# AN INVESTIGATION THAT SHOCKED THE NATION



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THE SCHEME

SA-CRI

JUNE2023

# THE PDVSA

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# INTRODUCTION

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# What was the context of this crusade against corruption?

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As of this writing, it has been three months into this "crusade" against corruption, which for the first time involves acting senior government officials. The targets no longer include political adversaries. To date, there have been 61 persons of interest, according to the Prosecutor General appointed by the National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, although he has only mentioned the names of 51 of them who are allegedly detained. The government acknowledged the existence of a plot targeting—again—state-owned oil company PDVSA, and which has put in check the close circle of Tareck El Aissami, who—among many other positions—has served as Vice President of the Republic, a key figure in the power structure, and has resigned in the midst of the arrests from one of his current key positions as Minister of Petroleum.

There has been no news about El Aissami's whereabouts since he announced his resignation through a tweet, and not even Prosecutor General Saab has mentioned him. He barely spoke of a potential investigation against him. Not even the media aligned with the ruling party has mentioned El Aissami. Progovernment deputy Jesús Farias did make a reference, but no action was made on it.

Where is Tareck El Aissami? Nobody seems to have an answer in the midst of the opacity, censorship and self-censorship prompted by fear of the lawenforcement structure. And few ask about this official.

The umpteenth embezzlement in PDVSA was uncovered at a time of particular economic crisis. After the 2022 bubble, which—under the "Venezuela has been fixed" campaign—aimed to showcase the opening of new restaurants and highend stores, and relatively improved fuel and energy supply in some regions of the country, 2023 saw an economic setback with worse numbers than previous years, and forced the government to raise the minimum wage to Bs. 130, or USD 5 per month, adding some special bonuses for some specific groups—for an additional USD 5—, with unconfirmed frequency.

There is no official information as to when this scheme began, nor on the amount involved. Government-aligned newspaper *Últimas Noticias*, however, estimated it at USD 3 billion in one report, but that amount was not mentioned again. Research site Armando.info estimated the amount north of USD 8 billion, and international news agency Bloomberg reported that the entire operation exceeded USD 20 billion. The piece includes an analysis of the possible amounts embezzled, estimating them at between USD 13 and 16 billion.

The investigation, dubbed by Prosecutor General Saab "PDVSA-Crypto," and other schemes, mentions military officers in high-ranking positions, judges, justices, former parliamentarians, presidents of state-owned companies, private businessmen and even employees of the Baruta Municipality in Caracas. These are serious corruption events are revealed in the year before the elections, with primary elections scheduled this year to choose the opposition candidate to face Nicolás Maduro in elections that should be held by the end of 2024, when his constitutional term lapses.

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Nicolás Maduro would seek reelection for the second time, as he has been in power since 2013. Unconfirmed versions maintain that the "crusade against corruption" is an internal "purge" of the ruling party to annul those trying to unseat Maduro, or that it is a score to be settled for the missing money, much needed to address the economic crisis caused by the destruction of the national productive apparatus, and to kick off the electoral race.

# How was the scheme orchestrated?

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The information about the events is part of a puzzle that people are trying to put together given the lack of official information. A week after the first arrests, the official version of Prosecutor General Saab spoke of "oil operations conducted parallel to PDVSA" and that the network traded shipments of crude oil without any type of administrative oversight or guarantees, and that payments were not made.

The scheme of opaque and irregular trading escalated in January 2019 after the sanctions imposed by the U.S. government on PDVSA. In an attempt to circumvent the U.S. measures, the directors of the state-owned company initially turned to two operators of Russia's Rosneft, and also traded hydrocarbons using techniques that bordered on piracy: they turned off the radars of the vessels carrying the oil, triangulated the sales, transferred cargoes between vessels at sea, sold it at a discount, and collected the money in Russian banks. After the United States issued sanctions against Russian operators, PDVSA turned to brokers to sell the oil. Newly created companies, without any experience in the oil sector, took ships with millions of barrels of oil from the docks of Venezuelan refineries, but the money for these shipments never made it to PDVSA's accounts. Since February 2022, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the collection of the shipments became increasingly complicated.

Did this really happen? What is the real debt to be collected? Are all liable parties under arrest? How can USD 13 billion (possibly much more) simply go up in smoke without anyone noticing? Who kept these public funds?



# What went wrong?

While we know that a structure has been set up in Venezuela that fosters opacity, suppresses transparency and oversight systems, some facts are evident. Our organization made some public statements addressed to prosecutor Tarek William Saab, a few days after the first arrests. Where were the officials in charge of safeguarding the money of all Venezuelans? From the internal comptroller of PDVSA, the external auditors, the board of directors, the Comptrollership Commission of the National Assembly, the Comptroller General, even the President of the country himself, they all must give an answer. What kind of administrative, financial and business oversight systems, policies and procedures does the most important company in the country have that there are no institutional response when one million, two, ten, one billion or even 13 billion dollars simply go missing? Several departments and divisions of the "industry" were surely to be aware of what was going on; this type of money suggests that the entire top management of the company was aware of what was happening.

Why was no action taken when the first operation was put at risk? That is one of the many questions that our organization asked prosecutor Tarek William Saab in early May 2023<sup>1</sup>. It is also something that should be answered by President Nicolás Maduro, as the person in charge of the National Treasury.

# What is the impact?

These billions of dollars are urgently needed to address the many needs of a population that is more than 90% poor, almost 80% in extreme poverty, in need of humanitarian aid for more than 11 million Venezuelans; with gasoline shortages that regularly bring cities and food transportation to a standstill; with unscheduled power cuts for hours on end that cripple hospitals, schools, and production.

To help understand all the data collected in this report, we have divided it into five sections:

- I. Explanation of the corruption scheme and the background to understand the dimensions and liability around the facts.
- II. Estimate of the public money involved in the corruption scheme.
- III. Profile of the officials and businessmen under investigation and their links.
- IV. High ranking officials of the Ministry of Petroleum, PDVSA and SUNACRIP that were excluded from the investigation of the Prosecutor's Office.
- V. History of actions of the agencies in the so-called "crusade against corruption", anomalies and signs of impunity.

<sup>1</sup> https://transparenciave.org/las-12-pregunta-transparencia-venezuela-ministerio-publico/

The corruption scheme and the background to understand the dimensions and liability around the facts



On the afternoon of Friday, March 17, 2023, we witnessed yet another twist in the corruption that has taken root in Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA), the nation's largest company and main generator of the foreign currency that flows into the national accounts. That day saw the announcement of the prosecution of a group of people who allegedly allowed **ships loaded with millions of barrels of oil to leave the docks of Venezuelan refineries with no payments made to the state-owned oil company**.

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The first announcements came from the National Anti-Corruption Police, which issued a statement claiming that it had asked the Public Prosecutor's Office to "prosecute" a number of persons who held positions within the national oil industry, as well as people involved with the judiciary and certain municipalities, who were allegedly "involved in serious acts of administrative corruption and embezzlement of funds."<sup>2</sup> Most of the following announcements were made by the Prosecutor General appointed by the Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, in the media and press conferences, revealing part of the MO: between October and November 2022, an investigation was initiated on a network of senior officials of PDVSA and the National Superintendence of Crypto-assets (SUNACRIP), who used their positions to carry out crude oil purchase and sale operations outside PDVSA.

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According to facts presented by the prosecutor, **the illegal operations consisted in the assignment of crude oil shipments to SUNACRIP and to individuals, in breach of contracting regulations, without any administrative oversight or guarantees.** Although the illegally assigned crude was traded, the corresponding payments to the oil company were not made. In addition, cryptocurrencies were allegedly used to launder the money.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Statement by the National Anti-Corruption Police. https://twitter.com/luchaalmada/status/1636786671562932224?t=aBaub eT86tWlbni8YaZoAA&s=08 17/03/2023

<sup>3</sup> Venezuelan Public Prosecution Ministry. Prosecutor General announced the arrest of 21 persons for involvement in a corruption scheme at PDVSA. http://www.mp.gob.ve/index.php/2023/03/23/fiscal-general-anuncio-detencion-de-21-personas-por-participar-en-trama-de-corrupcion-en-pdvsa/ 23/03/2023

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The network also allegedly used a conglomerate of trading companies to launder the proceeds from the sales, through the purchase of cryptocurrency, assets and property, and investments in the construction and real estate sector. The crimes they are charged with are appropriation or diversion of public funds, influence peddling, money laundering, conspiracy and treason.

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While there are many doubts among the Venezuelan population since the announcement of the first arrests, government agencies have failed to provide more detailed information on the corruption mechanism used, nor have they provided in-depth information on the role of each of the detainees, the amount of public funds involved and their location.

However, publications by international organizations, renowned media and think tanks had been warning for at least four years about the opaque and risky operations that PDVSA was carrying out to sell its oil after the sanctions imposed by the United States in 2019. The followup and analysis of the reports allows us to determine the new embezzlement scheme at the state-owned company.

### **1. January 2019.** U.S. sanctions imposed. PDVSA explores new ways to circumvent the measures.

Since January 2019, when the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned PDVSA<sup>4</sup>, as one of the strongest measures by then U.S. President Donald Trump against the Maduro administration, PDVSA's finances were impacted.

The prohibition to sell oil to the United States shut off much of PDVSA's cash flow, shortly thereafter, Venezuelan authorities planned new routes to export Venezuelan crude oil, but at the same time these favored opacity and the opportunity for new businesses with groups close to power and willing to assist in exchange for a slice of the Venezuelan treasury cake.

A report prepared by economic and financial consulting firm Ecoanalítica for Transparencia Venezuela highlights that international sanctions encouraged corruption practices in the export of crude oil, generating opportunities for traders willing to take the risk of being sanctioned, trading Venezuelan crude oil with discounts of +30% in the Asian market.

One of the main strategies followed by the Venezuelan government was to turn to its allies Russia and Iran, which are also sanctioned, to learn about the routes used by them to circumvent U.S. measures, and even to rely on them in order to sell and collect their oil bill.

After the sanction, PDVSA switched to doing business mainly with two units of Russian giant Rosneft, according to export schedules of the state-owned company accessed by Reuters.<sup>5</sup> Together, Rosneft Trading SA and TNK Trading International S.A. handled a large percentage of Venezuela's oil exports

<sup>4</sup> Departamento del Tesoro de EE UU. Treasury Sanctions Venezuela's State-Owned Oil Company Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm594 28/01/2019.

<sup>5</sup> Reuters. Compradores fantasma en Rusia, consejos de Irán ayudan a Venezuela a eludir sanciones. https://www.reuters. com/article/venezuela-petroleo-exportaciones-idLTAKBN27Q29B 10/11/2020.



in 2019, according to statements by OFAC spokespersons.<sup>6</sup>

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In August 2019, Rosneft Trading S.A. traded a shipment of two million barrels of Venezuelan crude oil with PDVSA and found a vessel willing to carry the cargo despite difficulties in doing business in Venezuela;<sup>7</sup> in September 2019, PDVSA supplied a one million barrel shipment of Merey-16 to Rosneft Trading S.A., which was loaded on a vessel in Venezuela bound for Asia; in Q4 2019, PDVSA arranged oil shipments with Rosneft Trading S.A. involving 55 million barrels of crude oil produced from September to December 2019.

In addition to relying on Russian companies for the placement of oil, **PDVSA increased its use of the Russian financial system as a way to circumvent Western banks**. In 2018, the state-owned company had already chosen Evrofinance Mosnarbank, in which the Republic of Venezuela holds 49.9% of shares, to handle some payments to its suppliers,<sup>8</sup> which were asked to channel international transactions through the Moscow bank. This relationship expanded after the sanctions against PDVSA.

International media also reported that airplanes carrying tens of millions of dollars and euros in cash were being sent from Russia to Venezuela as payment for oil and other items. Customs data compiled by Import Genius—a business intelligence firm that tracks shipping data—shows that Russia's Gazprombank sent in January 2019 to Venezuela's BANDES two plane loads of cash: one with 100 million euros (USD 110.20 million) and another with USD 50 million.<sup>9</sup>

The state-owned company in turn began charging in euros in cash directly and started to study the possibility of charging through cryptocurrencies.

The Venezuelan government also began to replicate strategies developed by Iran to try to mislead the Americans. The oil company began use ghost ships, which do not identify themselves or use forged identifications, turn off their tracking devices while en route, transfer cargoes between tankers at sea, among others.

