

SUMMARY ON THE STATUS OF RIGHTS HUMAN

from the perspective of Transparency Venezuela

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE

According to complaints received by Transparencia Venezuela, the highest percentage is represented by cases of police officers involved in several types of corruption crimes. And the official information from the Ministry of Interior and Justice, as well as projects and programs, are locked up.

On reducing violence, killings, kidnappings, robberies etc., the data are disappointing. Despite the absence of official government figures on the subject since 2013, according to the Venezuelan Violence Observatory, in recent years the number of violent deaths in the country has significantly increased, from 21,692 (2012) to 24,980 (2014) and 27,875 (2015), representing a death rate per 100 inhabitants of 73, 82 and 90 respectively¹.

Still on the subject of violence, in this case the violence that resulted directly from government actions through different police forces during 2015, PROVEA recorded a total of 143 complaints including 18,184 cases of violations to the right of personal integrity with 969 individual victims. The mentioned data, compared with the prior period when it was registered a total of 2,015 cases of violations to the right of personal integrity, what constitutes an increase of 902.43% in the number of rights violations².

In the case of torture, officially, the Office of the Ombudsman in its 2015 annual report³, recorded a total of de 99 torture cases, attended by delegate offices of the ombudsman throughout the country. In the case of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, the number rose by 25.6% compared to 2014, with 793 identified victims, 162 more than in the previous study. It must be emphasized that, in this regard, the occurrence of cases involving victims groups that exceed the dozen, and that occurred in prisons or during the so-called (People' s Protection and Freedom Operation, OLP by its acronym in Spanish). The Office of the Ombudsman informed in its annual report to have received and responded to 625 complaints with this pattern. In none of the cases the Public Ministry (Venezuela' s Office of the Attorney General) offered official figures.

The right to life⁴ has also been severely affected during 2015. During the so-called OLP, there were 270 casualties, representing an increase of 22.73% over the number of people who died in these conditions the previous year. This figure shows that 20,40% (55 deaths) took place in the framework of the OLP directly, percentage that amounts to 24.07% (65 deaths) accounting for all those that occurred in operations of different security forces: small, unidentified and improvised guard posts, checkpoints and other public safety

1. Ver informes del Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia, disponibles en: <http://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/category/informes/>
2. Provea. Informe sobre la Situación de Derechos Humanos en Venezuela 2015. Capítulo derecho a la Integridad Personal. Disponible en: <http://www.derechos.org.ve/pw/wp-content/uploads/Derecho-a-la-Integridad-Personal.pdf>
3. Defensoría del Pueblo. Informe de Gestión 2015. Disponible en: http://www.defensoria.gob.ve/images/informes_anuales/INFORME_ANUAL_2015.pdf
4. Provea. Informe sobre la Situación de Derechos Humanos en Venezuela 2015. Capítulo derecho a la Vida. Disponible en: <http://www.derechos.org.ve/pw/wp-content/uploads/Derecho-a-la-Vida.pdf>

operations carried out by police and military forces. For its part, the Office of the Attorney General noted in its 2015 annual report⁵, that between July and December 2015 there were 245 casualties during the OLP.

According to the research conducted by PROVEA, considering the violation pattern consistently to the behavior that presents the variable in previous periods, by 2015, the “executions” continue concentrating most of the deaths representing 88.89 % of the total, followed by deaths resulting from “indiscriminate use of force” by the government security forces (3.70%), “excessive use of force” (2.96%), “deaths by negligence” (2.59%), and finally the “deaths as a result of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment” , which constitute 1.85% of all known victims.

Regarding the right to personal freedom, PROVEA recorded a total of 17,337 alleged violations, representing an increase of 496% over the figure of 2014, and 161% on the general annual average of the last 18 years. The most alarming increase took place in the number of persons arrested massively during 2015, recording a total of approximately 17,071 persons, representing 96.3% of all alleged violations to personal freedom in 2015, an increase of 494% compared to 2014 and 144% on the general average of mass arrests recorded since 1999. A similar situation occurred with collective arrests, which increased 226% over the previous year and 206% on the general average of the last 6 years. The relevance of these figures, besides the increase, is that 92% of these arbitrary arrests were made in the context of the public policy on public safety known as OLP⁶.

5. Ministerio Público. Informe de Gestión 2015. Disponible en: http://www.mp.gob.ve/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=010ba734-247c-4da1-859f-1ae55772d-7b5&groupId=10136

6. Provea. Informe sobre la Situación de Derechos Humanos en Venezuela 2015. Capítulo derecho a la Libertad Personal. Disponible en: <http://www.derechos.org.ve/pw/wp-content/uploads/Derecho-a-la-Libertad-Personal.pdf>

