Johana Sánchez’s team, Mayor of the municipality of Mariño in Aragua State.⁵⁰ These persons demanded both of them delete the material they had collected during a coverage they were carrying out in the community Sorocaima III in Mariño. When they left the place, the vehicle they were traveling was pursued by two motorized vehicles. However, they managed to leave the site and reach the headquarters of the *El Siglo* newspaper in Maracay, capital of Aragua State.

ALEXANDER OLVERA
– **EL PITAZO AND CLASS 98.7 FM**
(Saturday, February 8th):

Journalist Alexander Olvera, from *El Pitazo* and *Radio Class 98.7 FM*, was intimidated by SEBIN officers who parked in patrol cars in the vicinity of the journalist’s house in the city of San Carlos, Cojedes State.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1356962093463928832>

⁵⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1224728763050741767>

⁵¹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1227247241863233536>

NURELYIN CONTRERAS – PUNTO DE CORTE

(Tuesday, February 11th):

Nurelyin Contreras, from media outlet Punto de Corte, was attacked by women and men who hit her on the head and jaw, bit her, and pulled out some of her hair.⁵² The attack happened while Contreras was with other press workers at the Simón Bolívar International Airport of Maiquetía, in Vargas State, waiting for the president in charge Juan Guaidó, who was returning to Venezuela after a three-week international tour. In declarations, Contreras expressed: “*here where I am, it is hard for me to speak because my jaw hurts strongly,*” due to the blows received.

MAIKER YRIARTE AND CÉSAR DÍAZ – VIVO PLAY AND TVV NOTICIAS (Tuesday, February 11th):

Journalist Maiker Yriarte, from media Vivo Play and TVVenezuela Noticias, was beaten in the face and head by people allegedly affected to the regime of Nicolás Maduro, who also stripped him of some of his belongings⁵³ outside of the Maiquetía International Airport, before the arrival of Juan Guaidó to the country. Likewise, the cameraman César Díaz (who accompanied him), after falling to the ground, was hit in the face by this same group of people who caused bruises to his left eye.⁵⁴

REYNALDO MOZO AND IVÁN REYES – EFECTO COCUYO (Tuesday, February 11th):

Reynaldo Mozo, a reporter from Efecto Cocuyo, was assaulted several times while trying to document Juan Guaidó’s statements at the Maiquetía Airport. However, before the arrival of the Interim President, Mozo had been

threatened and insulted.⁵⁵ In a tweet published by the journalist, he informed that his colleague Iván Reyes had also been assaulted by violent people who were at the airport.⁵⁶

ESTEFANY BRITO AND CÉSAR SAAVEDRA – CNVE24 (Tuesday, February 11th):

Journalists Estefany Brito and César Saavedra from media outlet Centro de Noticias Venezuela 24 were attacked by violent groups at the International Airport of Maiquetía. In an interview for IPYS, Estefany Brito said that she received a blow to the face and assured that the aggressors were “*by orders of the Vargas State government and headed by Constituent Juan Iriarte.*”⁵⁷ She also reported that her companion Saavedra received a blow to the head which left him disoriented.

NADESKA NORIEGA – EL PITAZO (Tuesday, February 11th):

Journalist Nadeska Noriega, from news media El Pitazo, received at least seven blows on her back by three women⁵⁸ at the Maiquetía International Airport. Noriega stated that she identified the logo of a cab company located near the airport on the shirt of one of the aggressors.

LEONAIBETH DÍAZ – VPITV (Tuesday, February 11th):

Journalist Leonaibeth Díaz, from VPITV press agency, was assaulted by several women when she was helping the cameraman of Vivo Play and TVVenezuelaNoticias, César Díaz.⁵⁹ In an

⁵² Espacio Público. (2020). *Al menos 12 periodistas fueron agredidos por simpatizantes del chavismo en Maiquetía* [At least 12 journalists were attacked by pro-Chavez supporters at Maiquetía airport]. <http://espaciopublico.org/al-menos-12-periodistas-fueron-agredidos-por-simpatizantes-del-chavismo-en-maiquetia/>

⁵³ TVV Noticias. [@tvvnoticias]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/TVVnoticias/status/1227356413833465856>

⁵⁴ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve En presencia de cuerpos policiales agredieron a periodistas en Maiquetía* [Alerta IPYSve: Journalists were assaulted in Maiquetía in the presence of police forces]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-en-presencia-de-cuerpos-policiales-agredieron-a-periodistas-en-maiquetia/>

⁵⁵ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve: En presencia de cuerpos policiales agredieron a periodistas en Maiquetía* [Alerta IPYSve: Journalists assaulted in Maiquetía in the presence of police forces]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-en-presencia-de-cuerpos-policiales-agredieron-a-periodistas-en-maiquetia/>

⁵⁶ Reynaldo Mozo Zambrano. [@reymozo]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/reymozo/status/1227349472889516032>

⁵⁷ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve: En presencia de cuerpos policiales agredieron a periodistas en Maiquetía* [Alerta IPYSve: Journalists assaulted in Maiquetía in the presence of police forces]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-en-presencia-de-cuerpos-policiales-agredieron-a-periodistas-en-maiquetia/>

⁵⁸ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve: En presencia de cuerpos policiales agredieron a periodistas en Maiquetía* [Alerta IPYSve: Journalists assaulted in Maiquetía in the presence of police forces]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-en-presencia-de-cuerpos-policiales-agredieron-a-periodistas-en-maiquetia/>

⁵⁹ SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1227343206305685505>

interview for Espacio Público, the journalist reported that when she approached to lift Díaz from the ground, a woman attacked her and pulled her hair.⁶⁰

AYMARA ALONSO

– EVTV MIAMI

(Tuesday, February 11th):

Journalist Aymara Alonso, from EVTV Miami, was assaulted by a group of violent people⁶¹ who pushed and insulted her while making a live broadcast from the International Airport of Maiquetía. Alonso denounced that the people called her “*mercenary paid by the Trump government*” and that they repeatedly tried to take away her microphone.

OSMARY HERNÁNDEZ

– CNN

(Tuesday, February 11th):

In an attempt to record live reports on what was happening at Maiquetía International Airport while waiting for Juan Guaidó, journalist Osmar Hernández was harassed by a group of people who shouted at her to leave the vicinity of the airport.⁶²

NEIDY FREITES AND ALONSO CENTENO

– VIVO PLAY AND TVV NOTICIAS

(Tuesday, February 11th):

Reporter Neidy Freites and cameraman Alonso Centeno were harassed on several occasions inside the facilities of Maiquetía International Airport. In an interview for IPYS, Freites said that “*they practically forced us to interview them because they surrounded us to listen to our live transmissions.*”⁶³

⁶⁰ Espacio Público. (2020). *Al menos 12 periodistas fueron agredidos por simpatizantes del chavismo en Maiquetía* [At least 12 journalists were attacked by pro-Chavez supporters at Maiquetía airport]. <http://espaciopublico.org/al-menos-12-periodistas-fueron-agredidos-por-simpatizantes-del-chavismo-en-maiquetia/>

⁶¹ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1227318155875377153>

⁶² SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1227314610019164161>

⁶³ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve En presencia de cuerpos policiales agredieron a periodistas en Maiquetía* [IPYSve Alert: Journalists were assaulted in the presence of police forces at Maiquetía airport]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-en-presencia-de-cuerpos-policiales-agredieron-a-periodistas-en-maiquetia/>

CRISTIAN HERNÁNDEZ

FORTUNE – AFP

(Wednesday, February 12th):

The SNTP denounced that the photojournalist Cristian Hernández Fortune, from the international media AFP, had his phone stolen⁶⁴ during the march called by the PSUV for Youth Day.

ANDREINA RAMOS AND

RAFAEL RIERA – VPITV

(Wednesday, February 12th):

Press workers Andreina Ramos and her cameraman Rafael Riera were forced to leave the facilities of the Antonio María Pineda Central Hospital, in Barquisimeto, Lara State, and were forbidden to do on-site interviews.⁶⁵ According to the SNTP, the journalists were approached by the supervisor of the Blood Bank, Iris Escalona. Gilberto Mendoza, Director of the hospital, assured them that the hospital was in optimal conditions and would not give any statements.

MILDRED MANRIQUE

– IMPACTO VENEZUELA

(Thursday, February 13th):

Journalist Mildred Manrique denounced on her Twitter account that two CICPC officers came to her house alleging an alleged “investigation for terrorism”⁶⁶ without giving further details and without any warrant. Manrique informed that, before leaving his residence, the officers asked him questions about his family.

JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ

– PUNTO DE CORTE

(Saturday, February 15th):

José González, a reporter from Punto de Corte news media, was beaten by two men while reporting on the water pumping service in San Fernando, Apure State. The SNTP denounced that one of the subjects tried to steal his work equipment; however, he only managed to take the reporter’s tripod.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1227641121171496960>

⁶⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1227645342730072065>

⁶⁶ Mildred Manrique. [@milmanrique]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/milmanrique/status/1227996576540438529>

⁶⁷ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1228875841066672129>

BLEIMA MÁRQUEZ – LA NACIÓN WEB

(Monday, February 22nd):

A GNB officer prevented journalist Bleima Márquez from La Nación Web from passing on Rotaria Avenue in San Cristóbal, Táchira State,⁶⁸ when she was returning from her day's work. Espacio Público reported that a journalist accompanying her and another military officer mediated with the official so that Márquez could continue her journey.

JESÚS MEDINA

(Wednesday, February 26th):

PNB officers detained for at least five hours photojournalist Jesús Medina⁶⁹ on his way to appear in court. The CNP informed the reason for the detention was that the police force had not issued in advance the necessary ticket for his removal from the Integrated Police Information System (SIPOL).

EUSEGLIMAR GONZÁLEZ, PASCUAL FILARDO, ANDERSON PIÑA, ÁNGEL ZAMBRANO, ENMANUEL DE SOUSA, ANDREINA RAMOS, RAFAEL RIERA, LIZ GASCÓN, YELITZA FIGUEROA AND MARÍA GRATEROL

(Saturday, February 29th):

Reporters Euseglimar González and Pascual Filardo from La Prensa de Lara; Anderson Piña, Ángel Zambrano and Enmanuel De Sousa from El Informador; Andreina Ramos and Rafael Riera from VPItv; Liz Gascón from El Pitazo; Yelitza Figueroa; and María Graterol, Communications Advisor of La Causa R political party, were harassed by armed civilians, who according to IPYS were identified as “colectivos”, when they were documenting a rally, in the La Paz neighborhood of Barquisimeto, Lara State, called by the Venezuelan opposition and which was attended by the President-in-Charge Juan Guaidó.

In statements to IPYS, reporter Liz Gascón said that she had to take shelter with her colleague

⁶⁸ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1364305903231655947>

⁶⁹ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1232771001378889729>

Euseglimar González because the subjects expressed to them, in a threatening manner, to know who they were and where they worked. According to IPYS, around 10:00 AM, before the arrival of Juan Guaidó, workers of the Mayor's Office of Iribarren took photographs of the journalists.⁷⁰ Two hours later, the armed and hooded subjects, accompanied by PSUV militants, began to beat the demonstrators and fired into the crowd of people. In addition, the armed individuals chased the reporters who were documenting what happened.

March

BLEIMA MÁRQUEZ – LA NACIÓN WEB

(Wednesday, March 4th):

Journalist Bleima Márquez, from newspaper La Nación Web, was detained and forced to go to the command of the Táchira State Police⁷¹ while she was doing reporting work in the vicinity of the passenger terminal in the city of San Cristóbal. Márquez was released once the officers had reviewed the material she had recorded.

KAREN ARANGUIBEL – EVTVM MIAMI

(Saturday, March 7th):

Journalist Karen Aranguibel from EVTVM Miami was threatened by an official of the DGCIM⁷² while covering a protest at a gas station in Maracaibo, Zulia State, against preferential treatment at the time of filling up with gasoline. The official demanded that the journalist give him her phone or delete the video, and a civilian woman threatened to kill her. Aranguibel managed to leave the site with the help of the demonstrators.