**2. February-March 2020.** Russian companies are sanctioned and new customers are needed.

Between February and March 2020, OFAC sanctioned Rosneft Trading S.A. and TNK Trading International S.A., the two units of Rosneft that had been helping PDVSA to sell its oil in international markets. After the measure, the Russians decided to part ways, and from then on, the Venezuelan stateowned company had an increasing need to turn to new clients to continue exporting oil. Although it had started to operate with some of these new clients since 2019, since 2020 the relationship with them has expanded.

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury. Treasury Targets Additional Russian Oil Brokerage Firm for Continued Support of Maduro Regime https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm937 12/03/2020

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury. Treasury Targets Russian Oil Brokerage Firm for Supporting Illegitimate Maduro Regime https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm909 18/02/2020

<sup>8</sup> Bloomberg. Planeloads of Cash From Russia Have Been Shipped to Venezuela https://www.themoscowtimes. com/2019/11/01/what-next-russias-economy-a68015 01/11/2019

On the same dates, on February 19, 2020, the Venezuelan Executive Branch published in Official Gazette No. 41.825, the declaration of energy emergency of the hydrocarbons industry, and created the "Alí Rodríguez Arague" Presidential Commission for the Defense, Restructuring and Reorganization of the National Oil Industry, entrusted with designing, supervising, coordinating and advancing all the productive, legal, administrative, labor and commercialization processes of the national public oil industry and related activities, including PDVSA and the Venezuelan Oil Corporation (CVP). Article 4 of such Decree granted the Commission the power to:

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To determine the creation, suppression, modification, centralization or decentralization of attributions, management or procedures in any of the entities of the public sector of the oil industry and related activities, or to carry out their standardization for a group of them in matters of procurement, contracting, strategic planning and commercialization, in accordance with the legal regulations in force.

This commission was made up of 18 people, with **Tareck El Aissami**, who was the Minister of Petroleum, as **chairperson**, and Asdrubal Chavez, then president of PDVSA, as vice-chair. According to investigations of recognized national and international media, **El Aissami**<sup>10</sup> was one of the main architects of the strategy to sell Venezuelan oil by expanding the use of a network of traders or intermediaries. According to PDVSA internal documents to which the media have had access, **PDVSA turned to a hundred intermediaries to trade and distribute the oil.** Most of these operators were recently registered in opaque jurisdictions such as Hong Kong, Panama, Belize or the United Arab Emirates, had no experience in the energy business or were managed by businessmen aligned with the government.

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Oil sales with the new intermediaries were made following two main schemes. First, PDVSA sold oil as compensation, the stateowned company sent hydrocarbons that the recipients had to pay for with goods or services or by covering debts owed by the state-owned company to third parties. Second, the company sold oil on consignment.

Sales as compensation: One of the best documented examples of the sale of oil as compensation was reported by the U.S. Treasury Department on June 18, 2020. That day OFAC sanctioned Mexican businessmen Joaquín Leal Jiménez, Olga María Zepeda Esparza, Verónica Esparza García and the companies Libre Abordo and Schlager Business Group S. de RL de CV for allegedly operating a sanctions evasion scheme that benefited the Maduro administration and PDVSA. The scheme involved Colombian businessman Alex Saab, imprisoned in the U.S. on money laundering charges, and Minister El Aissami himself.

<sup>10</sup> Armando.info. Pdvsa dio patente de corso a unos intermediarios que le quedaron debiendo. https://armando.info/pdvsadio-patente-de-corso-a-unos-intermediarios-que-le-quedaron-debiendo/ 20/11/2022

<sup>11</sup> U.S Department of the Treasury. Treasury Targets Sanctions Evasion Network Supporting Corrupt Venezuelan Actors https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1038 18/06/2020

According to the indictment, Saab and Leal devised an "oil-for-food" sales program that never resulted in food deliveries to Venezuela. Saab and Leal, in connivance with Mexican companies Libre Abordo and Schlager Business Group, negotiated the resale of more than 30 million barrels of crude oil on behalf of PDVSA, approximately 40% of Pdvsa's oil exports in April 2020.

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Although Libre Abordo and Schlager Business Group claimed to have contracts with the Venezuelan government to deliver corn and 1,000 water tankers to Venezuela, these companies did not deliver corn and shipped approximately 500 water tankers (only half of what was contracted) at grossly inflated prices. According to the indictment, shipments do not match the amount of PDVSA's crude oil that was lifted and resold by Libre Abordo and Schlager Business Group, valued at more than USD 300 million.

**Sales on consignment:** Internal PDVSA documents to which the investigative media have had access also reveal that the state-owned company delivered ships with millions of barrels to inexperienced intermediaries who pledged to pay for the shipments in the future. However, the money did not enter the oil company's accounts. It is not known whether the recipients of the shipments maintain the debts receivable with the state-owned company or whether they paid part of the invoices and the money was diverted.

Investigative media outlet Armando.info accessed a confidential report dated October

11, 2022, prepared by the then Vice President of Commerce and Supply at PDVSA, Colonel Antonio Pérez Suárez, which reveals that the state-owned company transferred to the State uncollected invoices for oil shipments between 2019 and 2022 for 13,338 million dollars, in order to "close accounts receivable in the SAP computer system." <sup>12</sup>

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According to the media outlet, the amount includes "shipments delivered to third parties on instructions from the government" during the last four years.

Companies that received Venezuelan oil included: Walker International, which owes PDVSA some USD 77 million, according to the documents. The company is registered in the United Arab Emirates and has an address in Venezuela that seems unrelated with the company<sup>13</sup>; another intermediary is M and Y Trading Co, registered in Hong Kong in 2020. It owes PDVSA more than \$1.2 billion; In addition, another of PDVSA's partners was Treseus International, a company run by Juan Fernando Serrano, a Spaniard charged last year with money laundering in federal court in Manhattan for conspiracy to smuggle oil for the benefit of wealthy Russians.<sup>14</sup>

In conversations held by Serrano with Russia's Yury Orekhov, the latter said he **preferred to pay for oil with Tether, a cryptocurrency intended to be linked to more stable currencies such as the U.S. dollar**. <sup>15</sup>

**3. February 2022.** Russia's invasion of Ukraine makes the process of sale and collection of PDVSA's receivables more difficult.

13 AP. Negociantes furtivos ganan millones con petróleo venezolano. https://apnews.com/article/noticias-4c87442dc4c4ac0c3 ab4ed342aa1618e 31/03/2023

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<sup>12</sup> Armando.info. Alex Saab y Álvaro Pulido también dejaron un 'mono' en Pdvsa. https://armando.info/alex-saab-y-alvaropulido-tambien-dejaron-un-mono-en-pdvsa/ 09/04/2023

<sup>15</sup> AP. Cash is king for sanctioned Russian, Venezuelan oligarchs. https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-technologymiddle-east-hong-kong-venezuela-6f0663fb71820a102193325b0f50fb6c 21/10/2022

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 had a great impact on world energy markets, and for Venezuela it became more complicated not only to place oil in international markets but also to collect and manage its bank accounts.

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Russia went from being an important advisor and financial manager for PDVSA to becoming a competitor. Given the additional sanctions against Russia, large quantities of Russian oil had to go through the opaque commercial channels that Venezuela had been using to sell its oil. In terms of quality, Russian crude is usually better valued than Venezuelan crude.

In addition, the sanctions imposed on Russian banks after the invasion also resulted in significant PDVSA funds being frozen. In 2019, as part of U.S. sanctions on Venezuela, another bank widely used to trade with Russia, Evrofinance Mosnarbank, was blacklisted, forcing PDVSA to move its collection accounts to other banks.

In early 2022 it became known that Venezuela was asking Russia to unfreeze oil revenues in several Russian banks blacklisted by the United States, especially Promsvyazbank (PSB), where PDVSA and the Ministry of Defense have bank accounts<sup>16</sup>.

In this context of further restrictions on the use of Russian financial systems, the use of other payment methods for Venezuelan oil—such as cryptocurrencies—, became even more necessary. Sales and collection operations became more opaque due to measures previously taken by the Venezuelan authorities.

On October 12, 2020, the Official Gazette No. 6,583 Extraordinary published the so-called

Constitutional Anti-Blockade Law for National Development and Guarantee of Rights, issued by the National Constituent Assembly, which the government used as an argument to diversify financial mechanisms and receive payment for oil and mineral exports through cryptocurrency. The law sets out in Article 32:

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For the purpose of protecting transactions involving financial assets of the Republic and its bodies, **the National Executive Branch may authorize the creation and implementation of any financial mechanism** that allows mitigating the effects of unilateral coercive measures and other restrictive or punitive measures that prompted this Constitutional Law, **including the use of cryptoassets and instruments based on blockchain technology.** 

The law also allows for non-compliance for specific cases—with legal or sub-legal rules whose application is impossible or counterproductive as a consequence of the effects caused by a certain "unilateral coercive measure or other restrictive or punitive measure."

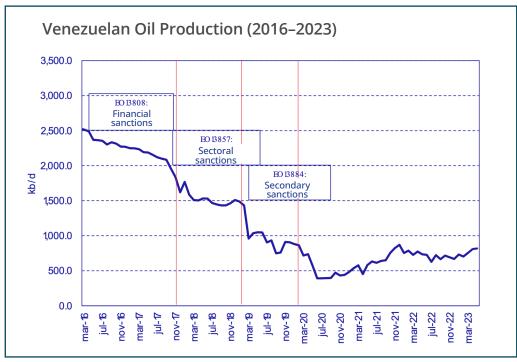
The administrative chaos in PDVSA's accounts receivable is such that, with the endorsement of Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez in October, the state-owned oil company was reportedly authorized to incorporate in the next oil contracts " invoice assignment and compensation with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the shipments of hydrocarbons to must be delivered in the future to third parties by instructions of the National Executive Branch." In other words, the procedure was approved by the central government.

<sup>16</sup> Reuters. U.S., Venezuela discuss easing sanctions, make little progress: sources. https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/ us-venezuela-discuss-easing-sanctions-make-little-progress-sources-2022-03-06/ 06/03/2022.



# **2** Estimate of the public money involved in the corruption scheme

Prompted by secondary sanctions<sup>17</sup> in addition to the measures taken by the U.S. to curb the Maduro regime's ability to market crude in international markets during Q1 2020, PDVSA was forced to limit the scope of their marketing agreements with Rosneft and other Mexican trader groups that facilitated Venezuelan oil exports between 2019 and early 2020, and build new relationships with an assortment of oil brokers with questionable reputation and little information about the industry, which implied high levels of vulnerability for the USD 27.6 billion that—as per our estimate at Ecoanalítica—the nation's oil industry produced between 2020 and 2023.



Source: Ecoanalítica and OPEC

In this regard, sources consulted within the industry by Ecoanalítica confirm that 13% of these bills—some USD 3.6 billion are potentially uncollectible, since these traders left the country without making any advance payment of at least a portion of the shipments, despite the fact that they had previously accepted these conditions. To make matters worse, PDVSA's ability to track them is limited or non-existent because

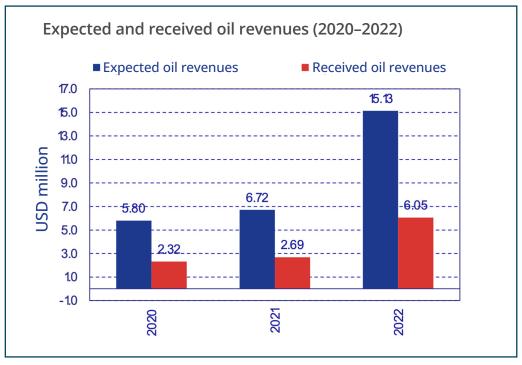
<sup>17</sup> Sanctions placed after the financial sanctions that curtailed PDVSA's international financing—although the market already held it as an excessively low-risk and unattractive option—and the sanctions on the Venezuelan oil industry that limited exports to the U.S. and operations with U.S.-based companies.



these were transactions with traders with little background in the oil market. In addition, another USD 13 billion are estimated to remain in accounts receivable, accounting for about 47% of PDVSA's oil revenues between Q1 2021 and Q1 2023, although Petroleum Ministry management claims success in aggressive collections in recent weeks to reduce the outstanding accounts, driven by the need to bring cash in for the upcoming 2024 elections.

## This suggests that about 60% of the oil revenues—about USD 16 billion

— remain unpaid, and that during those three years, of the USD 27.6 billion expected—according to Ecoanalítica estimates<sup>18</sup>—based on exports and oil prices, only about USD 11.05 billion were transferred into the state's treasury. These data is consistent with government spending during that period, and with the sales of foreign currency offered in the exchange commissions, in the order of USD 5.5 billion between 2020 and 2023, as well as the increase in extra-budgetary funds by USD 3.8 billion compared to April 2020, when they reached a USD 800 million low. The sum of both amounts results in about USD 9.3 billion, which would then explain the use of 85% of the funds that we estimated as received by the government in that period.



Source: Ecoanalítica

18 Considerando un descuento en la comercialización que ha variado entre 40 y 25%.



In fact, a sign of the magnitude of the embezzlement of the national accounts is that—according to our estimates—, the elimination of collection bottlenecks, which has been noticeable in PDVSA's recent demands to require payments in advance as a condition to trade crude oil, and which were part of the requirements of PDVSA's international partners such as Chevron, ENI and Repsol once they resumed operations and requested the implementation of extensive audits, could lead to a quarterly

increase in oil revenues by 150%, from less than USD 1 billion collected in Q1 to 4 billion during the last quarters. This would drive revenues for PDVSA in the order of USD 12.5 billion for the year, twice the USD 6 billion made effective in 2022—what should have been over USD 15 billion, were it not for the scheme—, even though the price of Venezuelan oil has dropped by an average 33% in one year, from USD 80 to around USD 55 until mid-June.



# 3

# Profile of the officials and businessmen under investigation and their links

Three months after the arrests and arraignments, we have only heard of the identity of some persons of interest mentioned by prosecutor Tarek William Saab. There are no details about their role in the scheme, nor how the mechanism operated exactly, much less whether there is any official estimate of the amounts involved. The prosecution is also a well-kept secret. There was only a display of images in the state-run media showing the detainees wearing "orange jumpsuits," which is unusual in Venezuela. But as the days went by, silence became the norm, and even the government-aligned websites that leaked information from the government itself stopped reporting.

# Officials named in the PDVSA-Crypto scheme

The Prosecutor General has named 14 officials allegedly involved in the corruption plot known as PDVSA-Crypto Scheme. Most of them have a long career in the Venezuelan public administration and at least seven have been appointed to their positions directly by Nicolás Maduro and Tareck El Aissami.

**1. Antonio José Pérez Suárez.** Arrested in March 2023. He is an army colonel

graduated from the Military Academy in July 1999. He was ranked 114th in the Colonel Miguel Antonio Vásquez cohort.<sup>19</sup> He has been identified as the alleged "head of the corruption network".

Since 2013 he has held at least 14 public positions, for six of which he was appointed by **Nicolás Maduro**, in two by **Tareck El Aissami**, in two by Juan Bautista Arias Palacio, and in the rest by Delcy Rodríguez, Carmen Meléndez and Carlos Osorio.<sup>20</sup>

Tareck El Aissami also endorsed two of Pérez Suárez's appointments made by Nicolás Maduro and one by Delcy Rodríguez.

According to a press investigation, the colonel was accused of being part of an alleged case of corruption with Haier household appliances. Pérez Suárez and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Guerra García, then head of the DGCIM Headquarters, reportedly applied for a number of Haier household appliances to be sold to the personnel and troops of the intelligence agency, through the *"Mi casa bien equipada"* social program, but they were actually stored in a warehouse located near the main headquarters of the Counterintelligence Directorate, in Boleíta, Caracas, to be sold on the black market.<sup>21</sup>

21 Infobae. Hay funcionarios de la Dirección de Contrainteligencia venezolana involucrados en robos, extorsiones y detenciones extrajudiciales. https://www.infobae.com/america/venezuela/2020/01/23/hay-funcionarios-de-la-direccion-de-contrainteligencia-venezolana-involucrados-en-robos-extorsiones-y-detenciones-extrajudiciales/ 23/01/2020.

<sup>19</sup> Runrunes. El ala verde de la #PurgaMadurista: los militares detenidos por el escándalo de Pdvsa https://runrun.es/rr-esplus/498590/el-ala-verde-de-la-purgamadurista-los-militares-detenidos-por-el-escandalo-de-pdvsa/ 01/04/2023.

<sup>20</sup> Corruptómetro. Antonio Pérez Suárez: la trayectoria del supuesto "jefe de la red de corrupción" en Pdvsa. https:// corruptometro.org/noticias/antonio-perez-suarez-la-trayectoria-del-supuesto-jefe-de-la-red-de-corrupcion-en-pdvsa/ 5/04/2023

POSITIONS HELD BY COLONEL ANTONIO JOSÉ PÉREZ SUÁREZ Position Gov't Agency/Body Appointed by Date Gazette Endorsed by Endorsed by Jorge Alberto Chairman Fundación Pueblo Nicolás Maduro 25/07/2013 40.214 Wilmer Omar Arreaza Soberano Moros Barrientos Montserrat Fernández Principal member Board of Directors, "El Carlos Osorio 22/04/2014 40.396 Niño Simón" Foundation Chairman Venirauto Industrias, C.A. Nicolás Maduro 23/05/2016 40.909 Aristóbulo Miguel Ángel Pérez Abad Moros Isturiz Chairman Juan Bautista 08/08/2016 Corporación Socialista 40.961 Del Sector Automotor, Arias Palacio C.A. (Corsoauto) Board of Directors, "El Carmen Principal member 22/02/2017 41,101 Niño Simón" Foundation Meléndez **Principal Director** Autobuses Yutong Nicolás Maduro 10/01/2018 41.317 Tareck El Carlos Osorio Venezuela, S.A. bus Aissami Moros assembly plant Chairman Corporación Socialista Nicolás Maduro 15/06/2018 6.382 Delcy Eloína Ildemaro del Cemento, S.A. Rodríguez Moises Moros Gómez Villarroel Arismendi Nicolás Maduro Tareck El Vice-Minister of Ministry of the People's 19/06/2018 41.422 **Delcy Eloína** Intermediate and Power for Industries and Moros Aissami Rodríguez Light Industries National Production Gómez **Principal Directo** Delcy Eloína 29/10/2018 41.512 Tareck El Corporación De Industrias Intermedias Rodríguez Aissami De Venezuela S.A. Gómez (Corpivensa) Chairman Corporación luan Bautista 12/11/2018 41.522 Socialista del Sector Arias Palacio Electrodomésticos, C.A. Chairman of the Tareck El Aissami Corporación Socialista 21/02/2019 41.591 Board del Sector Automotor, C.A. (Corsoauto) Vice president of **PDVSA** Nicolás Maduro 28/02/2020 6.512 Commerce and Supply Moros Tareck El Aissami **Principal Director** Empresa de Distribución 14/09/2021 42,212 de Productos e Insumos Venezuela Productiva

**2. Heinrich Chapellín Biundo.** Arrested in March 2023. He is military officer graduated from the Army Military Academy in 2012 top of his class, "Coronel Diego Jalón" cohort.<sup>22</sup>

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Since 2016, he has held at least four public positions, for two of which he was appointed by **Tareck El Aissami** and in the others by José Antonio Pérez Suárez and Juan Bautista Arias Palacio, former Minister of Basic, Strategic and Socialist Industries.

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22 Runrunes. El ala verde de la #PurgaMadurista: los militares detenidos por el escándalo de Pdvsa https://runrun.es/rr-esplus/498590/el-ala-verde-de-la-purgamadurista-los-militares-detenidos-por-el-escandalo-de-pdvsa/ 01/04/2023.

POSITIONS HELD BY HEINRICH CHAPELLÍN BIUNDO Position Agency/Body Appointed by Date Gazette Employee of the Vice-Presidency of Trade PDVSA and Supply, in charge of contracting, trading, loading and transportation of crude oil abroad. **Principal Director** Empresa de Distribución de Productos e Tareck El Aissami 21/02/2019 41.591 Insumos Venezuela Productiva, C.A. Principal member of the economic-Empresa de Distribución de Productos e 17/10/2016 41.010 losé Antonio financial area of the Public Procurement Insumos Venezuela Productiva, C.A. Pérez Suárez Commission Member of the board of directors Corporación Socialista del Sector Juan Bautista 12/11/2018 41.522 Electrodomésticos, C.A. Arias Palacio Director Corporación Socialista del Cemento, S.A. Tareck El Aissami 19/10/2018 41.506 (CSC)

**3. Hugbel Rafael Roa Caruci.** Arrested in March 2023. Current deputy to the National Assembly for Trujillo state, from the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). Allegedly managed the assignment of shipment contracts to non-paying operators. The Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed the stake held by Roa Caruci in the JV Petrocedeño<sup>23</sup>.

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Since 2007 he has held at least 10 public positions, for three of which he was appointed by **Nicolás Maduro**, two by Tareck El Aissami, and the rest by Hugo Chávez, Diosdado Cabello and Héctor Navarro.

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POSITIONS HELD BY HUGBEL RAFAEL ROA CARUCI										
Position	Agency/Body Appointed by		Date	Gazette	Endorsed by					
Representative of the Telecommunications Research and Development Fund Project Evaluation and Monitoring Board (trustee and chairman)	Ministry of the People's Power for University Education, Science and Technology	Hugbel Roa	24/05/2018	41.404						
President of the National Productive Center for Technological Innovation for Import Substitution	Ministry of the People's Power of the Office of the Presidency and Monitoring of Government Administration	Nicolás Maduro	10/05/2018	41.394	Tareck El Aissami					
Member of the National Productive Center for Technological Innovation for Import Substitution	Ministry of the People's Power of the Office of the Presidency and Monitoring of Government Administration	Nicolás Maduro	29/03/2017	6.293	Tareck El Aissami					
Minister	Ministry of the People's Power for University Education, Science and Technology	Nicolás Maduro	04/01/2017	41.067						
Member of the Electoral Nominations Committee of the National Assembly	National Assembly	Diosdado Cabello	24/10/2014	40.526						

23 Tal Cual. Fiscal Saab confirma que Hugbel Roa controlaba trama de corrupción desde Petrocedeño. https://talcualdigital. com/fiscal-saab-confirma-que-hugbel-roa-controlaba-trama-de-corrupcion-desde-petrocedeno/ 27/03/2023.

POSITIONS HELD BY HUGBEL RAFAEL ROA CARUCI Endorsed Position Agency/Body Appointed by Date Gazette bv Principal member of the Board of El Niño Simón National Héctor Navarro 18/02/2010 39.369 Directors of the El Niño Simón National Foundation-Ministry of the People's Power for Education Foundation. Chief Director of the Restructuring Board Ministry of the People's Tareck El Aissami 31/08/2009 39,253 of the National Directorate of Intelligence Power for Internal Relations and Prevention Services and Justice General Director of the Strategic Office Ministry of the People's Tareck El Aissami 17/07/2009 39.223 for Public Policy Follow-up and Evaluation Power for Internal Relations of the Ministry of the People's Power for and Justice Internal Relations and Justice Office of the President of the 38.707 Vice-Minister of Strategic Affairs of the Hugo Chávez 18/06/2007 Republic Office of the President of the Republic Deputy elected for the State of Trujillo National Assembly elected Jan. 2020

- 4. Jackeline Josefina Perico. Arrested on March 28, 2023, when she was Executive Director of Production of the Orinoco Oil Belt (FPO). She was a special guest for her achievements in 2021 at President Nicolás Maduro's 2021 Annual Report address at the National Assembly. <sup>24</sup>
- **5. Jesús Enrique Salazar Querales.** A military officer arrested in March 2023. He graduated from the Bolivarian Military Technical Academy in 2017, fifth in his classs ("Bicentenial of the birth of General of the Sovereign People, General in Chief Ezequiel Zamora").<sup>25</sup> Officer at the Vice-Presidency of Commerce and Supply of PDVSA.
- **6. José Agustín Ramos Chirinos.** Arrested in March 2023. A military officer graduated from the Military Academy in 2003, 33rd in his class "Fernando Rodríguez del Toro."<sup>26</sup> Officer at the Vice-Presidency of Commerce and Supply of PDVSA.