LUIS LÓPEZ – RCR AND LA VERDAD VARGAS

(Sunday, March 8th):

GNB officers arbitrarily detained journalist Luis

⁷⁰ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve: Periodistas fueron perseguidos por colectivos armados en Lara* [IPYSve Alert: Journalists harassed by armed colectivos in Lara]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alertaipysve-periodistas-fueron-perseguidos-por-colectivos-armados-en-lara/>

⁷¹ SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1235249042051026944>

⁷² SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1236311662925426691>

López while covering a women's demonstration in Plaza Los Maestros, Vargas State.⁷³ The journalist was released after five hours of detention. He stated that he was made to sign minutes that did not correspond to the facts and that his telephone was damaged.⁷⁴

**ANABEL CARRILLO
AND ORIANA CARDOZO**
– DIARIO QUÉ PASA
(Tuesday, March 10th):

An official of the Zulia State office snatched the camera of reporters Anabel Carrillo and Oriana Cardozo when he saw them photographing a crowd of motorized vehicles belonging to irregular armed groups,⁷⁵ which, according to the SNTP, was led by Lisandro Cabello, Secretary of the Zulia State government.

The incident occurred at the end of a march called by the Venezuelan opposition, and after a struggle with the official, they managed to recover their work equipment.

**JOSÉ GREGORIO ROJAS
AND CLAUDIA GARCÍA**
– VPITV
(Thursday, March 12th):

The CNP denounced that agents of the DGCIM, security officers of the Corporación Eléctrica Nacional (Corpoelec) and armed "colectivos," photographed reporter Gregorio Rojas and cameraman Claudia García⁷⁶ from media outlet VPITV, while they were covering the explosion of an electric transformer in Santa Elena, Mérida State.

JHONATAN USECHE
– LA PRENSA TÁCHIRA
(Thursday, March 12th):

The director of the media outlet La Prensa Táchira, José Gregorio Zambrano, denounced that GNB officers snatched the telephone of journalist Jhonatan Useche and deleted all the material⁷⁷ he had on the device about a

protest that took place on Antonio José de Sucre Avenue, in San Cristóbal, Táchira State, due to lack of fuel in the state.

JOSÉ RAMÍREZ
– VPITV
(Friday, March 13th):

A SEBIN officer recorded without authorization a correspondent from VPITV media, José Ramírez,⁷⁸ while conducting interviews at the pharmacy of the Luis Razetti Hospital in Barcelona, Anzoátegui State. This occurred after the regime of Nicolás Maduro reported the detection of the first COVID-19 cases in Venezuela.

CARLOS ROJAS
(Saturday, March 14th):

Communicator and union leader, Carlos Rojas, was beaten by subjects, who according to the CNP, were identified as armed collectives outside the Parque Carabobo Station⁷⁹ of Metro de Caracas when he demanded the closure of this transport as a prevention to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

MARIANA DE BARROS
– VIVOPLAY AND TVV NOTICIAS
(Monday, March 16th):

GNB officers prevented Mariana De Barros, a reporter from VivoPlay and TV Venezuela Noticias media,⁸⁰ from traveling to Caracas through the Panamericana Highway. She showed her journalist card and a video in which Vladimir Padrino López exempts press workers from quarantine, but the officers' response was: "you are not exempted from the measure, go back."

**ARIADNA GARCÍA AND
TAIRY GAMBOA**
– CRÓNICA UNO
(Monday, March 16th):

Officials of the Caracas Police detained Crónica Uno workers, Ariadna García and Tairy Gamboa, while they were making a tour of Catia in

⁷³ Impacto Venezuela. [@impactove]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ImpactoVE/status/1368950575895830529>

⁷⁴ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1369038065042358275>

⁷⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1237441990624763906>

⁷⁶ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1238224888156098560>

⁷⁷ La Prensa Táchira. [@laprensatachira]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/LaPrensaTachira/status/1238186808967442432>

⁷⁸ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1238527907430973441>

⁷⁹ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1238865793993060352>

⁸⁰ Mariana De Barros. [@mdebarrosf]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/mdebarrosf/status/1239565004623482881>

Caracas,⁸¹ to document the quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both were forced by the officials to delete the material collected because “they could distort the information in a delicate situation”, and were later released.

CÉSAR SAAVEDRA
– CNVE24

(Monday, March 16th):

Officials of the Chacao Police harassed the cameraman from Centro de Noticias Venezuela 24 (CNVE24), César Saavedra.⁸² He was photographed and was asked for his identification while covering the closing of a local store selling masks and gloves on Francisco de Miranda Avenue.

SOFÍA TORRES
– FACTORES DE PODER
(Monday, March 16th):

A GNB officer threatened and forced the correspondent from Factores De Poder, Sofía Torres, to delete all the material she had recorded while covering Propatria, Caracas,⁸³ during the quarantine.

Likewise, the official told her that she was no one to inform and that the one who informs is “Commander in Chief Nicolás Maduro.”

JOSÉ MEZA – EL NACIONAL
(Monday, March 16th):

Officials of the GNB tried to block the passing of the Head of Information of El Nacional, José Meza,⁸⁴ when he was on his way to Caracas.

He showed his credentials and reminded the officers of what was said by the Minister of Defense of the regime, Vladimir Padrino López, to which they replied that they could not pass “neither doctors, nor journalists, nor anyone.”

KERLIN MOSQUERA
– DIARIO 2001 AND MERIDIANO TV
(Tuesday, March 17th):

Officials of the CICPC, PNB, and FAES detained Kerlin Mosquera, a journalist from Diario 2001

⁸¹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1239586618702430211>

⁸² Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1239612119890513920>

⁸³ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1239614767599439872>

⁸⁴ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1240070434621702148>

and Meridiano TV⁸⁵ for 40 minutes and broke his identification. He was detained when he was boarding public transport on Urdaneta Avenue in Caracas, allegedly for not wearing a mask.

MÓNICA SALAZAR
– CRÓNICA UNO
(Monday, March 23th):

Officials of the Autonomous Institute of the Sucre State Police (IAPES) prevented Crónica Uno’s correspondent, Mónica Salazar,⁸⁶ from passing as she was on her way to the Antonio Patricio de Alcalá University Hospital, in Cumaná, where a press conference was held.

ROSALÍ HERNÁNDEZ
– CARAOTA DIGITAL
(Tuesday, March 24th):

FAES officers arbitrarily detained Caraota Digital photojournalist Rosalí Hernández for 40 minutes.⁸⁷

In addition, they took away her work equipment and deleted all the material she had recorded while she was reporting in Catia. One of the officials pointed out that “no one has the authorization to be recording in the area, nor any other place.”

JESÚS BERMÚDEZ
– DIARIO EL TIEMPO
(Wednesday, March 25th):

Reporter Jesús Bermúdez from media outlet Diario El Tiempo was forced by police officers in Barcelona, Anzoátegui State,⁸⁸ to delete everything he had documented at a gas station in the state. He was also threatened with arrest.

YARNALDO TOVAR
– 360 GRADOS INTERNACIONAL
(Wednesday, March 25th):

PNB officers arbitrarily detained journalist Yarnaldo Tovar, from media 360 Grados Internacional,⁸⁹ while he was reporting on the

⁸⁵ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1240030852807110656>

⁸⁶ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1242444501580419072>

⁸⁷ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1242519263430299649>

⁸⁸ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1242889668825358339>

⁸⁹ 360 Grados Internacional. [@360gradosinter1]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/360GradosInter1/status/1242903948035579906>

coronavirus at the Hospital Periférico de Coche. Tovar was released that same night.

ALEXANDER ZERLIN
– RUMBERA 94.7 FM
(Wednesday, March 25th):

A GNB officer detained journalist from Rumbera 94.7 FM circuit, Alexander Zerlin⁹⁰ at a gas station in San Carlos, Cojedes State, demanding that he be supplied with gasoline to continue working. The officials alleged that the journalist was “disturbing public order.”

ELADIO MUCHACHO UNDA
– DIARIO DE LOS ANDES
(Sunday, March 29th):

Members of Nicolás Maduro’s regime identified as “La Furia Bolivariana” (Bolivarian Rage) painted graffiti on the wall of the house of Eladio Muchacho Unda,⁹¹ Editor-in-Chief of Diario de Los Andes, in Valera, Trujillo State.

CARLA ANGOLA
(Tuesday, March 31st):

Journalist Carla Angola reported on her Twitter account that unidentified individuals violently entered the building of her parents’ residency⁹² in La Pastora, Caracas. They asked for the journalist, who has not been living in the country for some time.

ALBERTO RODRÍGUEZ
– ALBERTO NEWS
(Tuesday, March 31st):

Members of Nicolás Maduro’s regime wrote intimidating messages at the entrance of journalist Alberto Rodríguez’s residence in Caracas.⁹³ Only his father and niece live in the house.

⁹⁰ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1243203347471089664>

⁹¹ Diario de Los Andes. [@diariodelosandes]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/diariodelosandes/status/1244435284017774592>

⁹² Carla Angola. [@carlaangola]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/carlaangola/status/1244953836265103360>

⁹³ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1244971336730120193>

April

ESTHER YÁÑEZ
– SPUTNIK MUNDO
(Thursday, April 2nd):

A GNB officer and a civilian woman intimidated Sputnik Mundo correspondent Esther Yáñez when documenting the fuel line at the La Florida gas station in Caracas.⁹⁴ The official checked the journalist’s phone and deleted the photographs she had taken.

MAYERLIN VILLANUEVA AND LUIS COBARÍA
– LA PRENSA TÁCHIRA
(Tuesday, April 7th):

GNB officers detained for more than four hours the journalists of La Prensa Táchira, Mayerlin Villanueva and Luis Cobaría, in Peracal, Táchira State.⁹⁵ The detention occurred when they were trying to gain access to the San Antonio Fire Department.

The officers confiscated the journalists’ equipment, arbitrarily deleted the material, and prevented them from making a call during their detention.

ANA RODRÍGUEZ
– TELEMUNDO 51
(Wednesday, April 8th):

An official of the Mayor’s Office of Sucre, Miranda state, tried to prevent Telemundo 51 reporter Ana Rodríguez from taking supporting shots in the Petare Roundabout.⁹⁶

The official demanded that she leave the place, even though the reporter carried her journalist’s badge.

ARNALDO SUMOZA
– CANAL 15 DE GUÁRICO
(Tuesday, April 14th):

GNB officers arbitrarily detained journalist Arnaldo Sumoza, director of Canal 15 de Guárico, while he was documenting a protest over lack of water in El Sombrero, Guárico

⁹⁴ Esther Yáñez. [@estheryez]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/EstherYez/status/1248060090948751361>

⁹⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1247674824220184583>

⁹⁶ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1247917438877958145>

State.⁹⁷ He was charged with disturbing the public order and was released on April 16th under a 60-day court appearing requirement.

**FRANCISCO FIGUERA
– EL CARABOBEÑO
(Tuesday, April 14th):**

Journalist Francisco Figuera, from El Carabobo, denounced that officials of the Carabobo Police demanded that he delete the photographic material he had of the Autopista Regional del Centro gas station. The officers argued that he did not have the authorization to take photographs in the place. Later, while Figuera conducted interviews with health workers that had been in line for more than three days to fill up with gasoline at the Redoma de Guaparo gas station, DGCIM officers demanded him to delete everything he had documented.⁹⁸

**SERGIO NOVELLI,
CARLA ANGOLA,
IBÉYISE PACHECO,
LEOPOLDO CASTILLO,
ALBERTO RODRÍGUEZ
AND NELSON BOCARANDA
(Wednesday, April 15th):**

Diosdado Cabello described as “palangristas” (journalist or news media that receives illicit money, nonethical) several Venezuelan journalists in his program *Con el Mazo Dando*, televised through the state channel VTV. Cabello said, “... they are looking to cash now to never appear again because their credibility is at rock bottom”. Furthermore, in a press release published on the program’s web page, the journalists were accused of being the main “promoters of Fake News and attacks against Venezuela.”⁹⁹

**SERGIO NOVELLI
(Thursday, April 16th):**

Journalist Sergio Novelli denounced that officials of the DGCIM raided his house in Venezuela, where a pastoral family currently lives. The officials arrived with an investigation order and

took five computers and five telephones.¹⁰⁰ In response, the journalist said: “I don’t know what they’re looking for. The only thing I do is to inform about what is happening in my country, its reality. I don’t know if they want me to shut up. My job as a journalist is to always tell the truth”.