7. José Lima Cedeño. Arrested in March 2023. Executive Director of PDVSA Oriente and Deputy Executive Directorate of the Orinoco Oil Belt.

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8. José Luis Ernesto Silva Orta. Arrested. He is registered as an active employee of the Treasury of Cryptoassets of Venezuela since July 16, 2019, according to information published by the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security (IVSS). Also as director of the state-owned companies Cincatesa and Proveeduría Socialista del Transporte Aragueño, whose purpose is the commercialization of all types of vehicles and machinery, as well as the supply of parts and services for public or private transportation, according to the National Contracting Registry (RNC).

Since 2008, **José Luis Ernesto Silva Orta** has held at least 9 public positions, for six of which he was appointed by **Tareck El Aissami**.

- 25 Runrunes. El ala verde de la #PurgaMadurista: los militares detenidos por el escándalo de Pdvsa https://runrun.es/rr-esplus/498590/el-ala-verde-de-la-purgamadurista-los-militares-detenidos-por-el-escandalo-de-pdvsa/ 01/04/2023.
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<sup>24</sup> Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs. 2021 Annual Report address of President Nicolás Maduro at the National Assembly. https://mppre.gob.ve/discurso/discurso-memoria-cuenta-2021-presidente-maduro-asamblea-nacional/ 17/01/2022.

#### POSITIONS HELD BY JOSÉ LUIS ERNESTO SILVA ORTA Position Agency/Body Appointed by Date Gazette Tareck El Aissami 31/07/2012 Chairman of the Board of Directors Gran Misión a Toda Vida Venezuela 39,975 15/05/2012 Principal member of the legal area of Presidential Commission on Dignified Shelters Tareck El Aissami 39.922 the Procurement Commission. to Protect the Population in the Event of **Emergencies or Disasters** Tareck El Aissami Officer in charge Police Service Intergovernmental Fund 18/01/2012 39.845 Tareck El Aissami 39.658 Officer in charge Police Service Intergovernmental Fund 18/04/2011 Director-general 25 Autonomous Service of Registries and Notary 2010 Public Offices (SAREN) Chairman Tareck El Aissami 03/06/2009 39.192 Police Service Intergovernmental Fund Principal member of legal area of the Ministry of the People's Power for Internal Tareck El Aissami 25/09/2008 39.024 **Procurement Committee Relations and Justice**

### 9. Joselit de la Trinidad Ramírez Camacho.

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Arrested. He was appointed principal director on the Board of Directors of the Treasury of Cryptoassets of Venezuela S.A. by Tareck El Aissami on February 12, 2019, and Superintendent of Cryptoassets by Nicolás Maduro on June 19, 2018, a position he held until March 17, 2023, when he was removed through decree number 4788 that ordered the restructuring of SUNACRIP.

Since 2018 he has held at least 8 public positions, in three of which he was appointed by **Nicolás Maduro**, three by **Tareck El Aissami**, and the rest by **Diosdado Cabello Rondón**, and Remigio Ceballos Ichaso.

Ramírez Camacho was also general director of the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, as well as president of the Venezuelan Federation of Criminologists (FEVECRIM).<sup>26</sup> He was also secretary of the Office and director of the Office of Citizen Services of the Government of Aragua. On October 15, 2018 he claimed that, "From the official launch of the Petro as an exchange currency last October 1, we started a new phase, a new era where we are sure that the future of cryptoassets is going to play a very important role for the future of this people. We are simply adding wills, intentions and more knowledge."<sup>29</sup>

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Tareck Zaidan El Aissami, along with Samark López Bello, Víctor Mones Coro, Alejandro Javier Marín, Alejandro Miguel León Maal, Alejandro Antonio Quintavalle Yrady, Michols Orsini Quintero and Joselit de la Trinidad Ramírez Camacho, were indicted by a Manhattan Federal Court for allegedly evading OFAC sanctions by allegedly using U.S. companies to provide international transportation on a private jet. Víctor Mones Coro and Alejandro Javier Marín were sentenced, while El Aissami, López Bello and Ramírez Camacho have fugitive status.

27 Poderopedia. José Luis Silva. https://poderopediave.org/persona/jose-luis-silva/

28 Poderopedia. Joselit Ramírez. https://poderopediave.org/persona/joselit-ramirez/ 29 ídem According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the indictment against Ramírez Camacho claims that he worked with others to violate and evade U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) narcotics-related sanctions, among other related regulations. In connection with this illegal scheme, Ramírez Camacho allegedly coordinated travel for OFAC-sanctioned Venezuelan individuals and government officials during the "re-election" campaign of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. In

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addition, Ramirez Camacho allegedly conspired with others to launder payments for the aforementioned illicit acts by smuggling cash from Caracas, Venezuela to New York.<sup>30</sup>

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"Ramirez Camacho was designated as a target of the U.S. State Department's Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program in an effort to root out corruption and criminality linked to the Maduro regime in Venezuela" and up to \$5 million is offered for information leading to his arrest and/or conviction.

	POSITIONS HELD BY JOSELIT DE LA TRINIDAD RAMÍREZ CAMACHO									
Cargo	Agency/Body	Appointed by	Date	Gazette	Endorsed by	Endorsed by				
Member of the Board	National Commission of Casinos, Bingo Halls and Slot Machines	Remigio Ceballos Ichaso	18/10/2021	42.235						
Lead Director on the Board of Directors	Empresa de Distribución de Productos e Insumos "Venezuela Productiva", C.A.	Tareck El Aissami	14/09/2021	42.212						
Lead Director on the Board of Directors	Tesorería de Criptoactivos de Venezuela S.A.	Tareck El Aissami	12/02/2019	41.584						
Superintendent	Superintendency of Cryptoassets	Nicolás Maduro Moros	19/06/2018	41.422	Delcy Eloina Rodríguez	Tareck El Aissami				
Vice Minister of Industrial Development	Ministry of the People's Power for Industries and National Production	Nicolás maduro Moros	19/06/2018	41.422						
Member	Representative of the Council of Vice Presidents at the Council of Ministers in the Evaluation and Merit Committee to fill vacancies at the Central Bank of Venezuela.	Asamblea Nacional Constituyente, presidida por Diosdado Cabello Rondón	26/06/2018	41.427						
General Director of the Office of the Ministry	Ministry of the People's Power for Industries and National Production	Tareck El Aissami	27/06/2018	41.428						
Chairman	Fundación Patria	Nicolás Maduro Moros	24/01/2018	41.327	Tareck El Aissami					

30 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) De La Trinidad Ramírez Camacho, Joselit. https://www.ice.gov/es/los-masbuscados-por-ice/de-la-trinidad-ramirez-camacho-joselit



- **10. Odoardo José Bordones Hernández.** Military officer arrested. Officer at the Vice-Presidency of Commerce and Supply of PDVSA. Graduated from the Army Military Academy in 2015, eight in his class ("José Félix Ribas II)."<sup>31</sup>
- **11. Rajiv Alberto Mosqueda Fregona**. Military officer arrested. Appointed Intendant of Digital Mining and Associated Processes of Tesorería de Criptoactivos de Venezuela S.A., by Joselit de la Trinidad Ramírez Camacho on August 21, 2018, through Official Gazette number 41.464. He holds the rank of lieutenant of the Army, graduated from the Military Academy in 2007, last (194th) in his class called "February 4, 1992."<sup>32</sup>

In January 2011, he was indicted for the crimes of Criminal Conspiracy and attempted Extortion, due to a complaint of extortion of a merchant who was seeking the assignment of US dollars from the National Commission for the Administration of Foreign Currency (CADIVI) through an administrator, who ended up accusing him and other military personnel as his contacts at CADIVI.<sup>33</sup> His case was later dismissed.

12. Renny Gerardo Barrientos. Detenido.

Arrested. Officer at the Intendency of Digital Mining and Associated Processes. He is a military officer with the rank of first sergeant major of the Bolivarian National Guard<sup>34</sup>.

### **13. Yamil Alejandro Martínez Núñez.** Military officer arrested. Officer at the Vice-Presidency of Commerce and Supply of PDVSA. He was stationed at the General Command of Aviation as permanent crew member of continental and intercontinental flights throughout 2007. <sup>35</sup>

Since 2007 Martínez Núñez has held at least 4 public positions, two of which he was appointed by **Tareck El Aissami**, and another by Raúl Isaías Baduel.

POSITIONS HELD BY YAMIL ALEJANDRO MARTÍNEZ NÚÑEZ									
Position	Agency/Body	Appointed by	Date	Gazette					
Employee of the Vice-Presidency of Trade and Supply of PDVSA, with responsibility for contracting operations, trade, loading and transportation of crude oil abroad.	PDVSA								
Permanent Crewmember on the different flights scheduled to Central and South America, Antilles, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania, during 2007	Ministry of the People's Power for Defense	Raúl Isaias Baduel	11/06/2007	38.702					
Alternate Director of the Board of Directors	Corporación Socialista Del Cemento, S.A.	Tareck El Aissami	19/10/2018	41.506					
Alternate Director of the Board of Directors	Corporación Socialista del Sector Automotor, C.A. (Corsoauto)	Tareck El Aissami	21/02/2019	41.591					

31 Runrunes. El ala verde de la #PurgaMadurista: los militares detenidos por el escándalo de Pdvsa https://runrun.es/rr-esplus/498590/el-ala-verde-de-la-purgamadurista-los-militares-detenidos-por-el-escandalo-de-pdvsa/ 01/04/2023.

32 Ídem

33 TSJ. Decisiones http://caracas.tsj.gob.ve/DECISIONES/2014/ABRIL/60-10-2C8046-11-2C8046-11.HTML

- 34 Runrunes. El ala verde de la #PurgaMadurista: los militares detenidos por el escándalo de Pdvsa https://runrun.es/rr-esplus/498590/el-ala-verde-de-la-purgamadurista-los-militares-detenidos-por-el-escandalo-de-pdvsa/ 01/04/2023.
- 35 Ídem



### 14. Ysmel Romer Serrano Flórez.

Former Vice President of Supply and Commercialization of PDVSA.

Serrano Flórez studied with former Minister of Petroleum Tareck El Aissami at the Universidad de los Andes (ULA), where they began their long friendship and made the connections that led him to high positions. Together with El Aissami, he was part of the team that former President Hugo Chávez appointed to restructure the former National Office of Identification and Foreigners (ONIDEX), today known as SAIME<sup>36</sup>.

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Since 2008, he has held at least 13 public positions, for six of which he was appointed by **José David Cabello Rondón**, three by **Tareck El Aissami**, three by **Nicolás Maduro**, and one by Ramón Rodríguez Chacín.

Tareck El Aissami also endorsed two of the three Serrano Flórez's appointments made by Nicolás Maduro. Below are the positions he has held:

	POSITIONS HELD BY YSMEL ROMER SERRANO FLÓREZ									
Position	Agency/Body	Appointed by	Date	Gazette	Endorsed by	Endorsed by				
Member of the Special Board of Statutory Auditors of trading companies	Ministry of the People's Power for Industries and National Production	Tareck El Aissami	30/01/2020	41.811						
President	Pdv Caribe, S.A.	Tareck El Aissami	09/02/2018	41.339						
Executive Vice President	Pdvsa	Nicolás Maduro Moros	28/11/2017	41.288	Tareck El Aissami	Manuel Salvador Quevedo				
	Pdvsa	Nicolás Maduro Moros	29/1/2017	6.284	Tareck El Aissami					
Vice President, Trade and Supply and Internal Manage	Social Protection Fund for Bank Deposits	Nicolás Maduro Moros	16/05/2016	40.904	Aristóbulo Istúriz Almeida	Rodolfo Medina Del Río				
President	CVG Internacional, C.A.	José David Cabello Rondón	02/04/2014	40.385						
President	CVG Internacional Filial Europea, S.L.	José David Cabello Rondón	02/04/2014	40.385						
President	CVG Internacional América Inc	José David Cabello Rondón	02/04/2014	40.385	Tareck El Aissami					
President	SENIAT	José David Cabello Rondón	29/01/2013	40.100						
Head of the Maracay Internal Tax Sector of the Regional Internal Tax Management of the Central Region	SENIAT	José David Cabello Rondón	25/04/2012	39.909						
Regional Manager of Internal Taxes of the Los Andes Region	SENIAT	José David Cabello Rondón	12/03/2010	39.344						

36 Quién es Ysmel Serrano, el exvicepresidente de Pdvsa detenido por corrupción https://efectococuyo.com/politica/quienes-ysmel-serrano-el-exvicepresidente-de-pdvsa-detenido-por-corrupcion/ 20/04/2023 THE PDVSA CRIPTOSCHEME AN INVESTIGATION THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

	POSITIONS HELD BY YSMEL ROMER SERRANO FLÓREZ										
Position	Agency/Body	Appointed by	Date	Gazette	Endorsed by	Endorsed by					
Merida Customs Manager	Minister of the People's Power for Internal Relations and Justice	Tareck El Aissami	26/09/2008	39.025							
General Director of Custody and Inmate Rehabilitation	Minister of the People's Power for Internal Relations and Justice	Ramón Rodríguez Chacín	22/02/2008	38.876							
General Director of Custody and Inmate Rehabilitation											

# Businessmen named in the PDVSA-Crypto Scheme



The reports prepared by Transparencia Venezuela reveal that the people named in this scheme established at least 100 companies from 2000 to 2023 in Bahamas, Malta, United Kingdom, Panama, United States, Ecuador, Colombia and Cyprus. At least 56 were created between 2012 and 2022, i.e. during the Maduro administration. A common feature of 10 of these companies is the broad corporate purpose, which allowed them to contract in multiple areas from the sale of office supplies to the provision of oil and mining services.