**ELVIS RIVAS
– GLOBOVISIÓN
(Thursday, April 16th):**

GNB officers detained Globovisión correspondent in Mérida State, Elvis Rivas, on his way home. The officers took away the documents of his vehicle, and he was held for 45 minutes, even though, according to the Legislative Council of the State of Miranda (CLEBM), press workers only need their journalist identification to transit.¹⁰¹

**JOSÉ RENGEL
– TE LO CUENTO NEWS
(Friday, April 17th):**

The Press and Public Relations Office of the Sucre State Government denied access to a press conference on health issues to José Rengel, a correspondent from Te Lo Cuento News. Upon arrival, the journalist showed his credentials and was not allowed in the room, this being the second time that he was prevented from reporting a press conference.¹⁰²

In an interview for Espacio Público, José Rengel denounced that other media were at the site. “This shows that it is an affront, there is a bias and a kind of discrimination against independent journalists and only the sympathetic and collaborationist media are allowed to pass,” he said.¹⁰³

**SERGIO NOVELLI
(Tuesday, April 21st):**

Nicolás Maduro accused journalist Sergio Novelli of being a “communication mercenary” and blamed him for promoting the Venezuelan diaspora.

⁹⁷ CNP Caracas. [cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1250265674468868096>

⁹⁸ IPYS Venezuela. [ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1250105209164087304>

⁹⁹ Con El Mazo Dando. (2020). *Estos son los palangristas víctimas de Juanito Alimaña [These are Juanito Alimaña’s victim palangristas]*. <https://mazo4f.com/uno-a-uno-estos-son-los-palangristas-victimas-de-juanito-alimana-cabello>

¹⁰⁰ Sergio Novelli. [sergionovelli]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/SergioNovelli/status/1250826919282716672>

¹⁰¹ SNTP. [sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1250893435864780800>

¹⁰² SNTP. [sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1251172166491652098>

¹⁰³ Espacio Público. (2020). *Niegan acceso a rueda de prensa a corresponsal de Te Lo Cuento News [Te Lo Cuento News correspondent denied access to press conference]*. <http://espaciopublico.org/niegan-acceso-a-rueda-de-prensa-a-corresponsal-de-te-lo-cuento-news/>

The accusation came after the journalist interviewed 13 Venezuelans returning to the country from Peru after losing their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁴

HIDALGO RINCÓN
– A.L STÉREO 89.7 FM
(Thursday, April 23rd):

CONAS officials arbitrarily detained the independent broadcaster of A.L Stéreo 89.7 FM, Hidalgo Rincón, in Santa Bárbara, Zulia State, for allegedly criticizing the situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Rincón was released on April 24th.¹⁰⁵

NATALIA ROCA
– IMPACTO VENEZUELA
(Saturday, April 25th):

A sergeant of the GNB harassed Natalia Roca, a journalist from Impacto Venezuela. The officer recorded her and said she could not continue her journalistic work of interviewing citizens in Quinta Crespo, Caracas.¹⁰⁶

OVIDIO MORA
– PLENITUD 103.5 FM AND
PERIÓDICO DEL DELTA
(Saturday, April 25th):

GNB officers detained Ovidio Mora, host of radio station Plenitud 103.5 FM and contributor for Periódico del Delta, alongside his wife, when he was on his way to take food to his son in Delta Amacuro State. Ovidio Mora was released after 24 hours of detention in a GNB command in Tucupita.¹⁰⁷

FEDERICO BLACK
(Sunday, April 26th):

Pro-regime supporters graffitied threatening messages on a wall of journalist Federico Black's home.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1253087362646716416>

¹⁰⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1253480303961702405>

¹⁰⁶ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1254100652571099136>

¹⁰⁷ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1254556937355767811>

¹⁰⁸ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1254481555248025605>

May

KATIUSKA GONZÁLEZ AND
WILMER BARRERO
– NUEVA PRENSA DE GUAYANA
(Monday, May 4th):

Journalist Katiuska González and photojournalist Wilmer Barreto from newspaper Nueva Prensa de Guayana were harassed by an official of the DGCIM while documenting reports of illegal charges in dollars to fill vehicles with gasoline at a gas station in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State. The official snatched the journalist's telephone and deleted a photograph she had taken at the station.¹⁰⁹

ELIANA PALENCIA
– PRIMERA NOTICIA
(Thursday, May 7th):

Militiamen and members of the Board of Directors from Dr. Jesús García Coello Hospital, in Falcón State, prevented access to a journalist from Primera Noticia, Eliana Palencia,¹¹⁰ who was at the hospital to conduct a special Mother's Day interview with a nurse with more than 20 years of service.

ROLANDO RODRÍGUEZ
– LA PRENSA LARA
(Friday, May 8th):

GNB officers detained a driver from La Prensa Lara, Rolando Rodríguez, while recording a video after being evicted from the Don Bau gas station on Libertador Avenue in Barquisimeto, Lara State.¹¹¹ The incident occurred when Rodríguez was about to fill his vehicle with gas. He was taken to Detachment 121 of the GNB and released in the evening hours of that same day. The officers checked his cell phone and deleted some photographs.

LUIS LÓPEZ
– LA VERDAD DE VARGAS
(Monday, May 11th):

Eight members of the GNB harassed the journalist from newspaper La Verdad de Vargas,

¹⁰⁹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1257352930698592258>

¹¹⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1258510092170702848>

¹¹¹ La Prensa Lara. [@laprensalaral]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/laprensalaral/status/1258913440191709185>

Luis López, while he was covering a doctors' protest for gasoline on Soublette Avenue in La Guaira.¹¹² The officers forced the journalist to delete the material, surrounded him, intimidated him, and threatened to arrest him. They then checked his phone to make sure he had deleted the video.

GABRIEL LABRADOR
– GIGA 91.3 FM
(Tuesday, May 12th):

The Administration Manager of the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Alberto Adriani in the State of Merida, Roder Urdaneta, harassed the journalist from Giga 91.3 FM, Gabriel Labrador.¹¹³

During an interview, the journalist asked Urdaneta: *"How do you keep the peace with all these problems that the people have?"* The answer he received was: *"Use the microphones responsibly, for later when we take actions don't say that we are the dictators [...] we have been patient but remember people get tired of the attacks"*.

JESÚS ALBERTO
SEGOVIA BASTIDAS
– LA SÉPTIMA JORNADA
(Thursday, May 14th):

Journalist Jesús Alberto Segovia Bastidas denounced on his Twitter account that he was detained by a GNB officer on Páez avenue in El Paraíso, in Caracas, allegedly after a "colectivo" commanded it.¹¹⁴

Bastidas was taking testimonies for La Séptima Jornada, intending to document how citizens handle the gasoline shortage. At the time of the arrest, the official snatched his phone, and with the "colectivo" reviewed its contents and deleted WhatsApp conversations, photos and videos.

JOAN GODDELIETT
– FM CENTER Y RADIOCANAL 98.3 FM
(Thursday, May 14th):

A lieutenant of the GNB threatened to arrest the journalist of FM Center and RadioCanal 98.3 FM Joan GoddeliETT as he was entering the Vista Lago service station in Guarenas,

Miranda State.¹¹⁵ In the early morning hours, the journalist had recorded a protest by users for more than three hours.

JOSÉ GALINDO
– CRIOLLA 92.9 FM
(Friday, May 15th):

CONAS officials arbitrarily detained the host and Director of radio station Criolla 92.9 FM, José Galindo, at his home in San Fernando de Apure.¹¹⁶ This media outlet was shut down by CONATEL on May 7th, 2019.

The host appeared in court on May 17th in San Fernando de Apure and was asked for 15 bonds for his parole. These would be verified within 15 days, while the broadcaster would remain incarcerated in the CONAS headquarters.¹¹⁷

MILTON MORENO,
ROMINA UZCÁTEGUI AND
MARCOS VILLEGAS
– PALPITAR TRUJILLANO
(Tuesday, May 19th):

Trujillo Police officers harassed Milton Moreno, Romina Uzcátegui and Marcos Villegas, members of the reporting team of the independent media Palpitar Trujillano.¹¹⁸

The incident occurred in the Morón sector of Valera, Trujillo State. The officers took away their cell phones and informed them that *"due to new orders from the police authorities and the State Governor,"* they could not take photographs or report any scene.

MARIALEJANDRA MELÉNDEZ
– DIARIO PRIMICIA
(Thursday, May 21st):

GNB officers and security personnel of the Raúl Leoni Hospital in Ciudad Guayana, Bolívar state, detained and harassed journalist Marialejandra Meléndez from the newspaper Diario Primicia.¹¹⁹ The journalist was approached while taking photos of the facade of the health center,

¹¹² SNTP. [sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1260003897990619137>

¹¹³ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1260662611127009286>

¹¹⁴ Segovia Bastidas. [@segoviabastidas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/SegoviaBastidas/status/1260981101515988992>

¹¹⁵ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCCaracas/status/1261383744692379649>

¹¹⁶ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1261297142947352578>

¹¹⁷ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1262106796417847297>

¹¹⁸ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1262797776578019334>

¹¹⁹ Diario Primicia. [@diarioprincipia]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/DiarioPrimicia/status/1263490324225236992>

and officers tried to snatch her phone and forced her to delete the material. They took pictures of her and threatened to send her personal information to the DGCIM.¹²⁰ She was released minutes later.

**ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ,
RAYNER PEÑA AND
DANIEL BLANCO
– EL PITAZO AND AGENCIA EFE
(Friday, May 22nd):**

GNB officers harassed photojournalists Andrés Rodríguez from El Pitazo, Rayner Peña from Agencia EFE, and independent journalist Daniel Blanco when they were in the vicinity of the DIRECTV headquarters in El Rosal.¹²¹

The reporters were there to document the occupation of the headquarters, ordered by the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) of the regime of Nicolás Maduro.¹²² The officials checked their phones and deleted the material that Rodríguez had recorded. They also asked them to accompany them to the company's offices for allegedly “violating the security perimeter,” but later retracted the decision.

**ROGER LUNA – EL BUS TV
(Friday, May 22nd):**

Roger Luna, a journalism student from El Bus TV media, was harassed by a Trujillo State police officer,¹²³ who demanded that he delete some photos he had taken after pasting a flipchart on a wall in the downtown.

The officer also ordered that he handed over his telephone and threatened to take him to the police station.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1263557676040151043>

¹²¹ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1263959733842690050>

¹²² Souquett, M. (2020). *TSJ ordena ocupación de Directv Venezuela y restitución del servicio [TSJ orders occupation of Directv Venezuela and restitution of service]*. Efecto Cocuyo. <https://efectococuyo.com/la-humanidad/tsj-ordena-ocupacion-de-directv-venezuela-y-restitucion-del-servicio/>

¹²³ El Bus TV. [@elbustv]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/elbusTV/status/1263981548749062144>

¹²⁴ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Reportero de El Bus TV fue coaccionado a borrar fotografías en Trujillo [IPYSveAlert: El Bus TV reporter coerced into deleting photographs in Trujillo]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-reportero-de-el-bus-tv-fue-coaccionado-a-borrar-fotografias-en-trujillo/>

**ADIXSON HERNÁNDEZ
– GUARAÑA 97.5 FM
(Saturday, May 23th):**

Guárico Police officers threatened host of Guaraña 97.5 FM radio station, Adixson Hernández, while covering a protest for lack of fuel in Altigracia de Orituco, Guárico State.¹²⁵ One of the officers threatened to destroy his telephone if he did not turn it off.

**DANILO SARMIENTO
– DIARIO LA MAÑANA
(Monday, May 25th):**

GNB officers assaulted journalist Danilo Sarmiento of Diario La Mañana while covering a protest against the lack of running water in Falcón State.

During the aggression, the journalist's cell phone screen broke and caused a cut in the palm of his hand.¹²⁶

**CAROLAIN CARABALLO
– CARAOTA DIGITAL
(Monday, May 25th):**

Two unidentified individuals harassed Caraota Digital reporter Carolain Caraballo while reporting the water filling station for cisterns in Lomas del Avila. The individuals chased and recorded the journalist and later called a PNB officer, who only asked to see Caraballo's credentials.¹²⁷

**IRENE REVILLA AND ELIANA
PALENCIA
– EL PITAZO AND PRIMERA NOTICIA
(Tuesday, May 26th):**

Security personnel of the El Cardón refinery, Falcón State, restricted access to the coverage of the arrival of an Iranian vessel loaded with gasoline to journalists Irene Revilla and Eliana Palencia, from El Pitazo and Primera Noticia, respectively.¹²⁸

The journalists were told the press had no access and that they should leave the place,

¹²⁵ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1264286950539829255>

¹²⁶ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1264954399685840899>

¹²⁷ Carolain. [@carolainc]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CarolainC/status/1264971529386971139>

¹²⁸ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1265379050002026497>

even though the government team and correspondents of VTV and Nuevo Día were allowed to enter.¹²⁹

PEDRO GARCÍA
– UNITV

(Wednesday, May 27th):

A GNB colonel threatened to arrest UniTV journalist Pedro García at the Virgen del Valle gas station on Fucho Tovar Avenue in Nueva Esparta State.¹³⁰ The officer deleted some videos and photos from the journalist's phone.