**1. Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero.** An arrest warrant has been issued against him. He created at least four companies in Venezuela between 2005 and 2011, three of which are engaged in the food sector and one in the purchase and sale of clothing and footwear.

In three companies, he has partnered with businessmen Afonso López, also named by the Prosecutor General in the PDVSA-Crypto Scheme. Similarly, in three companies he is joined by persons with the surname Londoño.

A company called Asociación Cooperativa La Unión es la Fuerza R.L. signed a contract with the Municipality of Iribarren, and Dicola, C.A. signed contracts with Gas Comunal, Corporación Socialista de Cemento, and PDVSA in 2020, according to information published in the National Register of Contractors.

COMPANIES RELATED TO ALEJANDRO ALFREDO LONDOÑO GUERRERO Name of Date of Place Purpose Partners/directors Position incorporation company Juan Manuel Afonso López Asociación 21/01/2011 Lara Food and basic President Cooperativa La Unión necessities Es La Euerza R L Manuel Ramón Afonso López Treasurer Ángel Manuel Afonso López Comptroller Erick José Chirinos Deputy Comptroller Coordinator of Manuel Fernando Afonso Vargas Education Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero Secretary London, C.A. 15/10/2007 Lara Purchase and sale of Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero Vice-president clothing and footwear Juan José Londoño Guerrero President **Detly Zerpa Palacios** Statutory auditor Food **Director General** Productos de 23/11/2004 Yaracuy Manuel Ramón Afonso López Consumo Kemony Prockemony C.A Juan José Londoño Palacios President Vice-president Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero Juan José Londoño Guerrero **Executive Director** Erick José Chirinos José Oscar Londoño Palacio María Rosa Fernández Statutory auditor Dicola C.A. 01/09/2005 Food Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero President Lara Juan Manuel Afonso López Vice-president Reina Roymar Reyes Zambrano Statutory auditor

2. Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez. Arrested. He has incorporated at least nine companies, seven in Venezuela between 2008 and 2020, one in Cyprus in 2018 and another in the United Kingdom in 2018. Three of his companies are engaged in the food sector and the rest in the purchase and sale of medicines, purchase and sale of products made with aluminum, repairs and oil services and hiring of specialized personnel.

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He was shareholder and president of Mineros de Guayana soccer team between 2016

and 2018. Shortly after Laydecker Navas was appointed as technical director of that team. Navas is "a former leader of the Sports Institute of Portuguesa state and a selfconfessed admirer of Tarek El Aissami." <sup>37</sup>

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Former partners or directors include: Andrés Torin Maldonado, Carlos Jesús Lomeña Soto Rosa, Emilio Gutiérrez Oropeza, Manuel Octavio Chacín Alfaro, Mauro José Medina Zambrano, Natalia Mercedes Quessep Ripoll and Orlando Tulio Faroh Cano.

<sup>37</sup> Runrunes. #PurgaMadurista | Estas son las compañías al mando de los empresarios detenidos https://runrun.es/rr-esplus/499668/empresarios-purgamadurista-companias-al-mando-de-los-empresarios-detenidos/. 18/04/2023

Ipys. Mineros de Guayana. De patrimonio regional a caja chica de la gobernación de Bolívar. https://ipysvenezuela.org/ periodismo-para-revelar-lo-oculto/mineros-de-guayana-de-patrimonio-regional-a-caja-chica-de-la-gobernacion-de-bolivar/

#### **COMPANIES RELATED TO ALEJANDRO JOSÉ ARROYO PÉREZ** Name of Date of Place Purpose **Partners/Directors** Positions company incorporation Agroindustrias Venezuela 16/06/2020 Miranda Hiring of Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez Director Oriente, C. A. trained personnel Venezuela Emilio Gutiérrez Oropeza Director Venezuela Aris Maris Marcano Veraza Statutory auditor Aluminios Venezuela 06/04/2016 Miranda Purchase Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez President El Turpial, C. A. and sale of aluminum products Venezuela Andrés Torin Maldonado Venezuela Lorena Alejandra Rivas Messuti Statutory auditor Torrent Venezuela 03/08/2015 Distrito Purchase and Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez President Alimentos, C. A. Capital sale of food Aris Maris Marcano Veraza Venezuela Statutory auditor Petrovalvulas De 16/06/2008 Oilfield repair Venezuela Zulia Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez President Venezuela, C.A. and services Venezuela Manuel Octavio Chacín Alfaro Venezuela Adriana Coromoto Zambrano Statutory auditor Contreras Importadora Venezuela 20/04/2012 Distrito Purchase and Carlos Jesús Lomeña Soto Rosa Administrative Majagua Costa A Capital sale of food Director Costa C.A Venezuela Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez President Venezuela Lorena Alejandra Rivas Messuti Statutory auditor Medica Roger, C.A. Venezuela 30/12/2015 Distrito Purchase Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez President Capital and sale of medicine and medical equipment Venezuela Natalia Mercedes Quessep Ripoll Venezuela Lorena Alejandra Rivas Messuti Statutory auditor Distrito Oriente Venezuela 06/11/2018 Purchase and Orlando Tulio Faroh Cano Director General Industries, C.A sale of food Capital Venezuela Mauro José Medina Zambrano Director General Venezuela Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez Person of contact Venezuela Aris Maris Marcano Veraza Statutory auditor Reino Reino Director Kronos 20/8/2018 Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez Commodities LTD 38 Unido Unido Bluewolf Cyprus 11/05/2018 Alejandro José Arroyo Pérez

THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

THE PD\

Trading Ltd

38 https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/LieWZaFZ8mMjZQ3kzMP7LmlyLFY/appointments



# 3. Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas (Germán Rubio). Arrested

THE PD'

Colombian national known for being an associate of Alex Saab, arrested in the United States. He incorporated at least six companies under his name, three in Panama between 2009 and 2011, two in Ecuador in 2012 and one in Malta. In these companies, four people are listed as his partners: Assaf Tarek Salim Perozo, Gabriel Andrés Penaherrera Romero, Héctor Eduardo Bermúdez Mora and Jorge Enrique Saltos Michilena.

However, media outlets link him to dozens of companies in which his name is not listed. The news site Armando.info reported that both Pulido and Saab secured a USD 100 million contract to build the "vertical gyms"<sup>39</sup>; they benefited from the exchange system with several companies established in Hong Kong and controlled by the sons of Álvaro Pulido;<sup>40</sup> they handled hundreds of millions of dollars for the supply of CLAP,<sup>41</sup> they were responsible for the loss of USD 1.5 billion for transactions related to the sale of Venezuelan crude oil, in which 19 ghost companies were used.<sup>42</sup>

Emmanuel Rubio, son of Álvaro Pulido, is also allegedly related to more than seven

companies in Colombia, Panama, the U.S., Mexico and China, such as the Mexican company Group Grand Limited, linked to the CLAPs and the company Global Foods Trading, which, according to a journalistic investigation, sold overpriced raw materials to the Venezuelan government.<sup>43</sup>

Pulido Vargas (Germán Rubio) is named in at least 5 investigations carried out by the authorities of the United States, Ecuador, Mexico and Switzerland,<sup>42</sup> in which the name Álex Saab also comes up. In these investigations, the public money involved exceeds USD 2 billion. The cases reportedly impacted sectors such as food and housing.

U.S. authorities are offering a USD 10 million reward for anyone who provides information leading to the arrest of Pulido Vargas, who is accused of money laundering in connection with a bribery scheme.

Pulido Vargas has been sanctioned for corruption in the United States (2019), with a ban on U.S. persons to conduct business with him, and in the United Kingdom (2021), with freezing of assets and funds in both countries, as well as a ban on entry into the United Kingdom.

<sup>39</sup> https://armando.info/del-fraude-de-los-gimnasios-verticales-salio-una-dupla-con-los-negocios-en-forma/

<sup>40</sup> https://armando.info/las-apuestas-arregladas-para-llevarse-los-dolares-baratos-de-venezuela/

<sup>41</sup> https://armando.info/las-cajas-clap-engordan-sin-descanso-la-caja-registradora-de-group-grand-limited/

<sup>42</sup> https://storage.googleapis.com/qurium/armando.info/alex-saab-y-alvaro-pulido-tambien-dejaron-un-mono-en-pdvsa.html

<sup>43</sup> https://armando.info/la-precuela-de-los-clap-tambien-fue-negocio-para-saab-y-pulido/

<sup>44</sup> https://transparenciave.org/alvaro-pulido-un-hombre-conocido-casos-corrupcion/

#### COMPANIES RELATED TO ÁLVARO ENRIQUE PULIDO VARGAS (GERMÁN RUBIO) Date of Name of company Country **Partners/Directors** Positions incorporation Fgdc Malta Holdings Limited Malta Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Malta Fgdc Latam 2012 Sl. Malta Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Malta Gordon Mifsud Clio Management Corp. Panamá 17/01/2011 Elisa Edghill Subscriber Subscriber Panamá Gabriel Choy Fondo Global De Construcción S.A. Ecuador 11/10/2012 Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Foglocons Ecuador Fondo Global Petrolero S.L. Was shareholder Ecuador Jorge Enrique Saltos Michilena General Manager Ecuador Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Shareholder Ecuador Grupo Fgdc Latinoamericana, Shareholder Sociedad Limitada Ecuador Gabriel Andrés Pena Herrera Was legal Romero representative Ecuador 20/09/2012 Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Constructora Jaar S.A. Consjarser Founder Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Fondo Agroindustrial De Alimentos 04/08/2009 Director Panamá (Fagrinal), S.A. Panamá Assaf Tarek Salim Perozo Director Panamá Casas & López Fábrega Agent Panamá Erick González Subscriber Panamá Héctor Eduardo Bermúdez Mora President Panamá Liza Aizpurua Subscriber Drogueria Distribuidora De Productos Panamá 05/08/2009 Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas Director Médicos (Dipromedi), S.A. Assaf Tarek Salim Perozo Director Panamá Panamá Casas & López Fábrega Agent Erick González Subscriber Panamá Panamá Héctor Eduardo Bermúdez Mora President Héctor Eduardo Bermúdez Mora Director Panamá Subscriber Panamá Liza Aizprua

**4. Fernando José Bermúdez Ramos.** Fugitive in Spain. His name is listed as associated with at least seven companies, four established in Venezuela between 2012 and 2017 and three in Panama between 2009 and 2014.

THE PDVS

Its companies have diverse purposes, ranging from the purchase and sale of electronic equipment, construction, food, livestock, agricultural and fishing industries.

SCHEME

THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

Eight names are mentioned among the shareholders and directors of the companies created: Amir Nassar Tayupe, Fe Maiglene



De La Coromoto Gómez, José Ángel Moreno Molina, José Enrique Cachutt D'Sola, José Javier Saldaña García, María Fernanda Bermúdez De Cardoso, Mariano Díaz and Roberto Anderson Cardoso Gouveia.

In September 2014, he incorporated in Panama the company Global Foods Trading, together with Amir Nassar Tayupe, Alex Saab's lawyer in Caracas.