June

EDUARD ROJAS
– TREMENDA 105.7FM
(Monday, June 1st):

A GNB commission arbitrarily detained Eduard Rojas, Director of Tremenda 105.7FM radio station,¹³¹ for commenting on his radio program La Prensa on an argument he recorded between two civilians and a military man at the El Calvario service station in Santa Cruz de Mora, Merida State. The radio host was beaten and accused of assaulting a GNB officer.

He later was presented before the Prosecutor's Office on Wednesday, June 3rd. The judge in charge of his case dismissed the accusation, and he was released on June 4th.

YELITZA FIGUEROA
(Monday, June 1st):

A GNB officer intimidated journalist Yelitza Figueroa¹³² and prevented her from filming at the La Cruz gas station in Barquisimeto.

The correspondent was making a tour of different gas stations during the implementation of the new fuel supply system announced by the regime of Nicolás Maduro and which began on Monday, June 1st.

JORGE CORTEZ
– MÁGICA 93.3 FM
(Monday, June 1st):

The Director and host of Mágica 93.3 FM radio station, Jorge Cortez, was arbitrarily detained by municipal police officers in Ciudad Ojeda, Zulia State,¹³³ after recording the beginning of the fuel supply plan announced by the regime at the Las Morochas gas station. The officers detained him at PoliLagunillas headquarters. He was released from prison on the night of Wednesday, June 3rd, under a 45-day court-appearing regime and was charged with "instigation to commit a crime."

LIZAURA NORIEGA
– PORTAL DE NOTICIAS
(Tuesday, June 2nd):

GNB officers tried to take away the phone of Lizaura Noriega, photojournalist of Portal de Noticias,¹³⁴ while she was covering the militarization of the University Hospital in Maracaibo, Zulia State. The officers also tried to force her into the health center.

DANIEL SOSA
– EL INFORMADOR
(Wednesday, June 3rd):

A GNB officer prevented reporter Daniel Sosa from El Informador from recording the information communicated to him by the people who spent the night at a gas station in Cabudare, Lara State.¹³⁵ The officer told him that he had to ask for permission to record.

MARÍA FERNANDA BOLÍVAR
– TODOS AHORA
(Wednesday, June 3rd):

The reporter of the digital media Todos Ahora, María Fernanda Bolívar, was intimidated by a GNB officer¹³⁶ while she was doing journalistic work at a gas station in Bolívar Municipality, Anzoátegui State. The officer demanded an authorization signed by the general of ZODI 51,

¹²⁹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1265364296659349505>

¹³⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1265710486483501065>

¹³¹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1267546304848281600>

¹³² Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1267592018265595906>

¹³³ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1268151226727895041>

¹³⁴ CNP Zulia. [@cnpzulia]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/cnpzulia/status/1267888712807075841>

¹³⁵ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1268294440180944898>

¹³⁶ Noticias Todos Ahora [@todosahora_ve]. (2020). Twitter. https://twitter.com/TodosAhora_Ve/status/1268269942148943873

Jesús Ramírez Molina, to conduct interviews.

CAROL ROMERO
– CANDELA 91.9 FM
(Thursday, June 4th):

Journalist Carol Romero of Candela 91.9 FM was assaulted and arbitrarily detained by GNB officers,¹³⁷ after recording an altercation between military and civilians at the Km. 7 gas and station in El Junquito. After the arrest, the whereabouts of the journalist were unknown. However, 25 hours after the event, officials at the Km. 12 Command received food and a blanket for her given to them by her family, who were not allowed to see her.

The GNB tried to hold Carol Romero responsible for “aggressions and disturbance of public order.” On Friday, June 5th, her presentation hearing was held at the Second Municipal Control Court. On the same day, she was released and forbidden to give statements on her case.

LUIS PATIÑO,
JHONATAN BELLO,
DANGERT ZORRILLA AND
OSCAR AVILEZ
– VPITV
(Friday, June 5th):

GNB officers arbitrarily detained Luis Patiño, Jhonatan Bello, Dangert Zorrilla, and Oscar Avilez, press team of VPITV new media,¹³⁸ while they were conducting interviews with people who were waiting to fill up gasoline at a gas station in Chuao, Miranda State.

After an hour and a half of the detention, the media outlet informed that its team had been released.

VIRGINIA SERRANO
ANDSHILEY GÓMEZ
– DIARIO EL TIGRENSE AND
RADIO FE Y ALEGRÍA
(Friday, June 5th):

GNB officers tried to take away the cell phones of journalists Shiley Gómez, of Radio Fe y Alegría and Virginia Serrano, of El Tigrense

newspaper,¹³⁹ while covering a protest in the northern sector of El Tigre, in Anzoátegui State, to demand food boxes from the Local Supply and Production Committee (CLAP).

CARLOS PADILLA
(Friday, June 5th):

Freelance photographer Carlos Padilla was arbitrarily detained by GNB¹⁴⁰ officers while photographing a protest demanding information on the gasoline supply at the Lido gas station in Valle de Pascua, Guárico State. The officers took him to a Guárico Police headquarters, where he was detained for an hour and a half.

JESÚS MEDINA
(Sunday, June 7th):

Photojournalist Jesús Medina denounced that he was the victim of a robbery by armed subjects in the Fechas Patrias sector in Petare, Caracas.¹⁴¹

Medina explained that his camera was taken while taking pictures in the area and stated that both robbers were armed.

RUTH LAVERDE
AND LARRY CASTRO
– VPITV
(Wednesday, June 10th):

Journalist Ruth Laverde and cameraman Larry Castro, from VPITV, were harassed by officers of the Municipal Police of Valencia, Carabobo State, when they were interviewing store-owners downtown, in Constitución Avenue.

The press workers were approached by three officers who asked them for their personal information, including their full names, identity cards, the media they worked for, the type of work they were doing, and the questions they were asking the interviewees. Subsequently, the officials continued to surround the VPITV team, so they could not continue with the interviews and left the place.¹⁴²

¹³⁹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1268924275387400194>

¹⁴⁰ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1269092035530764288>

¹⁴¹ Jesús Medina. [@jesusmedinae]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/jesusmedinae/status/1269719094326169601>

¹⁴² IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Equipo de prensa de VPI TV fue intimidado por Policía de Valencia [IPYSveAlert: VPI TV Press Team Intimidated by Valencia Police]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-equipo-de-prensa-de-vpi-tv-fue-intimidado-por-policia-de-valencia/>

¹³⁷ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1268587952164286464>

¹³⁸ VPITV. [@vpitv]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/VPITV/status/1268922294874882052>

EDWIN ORTIZ AND LENIN DANIERI

(Wednesday, June 17th):

GNB officers detained journalists Edwin Ortiz and Lenin Danieri while filming in downtown Maracaibo, Zulia State.¹⁴³ The officers let them go once they had checked their work equipment.

JOSÉ ALBERTO RAMÍREZ – VPITV

(Wednesday, June 24th):

Police officers of the Bolívar Municipality snatched the cell phone of VPITV correspondent, Jose Alberto Ramirez,¹⁴⁴ in Anzoátegui State and forced him to delete the images he had of an arrest in Bulevar 5 de Julio, in Barcelona. The officers threatened to arrest him so that he would delete the material.

DANIELA SALCEDO – TODOS AHORA

(Thursday, June 25th):

TodosAhora reporter Daniela Salcedo denounced that a GNB officer chased her¹⁴⁵ after filming a long line of vehicles near the Paramacay gas station in Naguanagua, Carabobo State.

ANDREINA RAMOS AND RAFAEL RIERA – VPITV

(Tuesday, June 30th):

A captain of the Infantry Brigade of Barquisimeto, Lara State, prohibited VPITV correspondent Andrea Ramos and her cameraman, Rafael Riera, from filming outside the military offices¹⁴⁶ while reporting accusations of irregularities to process safe-conducts in the state. The captain assured that they had to have authorization from ZODI 13 to record and threatened to inspect their equipment.

¹⁴³ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1273279255355539458>

¹⁴⁴ VPITV. [@vpitv]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/VPITV/status/1268922294874882052>

¹⁴⁵ Espacio Público. (2020). *Funcionario de la GNB persiguió a la reportera Daniela Salcedo* [GNB officer chased reporter Daniela Salcedo]. <http://espaciopublico.org/funcionario-de-la-gnb-persiguió-a-la-reportera-daniela-salcedo/>

¹⁴⁶ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1277968922403192842>

July

JOSÉ GREGORIO ROJAS – VPITV

(Thursday, July 2nd):

The SNTP denounced that an unknown vehicle followed correspondent José Gregorio Rojas, from VPITV media outlet, in Mérida State.¹⁴⁷ It was impossible to determine where he was followed from. Rojas noticed that upon arriving at his home, an individual got out of the car and photographed it.

VALERIA RODRÍGUEZ (Saturday, July 4th):

Officials of the Anti-Drug Division of the National Police arrested producer Valeria Rodríguez, in Altamira, Caracas, at Moreno Restaurant,¹⁴⁸ while recording the arrest of chef Víctor Moreno in a procedure to check premises in the area. Minutes later, the SNTP reported she had been released.

CAROLINA VILLANUEVA – NOTICIAS 24 (Monday, July 6th):

Journalist Carolina Villanueva, from Noticias 24, was detained for more than three hours when traveling to Caracas from Guatire, Miranda State, on public transport. Officials of the Zamora Municipality forced her to get out of the vehicle and asked her for her identity card. In addition, they told her that press workers were not part of the priority employees who could move around the country due to the COVID-19 quarantine and that only health personnel had a travel permit. According to IPYS, after three hours of detention, one of the officials refused to hand over her documents until the journalist stated that she had understood that she was not part of the priority industries.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1278832448923668480>

¹⁴⁸ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1279507488811999233?s=20>

¹⁴⁹ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Dos periodistas detenidas en menos de 48 horas en Caracas y Miranda* [IPYSveAlert: Two journalists arrested in less than 48 hours in Caracas and Miranda]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-dos-periodistas-detenido-en-menos-de-48-horas-en-caracas-y-miranda/>

**RUTH LAVERDE,
DAYRÍ BLANCO,
CAROLINA CAMPOS
– VPITV, CARAOTA DIGITAL AND
TERMÓMETRO NACIONAL
(Tuesday, July 14th):**

Journalists Ruth Lavarde from VPITV, Dayrí Blanco from Caraota Digital, and Carolina Campos of Termómetro Nacional were harassed and threatened when doing journalistic work on the railroad in Guacara, Carabobo State.¹⁵⁰

The SNTP reported that men in civilian clothes insulted them, and when they were in their vehicle, they tried to block the way on the highway Autopista Regional del Centro.

**GLEYBERT ASENCIO,
RONALD MONTAÑO AND
YONATHAN TORRES
– CRÓNICA UNO
(Wednesday, July 15th):**

Photojournalist Gleybert Asencio, from media outlet Crónica Uno, was arbitrarily detained by GNB officers with Ronald Montaña and Yonathan Torres, drivers from digital media, near the Hotel Palmar, in Plaza Venezuela, Caracas, a place used to shelter COVID-19 patients.

The three press workers had their work and identity cards taken from them. The officials alleged that the detention responded to the journalists “reporting false testimonies.”¹⁵¹ Subsequently, the General from ZODI Capital informed journalists were not allowed to cover what was happening in care centers or shelters for COVID-19 patients.

Crónica Uno reported Asencio, Montaña, and Torres were released approximately two and a half hours later.¹⁵²

**OTILIO RODRÍGUEZ
– CARUPANIZATE
(Wednesday, July 15th):**

GNB officers detained the Director of Carupanizate media after he reported on the alleged illegal sale of gasoline by the GNB.¹⁵³ on radio Candela Pura 93.3 FM, in Carúpano, Sucre State. The journalist was released under a curt appearing regime every eight months and charged with “incitement to hatred.”¹⁵⁴

**RICHARD RODRÍGUEZ
– RADIOMANÍA 89.7 FM
(Wednesday, July 15th):**

The director of Radiomanía 89.7 FM radio station, Richard Rodríguez, was in a vertical gymnasium in Carúpano, one of the shelters designated by the regime to tend patients in Sucre State. Rodríguez had taken his wife to the shelter as she presented COVID-19 symptoms. The journalist recorded a video to make known the precarious conditions in which the patients were subjected in this place.

Rodríguez and his wife were transferred to a location near the morgue of the General Hospital of Carúpano. The SNTP denounced “*he was taken out and taken, with his wife, to a place without water and any other medical surveillance service.*”¹⁵⁵

**CARLOS ROJAS AND
BORIS PLOTNIKOV
(Tuesday, July 23rd):**

Journalist Carlos Rojas and photojournalist Boris Plotnikov were arbitrarily detained by PNB officers in the vicinity of the Venezuelan Social Security Institute (IVSS), in Altigracia, Caracas,¹⁵⁶ while documenting a protest by retirees and pensioners.

In statements to IPYS, Plotnikov said that allegedly a member of the “colectivos” ordered officers to arrest them. Police assaulted them and took the journalist to a patrol car. In

¹⁵⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1283055184369901568?s=20>

¹⁵¹ Tal Cual Digital. (2020). *Liberan a los tres trabajadores de Crónica Uno detenidos por «levantar falso testimonio»* [Three Crónica Uno workers detained for “false testimony” released]. <https://talcualdigital.com/guardia-nacional-mantiene-detenidos-a-tres-trabajadores-de-cronica-uno-en-el-alba-caracas/>

¹⁵² Crónica Uno. [@cronicauno]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CronicaUno/status/1283457005693423618>

¹⁵³ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1283754179312455680>

¹⁵⁴ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1283818401606107137>

¹⁵⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1283614217334075392>

¹⁵⁶ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Dos periodistas fueron detenidos en protesta de jubilados* [IPYSve Alert: Two journalists detained in a retirees demonstration]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-dos-periodistas-fueron-detenidos-en-protesta-de-jubilados/>

addition, both were taken to the PNB Criminal Investigations Department on Lecuna Avenue, where were arrested for at least eight hours.¹⁵⁷

ESTENINF OLIVAREZ
- IMPACTO VENEZUELA
(Tuesday, July 23rd):

Journalist Esteninf Olivarez, from Impacto Venezuela, was beaten by PNB officers with her cameraman,¹⁵⁸ who was moved into a truck to be taken away. The cameraman managed to get out of the police truck. This event happened while Olivares was reporting on a protest by pensioners and retirees outside the IVSS.

ROSIMAR SÁNCHEZ
- EL CARABOBEÑO
(Tuesday, July 23rd):

Officials of the Carabobo Police forced journalist Rosimar Sánchez, of the media El Carabobeño, to delete part of the photographic material from a report on compliance with biosafety standards in different stores in the city of Valencia, Carabobo State.

The incident occurred in the Luxor supermarket, where she was approached by the manager, who informed her that she would be retained until the arrival of Carabobo Police officers.¹⁵⁹ Upon arrival, the officers insisted she should accompany them to the command, but upon Sánchez's refusal, they forced her to delete her photographic material.

FRANKLIN RODRÍGUEZ
- NOTIPASCUA AND EL NACIONAL
(Thursday, July 30th):

PNB officers took away Franklin Rodríguez's journalist credential while he was taking photographs at the El Lido service station on the outskirts of Valle de la Pascua, Guárico State.¹⁶⁰ At least four officers demanded that he delete the images he had taken at the site and hand

over his phone.¹⁶¹ When Rodríguez refused, the officers threatened to tow his vehicle. The journalist decided to go to a police station, where he demanded to hand over his identity and journalist card. Rodríguez's documents were handed over to the SNTP delegate for Guárico State, who intervened in the case.¹⁶²

ADYLENE PEÑALVER
(Thursday, July 30th):

Journalist Adylene Peñalver was harassed by PNB officers who forced her to delete the audiovisual material she had from the façade of the Colombian Consulate in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State. In statements to IPYS, the journalist said security informed her that she could not take photographs or she could only take them from outside. After taking the photographs,¹⁶³ one of the officers approached her, checked her material, and forced her to delete photos and videos showing the personnel. A different officer demanded that she delete all her material.

WILLIAM URDANETA
- CORREO DEL CARONÍ
(Friday, July 31st):

Reporter William Urdaneta, from Correo del Caroní press agency, was arbitrarily detained by DGCIM officials when he was on Guayana Avenue in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State, photographing the traffic in the area given the radicalization of the quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶⁴ The media reported on its Twitter account one hour after his arrest, Urdaneta's whereabouts were unknown. Half an hour later, they notified the release of the reporter and denounced that the officials stole his phone and his camera memory card.

¹⁵⁷ Carlos Julio Rojas. [carlosjrojas13]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CarlosJRojas13/status/1286463648878166016>

¹⁵⁸ Impacto Venezuela. [impactove]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ImpactoVE/status/1286316230031417345>

¹⁵⁹ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Periodista de El Carabobeño fue intimidada por PoliCarabobo y gerente de supermercado* [IPYSve Alert: El Carabobeño journalist intimidated by PoliCarabobo and supermarket manager]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-periodista-de-el-carabobeno-fue-intimidada-por-policarabobo-y-gerente-de-supermercado/>

¹⁶⁰ SNTP. [sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1288893002040123395>

¹⁶¹ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Reportero de Guárico fue amedrentado por funcionarios de la PNB* [IPYSve Alert: Reporter from Guárico intimidated by PNB officers]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-reportero-de-guarico-fue-amedrentado-por-funcionarios-de-la-pnb/>

¹⁶² SNTP. [sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1288893581760110597>

¹⁶³ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve PNB obligó a periodista a borrar material cuando verificaba denuncias de vandalización de sede consular en Bolívar* [IPYSve Alert: PNB forced journalist to delete material while verifying reports of vandalism of consular headquarters in Bolívar]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-pnb-obligo-a-periodista-a-borrar-material-cuando-verificaba-denuncias-de-vandalizacion-de-sede-consular-en-bolivar/>

¹⁶⁴ Correo del Caroní. [correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1289252735070552064>

August

ARGELYS TORRES

– NOTICIAS TAM

(Tuesday, August 4th):

A GNB official prevented journalist Argelys Torres, from Noticias TAM news media, from filming an event that was taking place in the Plaza Bolívar in Mérida State,¹⁶⁵ due to the anniversary of this military organization. While filming, an officer approached her and told her she did not have permission to document the event.

GABRIEL LABRADOR

– GIGA 91.3 FM

(Tuesday, August 4th):

Journalist Gabriel Labrador from Giga 91.3 FM and SNTP delegate was photographed¹⁶⁶ by people identified as members of the “Peace Squads”¹⁶⁷ of El Vigía Mayor Mezin Abou Assi in Mérida State. Labrador was interviewing Abou outside Panamericana Stereo 93.3 FM radio station on Bolívar Avenue.

FRANCISMAR RIVAS

– DIARIO EL TIEMPO

(Wednesday, August 5th):

Francismar Rivas, a reporter from Diario El Tiempo, was detained by GNB officers at a gas station located in Guaraguao, Anzoátegui State,¹⁶⁸ after documenting the complaints of the drivers who were at the site. The officers, after forcing her to delete all the material on her phone, detained and threatened her with spending the night at the GNB command.

ROSIMAR SÁNCHEZ

– EL CARABOBEÑO

(Friday, August 7th):

An officer of Naguanagua Police snatched the phone of journalist Rosimar Sánchez, from El Carabobeño news media, while she

was recording an argument between security personnel and drivers who had been at a gas station in Naguanagua, Carabobo State, since Monday, August 3rd, to fill up their vehicles with gasoline.¹⁶⁹

GABRIELA GONZÁLEZ,

ALONZO CALATRAVA,

BEATRIZ ADRIÁN,

MILDRED MANRIQUE,

LUIS GONZALO PÉREZ,

ANTONIETA LA ROCCA

AND IVÁN REYES

– EL PITAZO, CONTRAPUNTO,

NOTICIAS CARACOL, IMPACTO

VENEZUELA, NTN24, VPITV AND

EFFECTO COCUYO

(Monday, August 10th):

Correspondents Gabriela González, from news media El Pitazo; Alonzo Calatrava, from Contrapunto; Beatriz Adrián, from Noticias Caracol; Mildred Manrique, from Impacto Venezuela; Luis Gonzalo Pérez, from NTN24; and Iván Reyes, from Efecto Cocuyo, were attacked at the headquarters of the Acción Democrática political party, in La Florida, Caracas.

The journalists were outside the headquarters documenting a press conference by politician Carlos Prospero,¹⁷⁰ who in his statements denounced that the party headquarters had been taken over by armed civilians. Minutes after the conference ended, people inside the building threw stones and tear gas bombs at the press workers.¹⁷¹

ANDREA ESPINOZA MARTÍNEZ,

EDUARDO PADRÓN AND

ROSMEL MONTES

– VPITV

(Wednesday, August 12th):

The Head of Security of the Faculty of Humanities and Education of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) prevented the

¹⁶⁵ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1290742119322320897>

¹⁶⁶ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1290745460290990087>

¹⁶⁷ González, Y. (2020). ¿Qué son las Cuadrillas de Paz que promueve el Gobierno? [What are the Peace Squads promoted by the Government?] El Pitazo. <https://elpitazo.net/gran-caracas/cuales-son-las-cuadrillas-de-paz-que-promueve-el-gobierno/>

¹⁶⁸ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1291116212970295296>

¹⁶⁹ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1291803107232538625>

¹⁷⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1292834004106969088>

¹⁷¹ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Alerta IPYSve Periodistas fueron agredidos con cohetones y bombas lacrimógenas durante rueda de prensa de AD en Caracas [IPYSve Alert: Journalists were attacked with fireworks and tear gas bombs during AD press conference in Caracas]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-periodistas-fueron-agredidos-con-cohetones-y-bombas-lacrimogenas-durante-rueda-de-prensa-de-ad-en-caracas/>

VPI tv media team, made up of journalist Andrea Espinoza, cameraman Eduardo Padrón and assistant Rosmel Montes, from entering the premises when they intended to carry out a tour and record the students' complaints about security problems. Subsequently, they had access to the faculty's facilities thanks to the mediation between the security team and the students.¹⁷²

RAYBER ALVARADO (Wednesday, August 12th):

Independent journalist Rayber Alvarado denounced that a man and two women intercepted him in an attempt to steal his telephone while walking through Caracas downtown¹⁷³ to record the quarantine flexibilization after registering more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19.

Alvarado reported that while they approached him, they sprayed him with a liquid, and one of the women hit him in his face.

EFRAÍN ROA – SUPERIOR 92.9 FM (Saturday, August 15th):

Host and owner of Superior 92.2 FM radio station, Efraín Roa, was arrested for at least three hours by Venezuelan Army officers in Apure State,¹⁷⁴ who intercepted him when arriving at his home after finishing his workday. After identifying himself with his credentials, Roa was taken to Fuerte Yaruro.

The arrest took place after the host transmitted an update on the ease of quarantine measures announced by a commissioner of the Apure State Governor's Office.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷² IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Jefa de seguridad de la UCV negó acceso a periodista de VPI TV* [Alerta IPYSve: Jefa de seguridad de la UCV negó acceso a periodista de VPI TV]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-jefa-de-seguridad-de-la-ucv-nego-acceso-a-periodista-de-vpi-tv/>

¹⁷³ Rayber Alvarado. [@rayberdl18]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/rayberdl18/status/1293623586016591872>

¹⁷⁴ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1295062523817922567>

¹⁷⁵ Diario La Nación. (2020). *Retenido vehículo de locutor en El Nula al regresar de jornada laboral* [Radio host's vehicle impounded in El Nula after returning from work]. <https://lanacionweb.com/nacional/detenido-locutor-de-el-nula-al-retornar-de-jornada-laboral/>

JOSÉ ÁNGEL MAICABARES AND LARRY ALVARADO – LA VERDAD VARGAS (Sunday, August 16th):

Journalist José Ángel Maicabares and photojournalist Larry Alvarado from La Verdad Vargas media were assaulted and harassed¹⁷⁶ in the Brisas de Maiquetía sector, Vargas State, documenting a complaint about arbitrary evictions.