According to a report by ArmandoInfo, Global Foods Trading signed a contract with Corpovex for the supply of 90,000 tons of yellow corn, just 18 days after Emmanuel Rubio (son of Germán Rubio, Álvaro Pulido Vargas's initial name) submitted the bid. For Corpovex, the agreement was signed by Roselys Teresa Riveros Colmenares, who between 2008 and 2014 held positions in state-owned food importing companies.<sup>45</sup>

Global Foods Trading invoiced each ton of yellow corn at USD 357 for a total of USD 32.1 million. That price was 137 dollars higher than the 220 dollars per ton paid to Ecosur, a Panamanian company owned by Roberto Pocaterra, Tulio Hinestrosa and Fabio Méndez, Venezuelan businessmen owners of several firms engaged in the sale of food products such as Mercoamérica, in Venezuela, and others in Panama that surfaced in the investigation into the socalled Panama Papers.<sup>46</sup>

The report also mentioned that Global Foods Trading secured at least three other contracts with the Maduro administration for the sale of wheat, crude soybean oil and paddy rice.

	COMPANIES RELATED TO FERNANDO JOSÉ BERMÚDEZ RAMOS									
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions				
Corporación FBR de Construcción, C.A	Venezuela	21/12/2012	Miranda	Construction	Fernando José Bermúdez Ramos	President				
	Venezuela				Roberto Anderson Cardoso Gouveia	Vice-president				
	Venezuela				María Del Valle Aponte Silva	Statutory auditor				
Corporación FBR de Electrónica, C.A	Venezuela	10/12/2012	Miranda	Purchase and sale of electronic equipment	Fernando José Bermúdez Ramos	President				
	Venezuela				Roberto Anderson Cardoso Gouveia	Vice-president				
	Venezuela				María Del Valle Aponte Silva	Statutory auditor				
Corporación Fbr de Alimentos, C.A.	Venezuela	11/12/2012	Miranda	Livestock, agriculture and fishing industry	Fernando José Bermúdez Ramos	President				
F B Foods Llc, C.A.	Venezuela	22/02/2017	Miranda	Food	Fernando José Bermúdez Ramos	Vice-President				
	Venezuela				José Enrique Cachutt D´Sola	President				
	Venezuela				Ascer Velásquez	Statutory auditor				
Corporación Fbr26, S.A.	Panamá	20/11/2012			Davis Arrocha Medina	Subscriber				

45 https://armando.info/la-precuela-de-los-clap-tambien-fue-negocio-para-saab-y-pulido/ 46 https://armando.info/la-precuela-de-los-clap-tambien-fue-negocio-para-saab-y-pulido/

#### COMPANIES RELATED TO FERNANDO JOSÉ BERMÚDEZ RAMOS Name of Date of Purpose Country Place **Partners/Directors** Positions incorporation company Panamá Fe Maiglene De La Coromoto Director Gómez Panamá Fernando José Bermúdez President Ramos Subscriber Panamá Isca Grajales Castillo Panamá María Fernanda Bermúdez De Treasurer Cardoso Inversiones Ibérica Panamá 09/10/2009 Anzola Robles & Asociados Agent 2009, S.A. Panamá Fernando José Bermúdez President Ramos Panamá Geidy Angulo Salsavilla Subscriber Panamá Isca Grajales Castillo Subscriber Panamá José Ángel Moreno Molina Director Panamá Mariano Díaz Vice-president Global Foods Panamá 12/09/2014 Director Amir Nassar Tayupe Trading, S.A. Panamá De La Fuente & Saldaña, Agent Abogados (Delasa) Panamá Fernando José Bermúdez President Ramos Panamá Director José Javier Saldaña García Panamá Subscriber María Micaela García De La Lastra

### 5. Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica.

THE PD\

He owns at least 26 companies, 11 in Venezuela created between 2002 and 2018, six in Barbados, five in the United States created between 2011 and 2019, three in the Dominican Republic incorporated between 2012 and 2019, and one in Panama established in 2010.

Its companies have diverse purposes, ranging from surveillance, engineering and metal services, financial advisory, construction, oil marketing, gas exports and even fish farming, agriculture and livestock. In these companies, 26 names are mentioned as shareholders, directors, representatives and secretaries, three of which with the surname Arosio: John Arosio Maal, Mariela Arosio Maal and Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica.

THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

According to an investigation by ArmandoInfo, brothers Bernardo and Tadeo Arosio Hobaica are the owners of one of the eight structures built at the end of the airstrip on Gran Roque Island, in the Los Roques archipelago. They are also building high-end real estate, including a hotel, in the Venezuelan capital.<sup>47</sup>

47 https://armando.info/la-de-los-roques-es-apenas-una-pieza-de-este-emporio/



The company ATB Constructores is in charge of the construction of various residential and business towers in different areas of Caracas, such as Los Palos Grandes, La Castellana, Las Mercedes as well as B&Bs in Galipán, on the well-known El Ávila national park. <sup>48</sup>

Bernardo Arosio is the majority shareholder of Prodata Energy, a company chosen by PDVSA to export Venezuelan gas to Colombia. In November 2022, Bloomberg reported that Prodata Energy had been awarded a 30-year contract from PDVSA to send to a Colombian distributor, Energy Transitions, 25 million cubic feet of natural gas per day through the Antonio Ricaurte pipeline.<sup>49</sup>

ArmandoInfo also reported Arosio Hobaica's link with Walker International Dw-Llc, an intermediary of PDVSA in the trading of Venezuelan crude oil in international markets.

	COMPANIES RELATED TO BERNARDO ANDRÉS AROSIO HOBAICA								
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions			
Protection y Vigilance Coding Alpha, C.A.	Venezuela	16/12/2002	Miranda	Surveillance	Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica	Director			
	Venezuela				Soraya Josefina Hobaica Rangel				
	Venezuela				Mariela Arosio Maal				
	Venezuela				Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica	Director			
	Venezuela				Raquel Presas Herrera	Statutory auditor			
Tab Metalmecanica, C.A.	Venezuela	30/07/2015	Miranda	Engineering and metallurgy	Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica	Director			
	Venezuela				Beatriz Del Rosario Rueda Beltrán	Alternate			
	Venezuela				Ricardo Ernesto Cattabriga León	Alternate			
	Venezuela				Mariela Arosio Maal	Director			
	Venezuela				Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica	Legal Representative			
	Venezuela				lvette Coromoto Orta Ramírez	Statutory auditor			
Grupo Hotelero 88, C.A.	Venezuela				Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica	Legal Representative			
Agropecuaria Pico Flor,C.A.	Venezuela				Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica	Legal Representative			
Lagocorp, C.A	Venezuela	02/02/2011	Zulia	Fish Farming, Agriculture and Livestock	Miguel Alberto Alvarado Romero	President			
	Venezuela				Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica	Vice-president			
	Venezuela				Alvis Martínez Daza	Statutory auditor			
Consultora Alca, C.A.	Venezuela	16/02/2018	Miranda	Financial advisory services	Alejandro José Ron Mora	Director			

48 https://runrun.es/rr-es-plus/499668/empresarios-purgamadurista-companias-al-mando-de-los-empresarios-detenidos/
49 https://armando.info/la-larga-tuberia-que-conduce-de-unos-empresarios-a-ellos-mismos/

#### **COMPANIES RELATED TO BERNARDO ANDRÉS AROSIO HOBAICA** Name of Date of Country Place Purpose Partners/Directors Positions company incorporation Venezuela Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Hobaica Jesús Manuel Sánchez Venezuela Director Valero Venezuela María Fernanda Pulido Statutory auditor Ramírez Financial Venezuela Bogotá Elsa Yamile Moreno De Vela Statutory auditor Engineering Advisors **Bogota Sas** Venezuela Reinaldo Andrés Lainville Legal Representative Tirado 1st Alternate Legal Representative Venezuela Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica Atb Venezuela 25/08/2010 Miranda Construction Bernardo Andrés Arosio Employee Constructores A Hobaica Director/CEO Venezuela Mariela Arosio Maal Venezuela María Aida Lamus Valero Director Venezuela Grupo Royal, C.A. Venezuela lvette Coromoto Orta Statutory auditor Ramírez Venezuela Atb Operaciones Venezuela Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Legal Representative Hoteleras C A Atb Consultores Venezuela Atb Materiales Y Venezuela Suministros Atb Holdings Inc. Panamá 14/05/2010 Alfaro, Ferrer & Ramírez Agent Bernardo Andrés Arosio Panamá President Hobaica Panamá Brunilda Gabriela Broce Subscriber Panamá Camilo Andrés Méndez Subscriber Chong Panamá John Arosio Director Panamá Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Director Amb Enclave EEUU 22/01/2018 Florida Alejandro A Moncada Investment Llc Hobaica EEUU Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica EEUU Carlos E Bernoti Najjar EEUU Rodolfo Consuegra Álvarez Agent EEUU Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Gold Bean República 21/03/2012 Bernardo Andrés Arosio Dominicana Hobaica

SCHEME

N THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

THE PDVSA

Domingo Suzaña Abreu

Administrator

República

Dominicana

**COMPANIES RELATED TO BERNARDO ANDRÉS AROSIO HOBAICA** Name of Date of Purpose Partners/Directors Positions Country Place company incorporation Theminis EEUU 27/10/2014 Florida Clarisse Da Costa E Silva Agent Investment Llc Car EEUU Reinaldo Ramírez Pérez EEUU Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Atb República 01/07/2019 Sarahy Del Rosario García Administrator Constructores Rd Dominicana García República Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Dominicana República Arosio 09/08/2019 Sarahy Del Rosario García Administrator Constructing Dominicana García Group República Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Dominicana Mia 0011 EEUU 27/01/2011 Florida Bernardo Andrés Arosio President Hobaica Investments Corp EEUU Jsh Register Agent Services Agent Inc Tango Bravo Air EEUU 01/04/2019 Florida Anelvina Méndez Director Services Corp EEUU Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Hobaica EEUU Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Director EEUU True Vision Services Corp Agent Financial Barbados Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Engineering Hobaica Advisors Corp Carlos Gustavo Yanez De Barbados Director Dominicis Barbados Bdc Inc Director Barbados Services Amicorp Corporate Secretary Financial Barbados Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Engineering Hobaica Advisors 2 Corp Carlos Gustavo Yanez De Barbados Director Dominicis Barbados Services Amicorp Corporate Secretary Hoteles El Barbados Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Director Mirador Limited Barbados Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Hobaica **Guardian Nominees** Barbados Director Limited Barbados John Arosio Maal Director Barbados **Trident Corporate Service** Secretary Limited **Bdc Investment** Barbados Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Inc Hobaica

SCHEME

N THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

**THE PDVS** 

Daniel Yanjos Ave Gil

Director

Barbados

#### **COMPANIES RELATED TO BERNARDO ANDRÉS AROSIO HOBAICA** Name of Date of Country Place Purpose **Partners/Directors** Positions company incorporation Barbados Werner Alberto Braschi Director Behrens Gold Elephant Barbados John Arosio Maal Corporation Barbados Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica Barbados Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica World Fashion Barbados Bernardo Andrés Arosio Director Group Ltd Hobaica Barbados Rodolfo Rangel Ojeda Director Barbados Ivan F.L. Simona Director Barbados María Fernanda Vera León Director Barbados Chancery Corporate Secretary Services Limited The Enclave Lot EEUU 31/05/2018 Florida Alejandro Moncada 10 Llc EEUU Bernardo Andrés Arosio Hobaica EEUU Jsh Register Agent Services Agent Inc EEUU Tadeo José Arosio Hobaica

**6. Daniel Ricardo Prieto Prieto.** Arrested. Alleged Business Manager of Congressman Hugbel Roa Carucci.<sup>50</sup> Daniel Prieto owns at least four companies in Venezuela, established between 2002 and 2017.

THE PD\

The companies incorporated by Pietro are engaged in the oil, tourism and real estate sectors, and the fourth company focuses on the purchase and sale of industrial machinery and equipment.

In these companies, three names are listed as shareholders and directors: Diana Carolina De Oliveira Rivas, José Ytalo Prieto Prieto and Williams Benjamin Alicastro Prieto. According to media reports, Prieto was captured in the Dominican Republic, after a warning from Venezuelan authorities restricted his entry to that country.<sup>51</sup>

THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

A government-aligned digital media outlet published images of Daniel Ricardo Prieto's properties. Prieto is reportedly listed in the Florida registry as the owner of a residence in a housing development in Lake Worth, a city located in Palm Beach County, in the Miami area. The property was purchased in 2021 for USD 313,000. <sup>52</sup>

- 50 https://www.semana.com/mundo/articulo/escandalo-de-pdvsa-asi-es-la-mansion-de-uno-de-los-capturados-porcorrupcion-la-purga-no-se-detiene/202355/
- 51 https://www.lapatilla.com/2023/04/05/la-extravagante-propiedad-de-uno-de-los-empresarios-implicados-en-la-corrupcion-de-pdvsa-fotos/
- 52 https://twitter.com/latablablog/status/1642310709068419073

	COMPANIES RELATED TO DANIEL RICARDO PRIETO PRIETO									
Name of Date of company incorporation		Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions					
Hoteles Construservi, C.A.	13/05/2005	Anzoátegui	Hospitality	Daniel Ricardo Prieto Prieto	Vice-President					
				José Ytalo Prieto Prieto	President					
				Pedro Presilla	Statutory auditor					
Servicios Suministros y Construcciones Cpc, C.A.	15/11/2012	Anzoátegui	Purchase and sale of industrial machinery and equipment	Williams Benjamin Alicastro Prieto	Vice President					
				Daniel Ricardo Prieto Prieto	President					
				Karelys Margarita García Hernández	Statutory auditor					
Comercializadora Drp Global, C.A.	01/11/2017	Miranda	Marketing of real estate and personal property	Daniel Ricardo Prieto Prieto	President					
				Diana Carolina De Oliveira Rivas						
				Andy Velásquez	Statutory auditor					
Venezolana de Construcciones Veneconst,C.A	06/06/2014	Anzoátegui	Logistics services, oilfield construction, etc.	José Ytalo Prieto Prieto	President					
				Daniel Ricardo Prieto Prieto	Vice- President					
				Pedro Presilla	Statutory auditor					

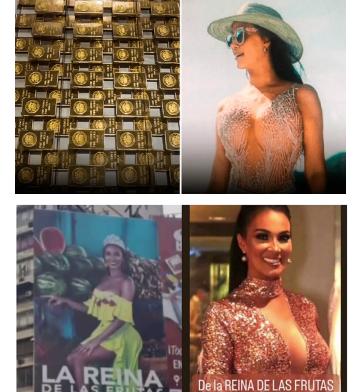
### 7. Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda. Arrested.

THE PDVSA

Known as the "Queen of Fruits", a self-given nickname on a huge billboard that was up for months on the Francisco Fajardo highway in Caracas, promoting her fruit and vegetable business.<sup>53</sup>

She is linked to at least six companies in Venezuela, created between 2003 and 2013. Her ex-husband Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas registered three more companies, two in Venezuela between 2005 and 2007 and a third one in Panama in 2014.

Two of her companies are related to the hydrocarbon sector and the transportation of mining and agricultural products. The



SCHEME

THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

53 https://runrun.es/rr-es-plus/499668/empresarios-purgamadurista-companias-al-mando-de-los-empresarios-detenidos/



remaining companies have very diverse purposes. For example, Asociación Cooperativa La Región 82468, RL, has the following purpose:

"To meet our common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations, seeking general personal and collective welfare through the associated work, selforganization and development of a jointly owned, democratically managed and controlled, open and flexible company, governed by the principles of cooperation and the values of transparency, responsibility, honesty and commitment, in relation to the processing and distribution of **food** in all its states of import and export, packaging and storage, **mobile vending in networks**, purchase and sale of supplies and surgical material for hospitals and laboratories, transportation of people, transportation of equipment, supplies, air and maritime transportation, customs and shipping agency, general warehouse or temporary bonded warehouses, exports and imports of agricultural, fishing, forestry and faustic services, supply of workers, technicians and specialized professionals, as well as waterproofing services, constructions, maintenance and services, architectural projects, urban planning, civil constructions; buildings, sidewalks, gutters, road paving, bridges, aqueducts, drainage, earthworks, topographical surveys, remodeling of buildings, sports fields, construction in the oil area and all those activities related to the construction of civil works, maintenance of buildings, masonry, electricity, plumbing, painting, maintenance and road signs, maintenance of oil areas, vegetation control: digging, pruning, planting and maintenance of ornamental areas, irrigation, maintenance of squares, green areas and gardens of all types of works; cleaning, general and laundry services, transportation of personnel, supply of **chemical and cleaning products**, **supply** of stationery and office supplies, computer equipment, including all accessories; supply of equipment and construction materials. requesting credits from the regional and national government, public and private companies; developing agreements of any kind with the entities mentioned above; incorporating technical, legal and other personnel necessary for the administrative management of the association and/or branches inside and outside our region; plan, promote, develop comprehensive plans of cooperative education and technical training of its associates, as well as to manage the necessary and required financing for the fulfillment of the social purposes; and all the actions that lead to the well-being and economic, emotional and spiritual stability of all the associates and users of our services; as well as all the licit commercial activities related to our purpose and in general all the acts and contracts that are necessary for the attainment of its purpose."

AN INVESTIGATION THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

Johanna Torres's companies signed dozens of contracts with the state-owned company Mercado de Alimentos S.A. (Mercal) and were suppliers of the **School Food Program of Anzoátegui state**, in eastern Venezuela, a government program aimed at feeding school-age children and young people, according to information published in the National Register of Contractors (RNC).

THE PD

On March 31, 2021, the Public Prosecutor's Office ordered the arrest of Johanna Torres for money laundering and criminal conspiracy.<sup>54</sup> Preliminary investigations proved the huge ill-gotten fortune of Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda, through a criminal structure composed of front men, lobbyists, female escorts, and intermediaries that helped her receive illicit contracts by PDVSA and the Ministry of Food.<sup>55</sup>

Her ex-husband Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas was also arrested. At that time, a house in Lechería (Anzoátegui), a restaurant called "El Patio VIP" in Altamira (Caracas) and 11 vehicles, including a yacht and an airplane, were seized.

The actions were carried out as part of an investigation into the company "Operadora El Patio VIP", which operates as "Restaurante El Patio VIP", in the Altamira neighborhood in Caracas. Marianyelis Hernández, who worked as a housekeeper for Johana Torres Ojeda, confessed in the Public Prosecutor's Office that she was forced by Torres to sign a document where she appears as the owner of the company, so that the businesswoman could cover up her involvement.<sup>56</sup>

On social media, Johana Lisseth Torres Ojeda posted pictures of a life of luxury, with private jets, trips and her apartment in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. In one of her videos she claimed that she was already an Emirati citizen, while filming the luxurious property in which she lived, she even showed a briefcase with at least 15 gold bars.

	COMPANIES RELATED TO JOHANA LISSETH TORRES OJEDA							
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions		
Asociación Cooperativa La Región 82468, Rl	Venezuela	11/08/2005	Anzoátegui	Diverso	Lusmila Leticia Ojeda	Comptroller		
	Venezuela				Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda	President		
	Venezuela				Andrés Eduardo Maldonado Zambrano	Treasurer		
	Venezuela				Marlín Del Rosario Ojeda	Coord. of Education		
	Venezuela				Marianyelis Hernández Granadillo	Secretary		
Suplidores Del Caribe, C.A.	Venezuela	15/02/2013	Anzoátegui	Petróleo	Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas	Director		
	Venezuela				Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda	Director		
	Venezuela				Verónica Joan Silva Castillo	Statutory auditor		

54 https://twitter.com/MinpublicoVEN/status/1377389157845098498

- 55 https://twitter.com/MinpublicoVEN/status/1377389270789283840
- 56 https://hispanopost.com/digcim-allano-vivienda-como-parte-de-la-investigacion-a-la-operadora-el-patio-vip/ https://nuevaprensaamerica.com/2022/08/asi-describen-a-johanna-lisseth-torres-ojeda-y-valmore-jesus-guevara-rivas-dosenchufados-que-se-han-hecho-millonarios-gracias-a-multitud-de-guisos-en-venezuela/

#### **COMPANIES RELATED TO JOHANA LISSETH TORRES OJEDA** Name of Date of Country Place Purpose **Partners/Directors** Positions company incorporation Suplibarbara, Venezuela 15/02/2013 Anzoátegui Roberto Antonio Rosales Arrieta Director C.A. Venezuela Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda Director Venezuela Isabel Justina Oliviero Peña Statutory auditor Cooperativa Alto Venezuela 08/09/2005 Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda President Anzoátegui Apure 2021, R.L. Diógenes Regis Rodríguez Marcano Venezuela Secretary Venezuela Ana Rosa Rodríguez Mariño Treasurer Venezuela José Luis Quiaro Comptroller Coordinator Venezuela Pedro José Azócar Maíz Transport Venezuela 09/06/2003 Anzoátegui Transporte Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas President And Services de productos Maritimos mineros y Giovalca, C.A agrícolas Venezuela Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda Vice President Venezuela Francisco Chinchilla Titanium 02/04/2014 Director Panamá Douglas Antonio Fernández Matos Services Corp. Panamá Manuel Antonio Silva Jaramillo Director Panamá Maryorie Batista Rivas Subscriber Panamá Mervin Enrique Ordoñez Machado Subscriber Panamá Mirta Mojica De Quintero Subscriber Panamá Panamá Offshore Legal Services Agent (Pols) Panamá Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas President Cooperativa Venezuela 14/09/2005 Anzoátegui Elba Luz Guevara De Rojas Comptroller Diverso Granos De Maíz 6521, R.L. Venezuela Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas President Venezuela Lisbardo Rafael La Rosa Sánchez Treasurer Venezuela Néstor Cipriano Rojas Guevara Secretary Blanca Ofelia Trías De Guevara Venezuela Coordinator Asociación Venezuela 13/09/2007 Portuguesa Adriana Elena Mac Lellan Bermúdez Treasurer Cooperativa El Gran Prestigio, R.L. Venezuela José Vicente Torres Guerra President Venezuela María Nicolasa Falcón Segovia Education Venezuela Lusmila Leticia Ojeda Secretary Venezuela Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas Comptroller Asociación de Venezuela 06/01/2005 Anzoátegui Diversos Johanna Lisseth Torres Ojeda President Cooperativa Rico Sabor 579 RI Venezuela Mary Yolanda Azuaje Secretary Venezuela Andrés Alejandro Gaspard Treasurer Valmore Jesús Guevara Rivas Comptroller Venezuela of the Eval. Committee

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THE PDVSA

Galys Carolina Misri

Coordinator of Education

Venezuela



8. José Luis Ferrándiz Laya. An arrest warrant has been issued against him.

Ferrándiz Laya incorporated at least three companies, two in Venezuela, between 2009 and 2012, and one in Panama in 2018.

One of his companies in Venezuela is in the hydrocarbon and petrochemical industry, the other has a broad and diverse scope.

In these companies, five names are listed as shareholders, directors and coordinators:

Javier Eduardo Saldaña García, Rene Roberto Rueda Beltrán, Ricardo Jesús Lozada Andrade, Rodolfo José Vargas and Carlos Alberto Pernía Rodríguez. Several of their partners have incorporated other companies in Panama.

The company Servicios Integrales de Distribución, C.A. entered into a contract with the Government of the State of Merida in 2016 for the distribution of food for events, according to information found in the National Register of Contractors.

	COMPANIES RELATED TO JOSÉ LUIS FERRÁNDIZ LAYA								
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions			
Servicios Integrales de Distribución, C.A	Venezuela	30/01/2009	Mérida	Various	José Luis Ferrandiz Laya	Director			
	Venezuela				Kelmary Carolina Vera Pérez	Statutory auditor			
Asociación Cooperativa La Roca 2012, Rl	Venezuela	20/06/2012	Mérida	Hydrocarbons and Petrochemicals	José Luis Ferrandiz Laya	Treasurer			
	Venezuela				Carlos Alberto Pernía Rodrí- guez	Coordinator of Education			
	Venezuela				Yumar Josefina León Osuna	Internal Comptroller			
	Venezuela				Ricardo Jesús Lozada Andrade	Secretary			
	Venezuela				Rodolfo José Vargas	General Coordinator			
International Production Engineering, Corp.	Panamá	18/09/2018			De La Fuente & Saldaña Aboga- dos ( Delasa)	Agent			
	Panamá				Javier Eduardo Saldaña García	Director			
	Panamá				José Javier Saldaña García	Subscriber			
	Panamá				José Luis Ferrandiz Laya	President			
	Panamá				María Micaela García De La Lastra	Subscriber			
	Panamá				Rene Roberto Rueda Beltrán	Director			



**9. Juan Manuel Afonso López y Manuel Ramón Afonso López.** Arrest warrants issued against them.

The Afonso López brothers have incorporated at least 11 companies, nine in Venezuela, between 2004 and 2022, and two in Panama in 2012 and 2019.