During the coverage, Eduardo Martínez Terán, bodyguard and brother of the Vargas State Mayor, demanded the journalists stop filming and physically assaulted Alvarado, causing him to almost fall down the stairs of the second floor of one of the buildings. Both press workers were chased by Martínez, who also threatened them with a gun if they did not leave the place.¹⁷⁷

JORGE LUIS GONZÁLEZ AND JEAN CARLOS MACERO – VPITV (Monday, August 17th):

Journalist Jorge Luis González and cameraman Jean Carlos Macero, from VPI tv, were photographed by subjects in a black Toyota van, identified with the SEBIN initials¹⁷⁸ while interviewing motorcycle drivers about their work as transporters during the COVID-19 confinement in the central area of San Juan de Los Morros, Guárico State.

MARTHY BARBERA AND DAVID BETANCOURT – VPITV (Thursday, August 20th):

Journalist Marthy Barbera and cameraman David Betancourt of VPI tv were harassed by GNB officers who photographed and recorded them¹⁷⁹ while documenting a demonstration by health professionals at Alfredo Van Grieken Hospital in Coro, Falcón State, demanding the provision of biosecurity equipment and

¹⁷⁶ La Verdad Vargas. [@laverdadvargas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/LaVerdadVargas/status/1295156472079437829>

¹⁷⁷ IPYS Venezuela. *Alerta IPYSve Equipo reporteril del diario La Verdad de Vargas fue agredido por jefe de seguridad* [IPYSveAlert: Reporter team of La Verdad de Vargas newspaper assaulted by Securit Chief]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-equipo-reporteril-del-diario-la-verdad-de-vargas-fue-agredido-por-jefe-de-seguridad/>

¹⁷⁸ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1295478752370196480>

¹⁷⁹ Espacio Público. [@espaciopublico]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1296469846423744513>

COVID-19 tests.

EDECIO GARCÍA SOSA
– IMPACTO 107.1 FM
(Thursday, August 20th):

Host Edecio García Sosa was harassed by officials from the Control y Automatización de Distribución de Gas Barinas, S.A. (gas automation of distribution company) while recording the delivery of gas cylinders to a store on Los Andes Avenue, in Barinas State.¹⁸⁰ The officials threatened García Sosa saying that “*that is why they get kill.*”

In statements to IPYS, the host assured the subjects intercepted him on Los Toros Avenue in the state, took pictures of him, and verbally assaulted him.¹⁸¹

FABIOLA MATHEUS AND RICHARD MONTILLA
– DIARIO EL TIEMPO
(Wednesday, August 26th):

Journalist Fabiola Matheus and photojournalist Richard Montilla from media outlet Diario El Tiempo were harassed by a GNB officer who snatched their telephone¹⁸² at El Bolo gas station in Valera, Trujillo State.

The officer deleted all the material they had collected on the lack of fuel, which they would use for the daily morning report made by the media on access to gasoline in the State. During the incident, the official stated: “*you are lucky we are not putting you in jail.*”

PEDRO LÁREZ AND BENIS REYES
– TV CALLE BARINAS
(Sunday, August 30th):

Journalist Pedro Lárez and cameraman Benis Reyes from TV Calle Barinas were intimidated by unidentified individuals while documenting a demonstration at the El Caney service station

on Agustín Codazzi Avenue in Barinas.¹⁸³ While Lárez and Reyes interviewed demonstrators, the individuals photographed them. On the other hand, in statements to IPYS, Lárez expressed that he had received messages from friends close to the local government about alleged information of an arrest warrant against him.

September

RAFAEL HERNÁNDEZ
– NTN24

(Tuesday, September 1st):

An DGCIM official detained Rafael Hernández, a photojournalist from NTN24, for at least 40 minutes and forced him to delete a photograph he had taken of an official of the security body.¹⁸⁴

The incident took place in Boleíta, Caracas, while the reporter took pictures for a piece on the release of political prisoners pardoned by the regime of Nicolás Maduro on Monday, August 31st. After deleting the photo, two other officials asked him to accompany them to a police booth, where they checked his phone and camera to make sure he had deleted the photo.

YOERLI VILORIA
– DIARIO LOS ANDES

(Tuesday, September 15st):

Journalist Yoyerli Viloria, from Diario Los Andes news media, was harassed by SEBIN officials, who, according to her testimony, took photographs of her residence in Trujillo State.¹⁸⁵

Viloria denounced in her Twitter account that several neighbors assured her two days before the officers had asked about her residency. In addition, they instructed a citizen of the sector to take photographs of her.

¹⁸⁰ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1297287933628735490>

¹⁸¹ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Alerta IPYSve Comunicador fue amenazado e insultado por funcionarios de empresa estatal de gas en Barinas [IPYSveAlert: Communicator threatened and insulted by officials of State gas company in Barinas]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/comunicador-fue-amenazado-e-insultado-por-funcionarios-de-empresa-estatal-de-gas-en-barinas/>

¹⁸² SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1298664521519763456>

¹⁸³ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Alerta IPYSve Equipo reporteroil de TV Calle Barinas fue intimidado por sujetos no identificados [TV Calle Barinas reporting team intimidated by unidentified subjects]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-equipo-reporteroil-de-tv-calle-barinas-fue-intimidado-por-sujetos-no-identificados/>

¹⁸⁴ Espacio Público. (2020). Detienen e intimidan a reportero gráfico de NTN24 [NTN24 photo journalist apprehended and intimidated]. <http://espaciopublico.org/detienen-e-intimidan-a-reportero-grafico-de-ntn24/>

¹⁸⁵ Yoyerli Viloria. [@yoerli2017]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/yoerli2017/status/1306013981002391552>

**LUIS MIGUEL RODRÍGUEZ,
ASTRYD PÉREZ,
ANTHONY MUJICA AND
RICARDO TARAZONA**
– EL IMPULSO, NOTICIAS YARACUY,
HISPANA 89.5 FM AND QUÉ PASA EN
VENEZUELA
(Saturday, September 26th):

Yaracuy State police officers assaulted reporters Luis Miguel Rodríguez, from El Impulso news media; Astryd Pérez, from Noticias Yaracuy; Anthony Mujica, from Hispana 89.5 FM; and Ricardo Tarazona, from Qué Pasa En Venezuela and SNTP delegate, with pepper spray while they were documenting a demonstration.¹⁸⁶

**JOSÉ MONTES AND
FABRIZIO MONTES**
– LA GRITA 7 DIARIO
(Saturday, September 26th):

Journalist José Montes and photojournalist Fabrizio Montes, from La Grita 7 Diario, were harassed and threatened by a GNB officer at the Bella Vista service station in La Grita, Táchira State.

The officer threatened to take them into custody and snatched Fabrizio Montes' telephone to eliminate the photographic material the reporter had on his device.¹⁸⁷

**MARIANGEL MORO
AND JESÚS FONSECA**
– VPITV
(Monday, September 28th):

Journalist Mariangel Moro and photojournalist Jesús Fonseca, from VPITV, were recorded by a lieutenant of the GNB¹⁸⁸ while documenting and conducting interviews at a protest on Payara road, in Páez Municipality in Acarigua, Portuguesa State. Did not approach them, and after recording them, he called the interviewees liars.

¹⁸⁶ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Periodistas de Yaracuy fueron agredidos por funcionarios policiales durante cobertura de protesta [IPYSve Alert: Journalists in Yaracuy assaulted by police officers during demonstration coverage]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-periodistas-de-yaracuy-fueron-agredidos-por-funcionarios-policiales-durante-cobertura-de-protesta/>

¹⁸⁷ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1310370021701488643>

¹⁸⁸ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1310696398585761792>

**SANDINO YAGUARE,
GABRIELA JIMÉNEZ AND
JUAN CARLOS HERNÁNDEZ**
– IMPACTO VENEZUELA
(Tuesday, September 29th):

Journalists Sandino Yaguare and Gabriela Jiménez, from Impacto Venezuela, and photojournalist Juan Carlos Hernández were approached by GNB officers at the El Palito refinery in Puerto Cabello, Carabobo State while photographing the arrival of the Iranian fuel vessel Fortune.¹⁸⁹ In an interview for IPYS, journalist Yaguare said that officers in a GNB patrol instructed them to go to the command because they were in a security area. The press workers were taken to Detachment 412 of the GNB, where they checked the material they had in their cameras and later asked to sign a document to prove that they had not been mistreated.

October

JOSÉ RENGEL
– TE LO CUENTO NEWS
(Monday, October 5th):

Journalist José Rengel, from Te Lo Cuento News, was harassed by a CONAS official who approached him to ask questions about his personal and employment information while documenting a demonstration in Cumaná, Sucre State.¹⁹⁰

**YANITZA MARTÍNEZ
AND DEIVIS MENDOZA**
– EL INFORMANTE
(Monday, October 5th):

Journalist Yanitza Martínez and photojournalist Deivis Mendoza, from El Informante, were harassed by a GNB officer while photographs at a gas station in Carora, Lara State, on the beginning of a new modality of gasoline distribution in Tovar Municipality. The officer accosted Martínez after the photojournalist took

¹⁸⁹ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Periodistas fueron detenidos por dos horas al captar imágenes de la llegada de un buque iraní a la refinería El Palito [IPYSve Alert: Journalists detained for two hours while capturing images of the arrival of an Iranian vessel at El Palito refinery]*. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-periodistas-fueron-detenidos-por-dos-horas-al-captar-imagenes-de-la-llegada-de-un-buque-irani-a-la-refineria-el-palito/>

¹⁹⁰ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1313216495611240455>

the photographs and asked her which media outlet she worked for, her identification number, and the address of El Informante. He also threatened to take pictures of her credentials.¹⁹¹

EDUARDO GONZÁLEZ (Monday, October 5th):

Radio host Eduardo González was harassed and threatened by Tinaco Municipality Mayor in Cojedes State, José Rivas, in the middle of an interview on the show *Al Ritmo de la Mañana* on 96.9 FM. Rivas told the host: *"I'm going to get you if you don't behave, and I'm going to get the radio station too."*¹⁹²

EDUARDO GONZÁLEZ (Wednesday, October 7th):

Radio host Eduardo González was harassed for the second time in less than a week by the Tinaco Municipality Mayor in Cojedes State, José Rivas.

On this occasion, Rivas accused the broadcaster of having "irrational and intriguing behaviors" due to his informative work. Rivas' statements were made in a telephone contact he had with Class 98.7 FM radio station: *"In Tinaco, for example, journalist Eduardo González has been incurring in irrational and intriguing behaviors that are far from the true vocation of a social communication professional."*¹⁹³

LUCELYS RODRÍGUEZ – **TODOS AHORA** (Thursday, October 8th):

Correspondent Lucelys Rodríguez, from TodosAhora, denounced being followed by GNB officers,¹⁹⁴ while covering a demonstration for gasoline at Distribuidor Fabricio Ojeda, at Urbaneja Municipality, in Anzoátegui State. The officers followed her from Intercomunal Avenue to the Vistamar crossroad where she was waiting for transportation. Rodríguez decided to

take shelter inside a business, where she stayed for half an hour until the officers left.

ELENA FERNÁNDEZ (Saturday, October 10th):

Photojournalist Elena Fernández was harassed by Carabobo Police officers while documenting a demonstration of cyclists in Carabobo. In statements to IPYS, Fernández stated that, while she was in her vehicle, three police officers passed her on motorcycles on Aranzazu Avenue in Valencia.

The officers set up a makeshift roadblock, and while other cars were being allowed to circulate, the officers signaled her to stop. One of them asked her to show him the photos he had in his equipment and proceeded to check his vehicle.¹⁹⁵

DAVID NATERA – **CORREO DEL CARONÍ** (Monday, October 12th):

SEBIN officers raided the residence of David Natera, Director of the media outlet Correo del Caroní, in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State. The process was carried out with a warrant issued by a court in Caracas.¹⁹⁶

The commission of security forces prevented Natera's lawyer from accompanying him during the procedure. After more than three hours, he was taken to SEBIN headquarters in Vista al Sol in San Félix to make his statement without allowing his lawyers.¹⁹⁷

After more than four hours at SEBIN headquarters, he was taken to his home.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹¹ Espacio Público. (2020). GNB intimidó al equipo periodístico de El Informante en Lara [GNB intimidated El Informante's journalistic team in Lara]. <http://espaciopublico.org/gnb-intimido-al-equipo-periodistico-de-el-informante-en-lara/>

¹⁹² IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1313445607370100736>

¹⁹³ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Alerta IPYSve Alcalde de Tinaco amenazó y hostigó al periodista Eduardo González en Cojedes [IPYSve Alert: Mayor of Tinaco threatened and harassed journalist Eduardo Gonzalez in Cojedes]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-alcalde-de-tinaco-amenazo-y-hostigo-al-periodista-eduardo-gonzalez-en-cojedes/>

¹⁹⁴ Noticias Todos Ahora. [@todosahora_ve]. (2020). Twitter. https://twitter.com/TodosAhora_Ve/status/1314208187332005891

¹⁹⁵ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Alerta IPYSve Detenida fotógrafa en manifestación de ciclistas carabobenses [IPYSve Alert: Photographer apprehended during Carabobo bicyclists' demonstration]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-detenida-fotografa-en-manifestacion-de-ciclistas-carabobenses/>

¹⁹⁶ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Alerta IPYSveSEBIN allanó vivienda y detuvo por más de cuatro horas al director del Correo del Caroní [Alerta IPYSveSEBIN raided the house and detained the Director Correo del Caroní for more than four hours]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-sebin-allano-vivienda-y-detuvo-por-mas-de-cuatro-horas-al-director-del-correo-del-caroni/>

¹⁹⁷ Correo del Caroní. [@correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1315800105740644353>

¹⁹⁸ Correo del Caroní. [@correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1315832446550769665>

**JOSÉ GREGORIO ROJAS,
CLAUDIA GARCÍA,
JADES DELGADO AND
CARMEN BETANCOURT
– VPITV, CARAOTA DIGITAL AND
VOCES DE CIUDAD FM
(Tuesday, October 13th):**

Journalists José Gregorio Rojas and Claudia García, from VPITV; Jade Delgado, from Caraota Digital; and Carmen Betancourt, from Voces de Ciudad FM, were harassed by a GNB officer,¹⁹⁹ who recorded and followed them while covering a protest in Plaza Bolívar in Mérida State.

**JOEL BARRETO
– EL BUS TV
(Tuesday, October 13th):**

Media outlet El Bus TV reported on its Twitter account that unidentified two men knocked on the door of their reporter Joel Barreto in Chapellín, Caracas. The subjects said, “*they knew what Joel was doing and that he should be careful.*”²⁰⁰

**MARÍA RAMÍREZ CABELLO
– CORREO DEL CARONÍ
(Tuesday, October 20th):**

SEBIN officials raided the headquarters of Correo del Caroní,²⁰¹ in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State, eight days after carrying out the same procedure at the residence of the outlet’s Director, David Natera. After more than six hours of raid, officers transferred journalist María Ramírez Cabello and Natera’s assistant to the SEBIN headquarters in Vista al Sol, San Félix.²⁰² Both were released after being arbitrarily detained for five hours.²⁰³

**MARÍA FERNANDA RODRÍGUEZ
– EL PITAZO
(Friday, October 23rd):**

Journalist María Fernanda Rodríguez, from El Pitazo, was harassed by the Head of Security

of the Criminal Judicial Circuit of Mérida State, José Alfredo Alpino, who asked the journalist to delete a photograph he had taken of the center.²⁰⁴ However, at Rodríguez’s refusal, the official withdrew his request, and the journalist did not delete the material.

**JOSÉ FONTAINÉS
– PUNTO DE CORTE
(Saturday, October 24th):**

Journalist José Fontainés, from Punto de Corte, was robbed when two men pointed a gun at him to get him to hand over his telephone.²⁰⁵ The incident occurred after Fontainés documented the swearing-in ceremony of the Organizing Committee of the Alianza Nacional Constituyente Originaria (ANCO) in Biruaca, Apure State.

**ROLAND CARREÑO
(Monday, October 26th):**

The Communications Team of Venezuela’s Interim Government denounced that journalist and leader of the political party Voluntad Popular (VP), Roland Carreño, was missing since Monday, October 26th. Neighbors reported Carreño was approached, alongside two work colleagues, by black, unidentified vehicles. After at least 24 hours of Roland Carreño’s forced disappearance, his mother, Josefina Gutiérrez, demanded information from the regime of Nicolás Maduro on Carreño’s whereabouts in a video broadcast by the SNT.²⁰⁶

Subsequently, on the night of Tuesday, October 27th, Tarek William Saab, Attorney General of the regime, announced in his Twitter account that the journalist was arbitrarily detained “*for his participation in conspiracy plans against democratic peace.*”²⁰⁷ The Attorney General assured that at the time of Carreño’s arrest, “\$12,000 in cash and an R15” were found on his possession.²⁰⁸

Carreño was taken to the Palace of Justice

¹⁹⁹ SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1316082025825284099>

²⁰⁰ El Bus TV. [@elbustv]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/elbusTV/status/1316155654432845828>

²⁰¹ Correo del Caroní. [@correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1318543922340179969>

²⁰² Correo del Caroní. [@correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1318632882089435141>

²⁰³ Correo del Caroní. [@correodelcaroni]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CorreodelCaroni/status/1318729695417061376>

²⁰⁴ SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1319807579850158082>

²⁰⁵ SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1320155758626033664>

²⁰⁶ SNT. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1321211798415171587>

²⁰⁷ Tarek William Saab. [@tarekwiliamsaab]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/TarekWilliamSaab/status/1321271741117849600>

²⁰⁸ Tarek William Saab. [@tarekwiliamsaab]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/TarekWilliamSaab/status/1321280839909593089>

in Caracas Wednesday, October 28th, and appeared before the 4th Court of Terrorism. In a hearing that took place on Thursday, October 29th, that lasted at least nine hours, Carreño was arbitrarily charged with the crimes of “conspiracy, illicit trafficking of weapons of war and financing of terrorism.”²⁰⁹

On Friday, October 30th, the President of the National Assembly, led by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, Jorge Rodríguez, offered a press conference in which he showed alleged incriminating evidence against Roland Carreño, as well as a video of the journalist in which he confessed that former political prisoner, Leopoldo López, asked him for dollars in cash:

*“On two occasions, Leopoldo (López) asked me to get him cash money, 2,500 on one occasion, 4,000 on another. I made the operation through the parallel market and gave the money to his Security Team, among them his Chief of Security, Mr. Walter,”*²¹⁰ were part of Carreño’s statements, which were recorded in a video without the presence of his lawyers. Moreover, Rodríguez showed alleged private WhatsApp chats from Carreño, about his alleged use of funds of the Simon Bolivar Foundation of CITGO.²¹¹

On Tuesday, December 15th, lawyer Joel García informed the Public Prosecutor’s Office formally charged Roland Carreño with the crimes of “conspiracy, money laundering, illicit trafficking of weapons of war and association to commit a crime.”²¹²

LISBELLA PÁEZ AND FRANCISCO SANDOVAL – YARA CULTURA AND YARACUYANA (Monday, October 26th):

Journalists Lisbella Páez from media outlet Yara Cultura, and Francisco Sandoval from Yaracuyana de Televisión, were harassed by four officers of the Environmental and

Mining Police Service of Yaracuy State,²¹³ who prevented them from reporting in “Los Sauces II” community about an environmental pollution incident. The officers demanded they leave the place, reviewed the material from journalist Lisbella Páez’s camera, demanded nothing incriminating to be published, and prevented further reporting of the incident.

November

LYSAURA FUENTES – MONITOR DE VÍCTIMAS (Monday, November 9th):

Journalist Lysaura Fuentes from Monitor de Víctimas was harassed by an official of the National Headquarters of Medicine and Forensic Science when she was trying to interview the relative of a deceased person. In statements to Espacio Público, Fuentes asked the interviewee to leave the premises to ask him some questions. At that moment, the official began to shout at her to leave and later threatened to close the doors if she entered the place again.²¹⁴

GLEYBERT ASENCIO – CRÓNICA UNO (Sunday, November 15th):

Photojournalist Gleybert Asencio, from Crónica Uno, was harassed by a GNB officer and militiamen while covering the voting drill promoted by the CNE of Nicolás Maduro’s regime, at the Francisco de Miranda University College, in Caracas. The official told him that he was not authorized to be in the place, and the militiamen asked him “who he was and that he was not authorized to take pictures in the place.”

When the journalist was about to board his vehicle, at least some unidentified people approached him and escorted him to leave the place.²¹⁵

²⁰⁹ Joel García. [@joelgarcia69]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/joelgarcia69/status/1321677955471429634>

²¹⁰ Avendaño, S. (2020). Jorge Rodríguez presenta video con “confesión” de Roland Carreño [Jorge Rodríguez presents video with Roland Carreño’s “confession”]. Efecto Cocuyo. <https://efectococuyo.com/politica/jorge-rodriguez-presenta-video-con-confesion-de-roland-carreno/>

²¹¹ Luigino Bracci Roa desde Venezuela. (2020). Jorge Rodríguez muestra confesión de Roland Carreño por uso de dinero de Citgo para Voluntad Popular [Jorge Rodríguez shows Roland Carreño’s confession for use of Citgo money for Voluntad Popular]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJaHjt0Brxc>

²¹² Joel García. [@joelgarcia69]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/joelgarcia69/status/1338938653725298689>

²¹³ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1321594416528793600>

²¹⁴ Espacio Público. (2020). Funcionario hostiga a la periodista Lysaura Fuentes en Caracas [Official harasses journalist Lysaura Fuentes in Caracas]. <http://espaciopublico.org/funcionario-hostiga-a-la-periodista-lysaura-fuentes-en-caracas/>

²¹⁵ Espacio Público. (2020). Funcionario de la GNB y milicianos intimidan al fotógrafo Gleybert Asencio [GNB officer and militiamen intimidate photographer Gleybert Asencio]. <http://espaciopublico.org/funcionario-de-la-gnb-y-milicianos-intimidan-al-fotografo-gleybert-asencio/>

ROBERTO LOBO
– PUNTO DE CORTE
(Wednesday, November 18th):

Journalist Roberto Lobo, from Punto de Corte press agency, denounced that a member of irregular armed groups, known as “colectivos,” intimidated him and asked him to delete the photographic material he had on his phone²¹⁶ while documenting a protest of Yukpa indigenous people from the Sierra de Perijá, Zulia State, who arrived at the Llaguno Bridge, on Baralt Avenue, Caracas, to denounce the damages in their home towns due to the rains.

MARÍA GABRIELA BRICEÑO,
MARIANGEL MORO AND
JESÚS FONSECA
– CIRCUITO REGIONAL DE NOTICIAS
AND VPITV
(Friday, November 20th):

Journalists María Gabriela Briceño, from Circuito Regional de Noticias, and Mariangel Moro, along with her photographer Jesús Fonseca from VPITV, were harassed by the Militia Coordinator of the Dr. José Gregorio Hernández Maternity Hospital in Portuguesa State, Marilú Damato,²¹⁷ who filmed them while they were covering a protest by health personnel outside the hospital. The officer also urged the demonstrators and the press workers to leave the place.

JENNIFER OROZCO AND
ÁNGELA PEROZA
– LA PRENSA LARA
(Tuesday, November 24th):

Journalist Jennifer Orozco and photojournalist Ángela Peroza, from La Prensa Lara, were harassed and threatened by a CICPC officer when documenting an event in the Municipal Cemetery of Iribarren, Barquisimeto, Lara State.²¹⁸ In statements given to Espacio Público, Orozco said neighbors of the Las Tinalitas sector informed them that there were three deceased persons in one of the houses and that CICPC officers were at the site to proceed with the recovery of the bodies.

²¹⁶ Robert Lobo. [@robertlobo]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/RobertLobo/status/132924614211117313>

²¹⁷ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1329816930912440320>

²¹⁸ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1331622094979862529>

Since they had to withdraw from the site and the lack of gasoline, they decided to go to the Cemetery, where Officer Eglis Muro deleted all the photographic material about the event they had in their equipment and asked another officer of this State security corps to take the data from the press workers. The officer also asked him to send them to all the CICPC groups threatening them that if the photos came out there would be consequences.²¹⁹

December

JAMEL LOUKA
– DIARIO LA ANTENA
(Wednesday, December 2nd):

Espacio Público denounced four unidentified individuals who attempted to kidnap Jamel Louka, a photojournalist from La Antena news media, as he was arriving home in Altagracia de Orituco, Guárico State. During the incident, the reporter got wounded by a bullet.

In an interview for Espacio Público, the reporter said that the aggressors told him to stop reporting and talking more than he should. In previous days, Louka had received calls in which he was also told to stop reporting on the regime's actions in the Municipality where he resides; for this reason, he took his family out of his house and declared that he feared for his life.²²⁰

JAIRO ALCALÁ
– ROSCIOTV AND NOTIPASCUA
(Sunday, December 6th):

Plan República officials prevented Roscio TV and Notipascua journalist Jairo Alcalá from accessing²²¹ Escuela Básica Francisco Aranda polling station, located in Valle de la Pascua, Guárico State, to document the fraudulent election process carried out by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, on Sunday, December 6th.

²¹⁹ Espacio Público. (2020). *Comisario del CICPC intimida, hostiga y amenaza al equipo de La Prensa de Lara* [CICPC commissioner intimidates, harasses and threatens La Prensa de Lara team]. <http://espaciopublico.org/comisario-del-cicpc-intimida-hostiga-y-amenaza-al-equipo-de-la-prensa-de-lara/>

²²⁰ Espacio Público. (2020). *Sujetos desconocidos hirieron de bala a reportero gráfico en Altagracia de Orituco* [Unknown assailants shot and wounded photojournalist in Altagracia de Orituco]. <http://espaciopublico.org/sujetos-desconocidos-hirieron-de-bala-a-reportero-grafico-en-altagracia-de-orituco/>

²²¹ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/133559924084346881>

JOSÉ MONTES
– LA GRITA 7 DIARIO
(Sunday, December 6th):

Plan República officials prevented journalist José Montes, of the media outlet La Grita 7 Diario, from entering the Padre Maya polling station in La Grita, Táchira State.²²²

ELIANA MILLÁN
– LA PRENSA TÁCHIRA
(Sunday, December 6th):

Plan República officials prevented journalist Eliana Millán, from La Prensa Táchira press agency, from entering the Juan Antonio Román Valecillos polling station in San Cristóbal, Táchira State.²²³

ROSALINDA HERNÁNDEZ,
BLEIMA MÁRQUEZ AND
JUDITH VALDERRAMA
– EL ESTÍMULO, LA NACIÓN WEB
AND DIARIO LOS ANDES
(Sunday, December 6th):

The SNTP denounced that journalists Rosalinda Hernández, from El Estímulo; Bleima Márquez, from La Nación Web; and Judith Valderrama from Diario Los Andes, were verbally assaulted by Plan República officials²²⁴ while documenting the fraudulent elections of Sunday, December 6th, at the Escuela Bolivariana Alianza, in San Cristóbal, Táchira State.

ARMANDO DÍAZ
(Sunday, December 6th):

GNB officers forced independent reporter Armando Díaz to delete all the audiovisual material in his work equipment²²⁵ while making a tour of the Francisco Belleza and Nuestra Señora de Lourdes polling stations in the city of Valencia, Carabobo State.

ANTONIO BETANCOURT
– SONORA 107.7 FM
(Sunday, December 6th):

SEBIN officials detained Antonio Betancourt, Coordinator of radio station Sonora 107.7 FM, while taking photographs²²⁶ at the polling station in Acarigua-Araure geriatric, Portuguesa State.

During the arrest, the officials assaulted him and deleted the photographic material from his work equipment.

SYDENY DÍAZ
– TODOS AHORA
(Sunday, December 6th):

GNB officers forced Sydeny Díaz, a reporter for Todos Ahora, to delete the photographic material²²⁷ she had documented at the Pedro Gual polling station in the city of Valencia, Carabobo State.

ANDREINA ITRIAGO
– EL TIEMPO
(Sunday, December 6th):

GNB officers harassed journalist Andreina Itriago from the El Tiempo press agency. While Itriago was documenting the fraudulent elections²²⁸ promoted by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, at the Polideportivo La Boyera, Caracas, the officers asked the journalist for her documents and photographed her credentials and identity card.

WILLIAM ANTELIZ
– TODOS AHORA
(Sunday, December 6th):

Officials of Plan República harassed journalist William Anteliz, from Todos Ahora press agency, at the Grupo Escolar Sucre polling station in Rubio, Táchira State.²²⁹

Anteliz was forced by the officials to delete all the material he had recorded from the site, and they also banned him from taking statements at the site.

²²² La Grita 7 Diario. [@lagrita_7diario]. (2020). Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cleca0EhowQ/?igshid=17bunc83k8j9l>

²²³ La Prensa Lara. [@laprensalar]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/laprensalar/status/1335787815104376832?s=20>

²²⁴ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1335602242758602752>

²²⁵ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1335668035814895616>

²²⁶ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1335620803325534211>

²²⁷ CNP Caracas. [@cnpccaracas]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CNPCaracas/status/1335661874109685767>

²²⁸ Espacio Público. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/espaciopublico/status/1335630131063349253>

²²⁹ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1335685638331527170>

ROBERT DELGADO
– CORREO DEL CARONÍ
(Sunday, December 6th):

Reporter Robert Delgado from Correo del Caroní was threatened with arrest by a Plan República official²³⁰ while he was taking photographs at the Escuela Julia Rodríguez Viña polling station in Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar State.

LEOMARA CÁRDENAS
– CRÓNICA UNO
(Sunday, December 6th):

Crónica Uno media correspondent, Leomara Cárdenas, was intimidated by an officer of the militia, who on two occasions verbally assaulted her and demanded her to hand over her telephone; upon her refusal, the officer threatened to call the Plan República commander.²³¹ The incident occurred while Cárdenas was covering the Lisandro Lecuna electoral center in Naguanagua, Carabobo State.

MÓNICA SALAZAR
– CRÓNICA UNO
(Sunday, December 6th):

Officials of Plan República prevented journalist Mónica Salazar, from Crónica Uno media outlet, from doing her journalistic work at the Escuela Taller Manzanares polling station in Cumaná, Sucre State.²³² In statements to IPYS, Salazar said that the officials prevented her from taking photographs at the site, and officials also demanded her to hand over her phone for inspection, but the journalist refused.

JOHAN RAMÍREZ,
BÁRBARA LÓPEZ AND
MIGUEL BRITO
– AZULEJO DIGITAL
(Sunday, December 6th):

Reporters Johan Ramírez, Bárbara López and Miguel Brito, from Azulejo Digital media, were prevented from accessing the Francisco de Miranda polling station, in Cumaná, Sucre State, while candidate José Gregorio Noriega

was casting his vote.²³³ Press workers were informed that they would not be allowed to enter due to biosecurity measures.

CARLOS GARCÍA,
MARIANGELA GARCÍA
AND IRENE REVILLA
– NOTIFALCÓN, EL PITAZO AND IPYS
(Sunday, December 6th):

The reporting activities of Carlos García and Mariangela García, from the press agency NotiFalcón; and Irene Revilla, from El Pitazo and IPYS,²³⁴ were obstructed when unidentified individuals prevented them from taking photographs at the Víctor Lino Gómez polling station, in Carirubana, Falcón State.

DAYRÍ BLANC
AND FRANCIS TINEO
– CARAOTA DIGITAL
AND EL CARABOBEÑO
(Sunday, December 6th):

Journalists Dayrí Blanco from Caraota Digital and Francis Tineo from El Carabobeño were harassed by a militia woman who shouted at them and warned them that they could not record or take photographs at the Lisandro Lecuna polling station in Naguanagua, Carabobo State.²³⁵ Later, at the Juan XXIII Educational Unit polling station, in El Trigal, a member of Plan República demanded them to hand over their phones. Upon the reporters' refusal, the officer told them that it was forbidden to take photographs in the place.

YELITZA FIGUEROA
(Tuesday, December 15th):

An officer of the Lara State police forbid journalist Yelitza Figueroa to document a traffic accident that occurred on Venezuela Avenue and 13th Street in Barquisimeto, Lara State.²³⁶

²³⁰ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1335657095325249542>

²³¹ IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1335613524853272576>

²³² IPYS Venezuela. [@ipysvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1335646510026018816>

²³³ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Balance #6D Elecciones parlamentarias con cobertura restringida [#6D Balance Parliamentary elections under restricted coverage]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/balance-6d-elecciones-parlamentarias-con-cobertura-restringida/>

²³⁴ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Balance #6D Elecciones parlamentarias con cobertura restringida. [#6D Balance Parliamentary elections under restricted coverage]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/balance-6d-elecciones-parlamentarias-con-cobertura-restringida/>

²³⁵ IPYS Venezuela. (2020). Balance #6D Elecciones parlamentarias con cobertura restringida. [#6D Balance Parliamentary elections under restricted coverage]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/balance-6d-elecciones-parlamentarias-con-cobertura-restringida/>

²³⁶ SNTP. [@sntpvenezuela]. (2020). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/sntpvenezuela/status/133894554835976195>

JUAN CARLOS NEIRA**– PUNTO DE CORTE****(Wednesday, December 16th):**

Photojournalist Juan Carlos Neira, from Punto de Corte, was detained by three unidentified men who approached him while covering a protest on Urdaneta Avenue in Caracas.

The subjects took him to a security checkpoint in Miraflores, hit him in the head and arms, insulted him, partially damaged his work equipment²³⁷ and said to him: “Always you, *the financed media who seek to overthrow the President.*” He was released two hours later.²³⁸

237 IPYS Venezuela. (2020). *Alerta IPYSve Reportero de Punto de Corte detenido y atacado en inmediaciones del Palacio de Miraflores* [IPYSve Alert: Punto de Corte reporter detained and attacked near the Miraflores Palace]. <https://ipysvenezuela.org/alerta/alerta-ipysve-reportero-de-punto-de-corte-detenido-y-atacado-en-inmediaciones-del-palacio-de-miraflores/>

238 Punto de Corte. [@punto_decorte]. (2020). Twitter. https://twitter.com/Punto_deCorte/status/1339266106217926657



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During 2020, amid the economic, social, and political crisis in which the citizens of Venezuela live, which deepened with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the regime of Nicolás Maduro limited the informative work of the press workers. Such conditions made journalistic work essential to keeping citizens informed; however, this was hindered and obstructed by different entities affiliated with the Venezuelan regime.

A total of 167 documented cases show the violence, aggression, and restrictions faced by press workers. The main aggressors were state security forces, workers of state-owned companies, civilians belonging to irregular armed groups known as “gangs,” and public officials who under the protection of the regime violated fundamental rights such as the right to due process, free transit, and access to public services through actions such as harassment, threats, physical and verbal aggression, arbitrary detentions and even kidnapping attempts.

Likewise, during the development of this report, it became evident how the Venezuelan regime seeks to muzzle the denunciations of citizens caused by its inaction and negligence. During the informative coverage of protests against the deteriorated conditions of public services, the limited access to gasoline, the denouncements of corruption in service stations, and the demands

of health workers regarding the state of public and private health care centers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the press workers were forced to leave the scene of the events, delete the footage, and threatened with being arrested; on several occasions the arrests were carried out, causing some journalists to be imprisoned for carrying out their work of documenting and reporting.

At least 208 journalists faced harassment, direct threats of arrest to delete documented material, and interference in accessing or traveling to the scene of the events and were subject to physical aggression, arbitrary arrests, and kidnapping attempts to prevent them from continuing to report the actions of the regime. Such practices highlighted how working for the press in Venezuela means being exposed to violent scenarios that threaten the life, freedom, and integrity of journalists.

In light of the violations of journalists' rights, which affected the free exercise of press freedom, freedom of expression, and access to information, **RedesAyuda makes the following recommendations, demands, and suggestions:**

1.

To continue documenting, denouncing, and publicizing the violations and arbitrary practices against press workers.

2.

Demanding guarantees and conditions for press workers, so they cease to be victims of arbitrary detentions, harassment, and physical and verbal aggression during the exercise of their work.

3.

Demanding the establishment of public policies focused on improving essential public services, so they no longer represent a limitation for journalists to carry out their reporting duties.

4.

Continue to strengthen alliances between civil society and mass media, to demand the guarantee of the rights to freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and access to information, and to promote the reconstruction of democracy in the country.

5.

To continue reporting despite censorship, as well as defending and demanding compliance with the rights of press workers, so that they may continue to keep citizens informed without limitations or arbitrary practices that threaten their lives and integrity.



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