Five of the companies established in Venezuela are in the food sector, according to their corporate purpose. The rest is listed as engaged in the purchase and sale of clothing and footwear, and the automotive and construction sectors.

Their companies have signed contracts with the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Iribarren

to distribute food. Also in 2020, transportation services with Gas Comunal, cement supply with Corporación Socialista de Cemento and gasoline supply with PDVSA, according to information found in the National Registry of Contractors.

Five names are listed as shareholders, directors and coordinators of the companies: Erick José Chirinos, Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero, Juan José Londoño Guerrero, Juan José Londoño Palacios, José Oscar Londoño Palacio, Nicolás Mesa, Juan Carlos Mesa Sánchez, Roger Ignacio Ramírez Dorante, Ilse Beatriz Moya León, Jovina Hernández de Bonilla, Gilberto Antonio Fernández Rojas, Maribel Ho Gallardo De Castillo, Olvany Marian Gaspari Bracho, Giovanni Gaspari Heredia.

COMPANI	COMPANIES RELATED TO JUAN MANUEL AFONSO LÓPEZ Y MANUEL RAMÓN AFONSO LÓPEZ							
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions		
Asociación Cooperativa La Unión Es La Fuerza R.L.	Venezuela	21/01/2011	Lara	Purchase and sale of food and basic necessities	Juan Manuel Afonso López	President		
	Venezuela				Manuel Ramón Afonso López	Treasurer		
	Venezuela				Ángel Manuel Afonso López	Comptroller		
	Venezuela				Erick José Chirinos	Sub Comptroller		
	Venezuela				Manuel Fernando Afonso Vargas	Coordinator of Education		
	Venezuela				Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero	Secretary		
London,C.A	Venezuela	15/10/2007	Lara	Purchase and sale of clothing and footwear	Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero	Vice-president		
	Venezuela				Juan José Londoño Guerrero	President		
	Venezuela				Detly Zerpa Palacios	Statutory auditor		
Productos De Consumo Kemony Prockemony C.A	Venezuela	23/11/2004	Yaracuy	Food	Manuel Ramón Afonso López	Director General		
	Venezuela				Juan José Londoño Palacios	President		
	Venezuela				Alejandro Alfredo Londoño Guerrero	Vice-president		
	Venezuela				Juan José Londoño Guerrero	Executive Director		
	Venezuela				Erick José Chirinos			
	Venezuela				José Oscar Londoño Palacio			

#### COMPANIES RELATED TO JUAN MANUEL AFONSO LÓPEZ Y MANUEL RAMÓN AFONSO LÓPEZ Name of Date of Positions Country Place Purpose Partners/Directors company incorporation María Rosa Fernández Venezuela Statutory auditor Dicola C.A Venezuela 01/09/2005 Lara Purchase and Alejandro Alfredo Londoño President sale of frozen Guerrero products and groceries Venezuela Juan Manuel Afonso López Vice-president Venezuela Reina Roymar Reyes Zambrano Statutory auditor Dicola Venezuela 23/01/2008 Distrito Purchase and Juan Manuel Afonso López President Distribuciones, C.A Capital sale of frozen products Venezuela Manuel Ramón Afonso López Vice-president Concreto Del Sur Venezuela 11/10/2018 Lara Construction Manuel Ramón Afonso López Vice-president Venezuela Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante President Venezuela Néstor Luis Serrano Mendoza Statutory auditor Metropolitana De Venezuela 01/06/2022 Lara Automotive Manuel Ramón Afonso López President Camiones Ca Venezuela Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante Venezuela Nicolás Mesa General Manager Venezuela Juan Carlos Mesa Sánchez Manager of Operations Venezuela Norisnel Crespo Statutory auditor 06/02/2018 Venezolana Venezuela Lara Automotive Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante Director Distribuidora 2017 Venezuela Manuel Ramón Afonso López Director Venezuela Néstor Luis Serrano Mendoza Statutory auditor Telocompro, S.A. Panamá 30/05/2019 **Guillermo Villegas** Agent Panamá Ilse Beatriz Moya León President Panamá Subscriber Jovina Hernández Concepción Panamá Jovina Hernández De Bonilla Director Panamá Manuel Ramón Afonso López Director Subscriber Panamá Shakira Julian 08/02/2012 Subscriber Texier, S.A. Panamá Génesis De Gracia Panamá Gilberto Antonio Fernández Director Rojas Panamá Gladys Espinosa Agent Panamá Subscriber Lizeth Vergara President Panamá Manuel Ramón Afonso López Panamá Maribel Ho Gallardo De Castillo Director Inversiones Venezuela 06/05/2019 Portuguesa Food Olvany Marian Gaspari Bracho President Olvany C.A.

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Giovanni Gaspari Heredia

Yaneidis Vásquez

Vice-president

Statutory auditor

Venezuela

Venezuela



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#### **10. Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante.** Arrested

Roger Ignacio Ramírez Dorante is a military officer<sup>57</sup> graduated from the Military Academy in July 1999, 106th in his class, the same as Antonio José Pérez Suarez.<sup>58</sup>

Ramírez Dorante has incorporated at least six companies, four in Venezuela, between 2013 and 2022, and two in the U.S., established in 2012.

Three of the companies registered in Venezuela are in the construction and automotive sectors, and the fourth has a broad and diverse purpose.

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Two of his companies signed contracts with the state-owned Corporación Socialista de Cemento and the contact person for the stateowned company is Antonio José Pérez Suárez.

Five names are listed among the shareholders, managers and coordinators of the companies: Juan Carlos Mesa Sánchez, Manuel Ramón Afonso López, María D Vásquez Carrasco, Nicolás Mesa and Roswald José Ramírez Dorantes.

COMPANIES RELATED TO ROGERS IGNACIO RAMÍREZ DORANTE							
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions	
Concreto Del Sur	Venezuela	11/10/2018	Lara	Purpose	Manuel Ramón Afonso López	Vice-president	
	Venezuela			Construction	Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante	President	
	Venezuela				Néstor Luis Serrano Mendoza	Statutory auditor	
Metropolitana De Camiones Ca	Venezuela	01/06/2022	Lara		Manuel Ramón Afonso López	President	
	Venezuela			Automotive	Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante		
	Venezuela				Nicolás Mesa	General Manager	
	Venezuela				Juan Carlos Mesa Sánchez	Manager of Operations	
	Venezuela				Norisnel Crespo	Statutory auditor	
Venezolana Distribuidora 2017	Venezuela	06/02/2018	Lara		Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante	Director	
	Venezuela			Automotive	Manuel Ramón Afonso López	Director	
	Venezuela				Néstor Luis Serrano Mendoza	Statutory auditor	
Transervi R&G, C.A.	Venezuela	20/11/2013	Lara		Rogers Ignacio Ramírez Dorante	President	
	Venezuela			Various	Roswald José Ramírez Dorantes	Vice-president	
	Venezuela				Néstor Luis Serrano Mendoza	Statutory auditor	
Santino Market Inc	United States	28/01/2021	Florida		Brittor Corporate Services Llc	Agent	
	United States				María D Vásquez Carrasco	President	
	United States				Rogers I Ramírez Dorante	President	
Fc Group Usa, Inc.	United States	28/04/2021	Florida		María D Vásquez Carrasco	President	
	United States				Noleddy V Godoy	Agent	
	United States				Rogers I Ramírez Dorante	President	

57 http://lara.tsj.gob.ve/DECISIONES/2012/ABRIL/1291-25-CJPM-TM11C-104-2012-.HTML

58 https://juangomezmireles.wordpress.com/2016/04/29/promocion-1999/



#### **11. Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas.** Arrested.

Kristhonfer Barrios has incorporated at least eight companies, four in Panama, three in Venezuela between 2009 and 2017, and one in the USA in 2019.

Two of the companies established in Venezuela and the company registered in the USA list the food sector in their corporate purpose. A third company in Venezuela has a broad and diverse corporate purpose.

His companies have signed contracts with four bodies or agencies of the military sector, according to information found in the National Register of Contractors:

- Contracts were signed with the Honor Guard Brigade for the sale and distribution of computer equipment, painting materials, uniforms, curtains and banners, construction materials and office supplies.
- Between 2015 and 2016, contracts were signed with the Fundación del Pueblo

Soberano for the repair of vehicles, the sale of tires for the vehicle fleet and the purchase of 450 shirts with the institution's logo embroidered on them.

- With the Ministry of Defense, in 2016, contracts were signed for the purchase of: textiles, food and beverages for personnel, clothing, paper and cardboard products for office, clothing.
- A contract was signed with the National Institute of Civil Aeronautics (INAC) for the supply of food.

Seaway Management Group, established in Panama in 2020 and active according to OpenCorporates, lists among its services the management of ship routing logistics, ship and port waste management (slops), ship handling in the ports of Panama and tanker bunkering.<sup>59</sup>

Two names are linked to the companies: Ivana Hernández Caraballo and Luduyn Ovidio Betancur Florez.

COMPANIES RELATED TO KRISTHONFER ARGENIS BARRIOS VIVAS							
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions	
Beisball Fast Food, C.A.	Venezuela	21/01/2017	Distrito Capital	Food	Luduyn Ovidio Betancur Flórez	Director	
	Venezuela				Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas	Director	
	Venezuela				Maximiliano Vielma Aparicio	Statutory auditor	
Inversiones Will Anguss 3240, C.A.	Venezuela	18/03/2009	Miranda	Food	Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas	Director	
	Venezuela				lvana Hernández Caraballo		
	Venezuela				Ángel Eduardo Cáceres Sandoval		
	Venezuela				Nelson Manuel Toledo Brito	Statutory auditor	
Supliven 2021, C.A.	Venezuela	02/01/2014	Miranda	Various	Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas	Director-Manager	
	Venezuela				Sergio Miguel Marchan Ortiz	Statutory auditor	
Supliven Usa Inc	United States	01/11/2019	Miami	Food	Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas	President	

59 https://runrun.es/rr-es-plus/499668/empresarios-purgamadurista-companias-al-mando-de-los-empresarios-detenidos/

#### COMPANIES RELATED TO KRISTHONFER ARGENIS BARRIOS VIVAS Date of Purpose Name of company Country Place **Partners/Directors** Positions incorporation United Modesto Ramón Días Baraja Statutory auditor States Seaway Management Panamá 19/11/2020 Ian Johnson Director Group Corp. Panamá President Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas Panamá Leslie Kerr Director Panamá Pan Am Corporate Sc Agent Panamá Pan Am Founder & Council Inc Subscriber Panamá Pan Am Suscriber Corporation Subscriber Panamá Seaway Global Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas Foundation Corporacion Panamá Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas Imex Kb, S.A. Alimentos Conmart, S.A. Panamá Kristhonfer Argenis Barrios Vivas

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#### 12. Leonardo Enrique Torres Naim. Arrested

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Leonardo Torres has incorporated at least five companies, four in Venezuela between 1985 and 2014, and one in the United Kingdom in 2018.

The companies established in Venezuela have broad and diverse purposes, with the exception of Emisora Trujillo 102.5 FM Stereo, C.A., whose purpose is radio broadcasting. J**ust as an example** of the absurdity, we include here the purpose in the articles of incorporation of the company Asociación Cooperativa Santor 339-L, R.L.:

"Supplies, purchase, sale, distribution, warehousing, import and export, wholesale and retail transportation of computer and video game equipment, accessories and spare parts and all their consumables; their accessories, automated systems and applications, administrative systems and software, intellectual and industrial property technology software, video game software as well as other intellectual creation, video game, entertainment, sports and computer software, technical repair service of all kinds of equipment and telecommunication products and networks, infrastructure for transmission and reception, installation of industrial security systems, photocopiers, printers, scanners, computer consumables, printers, computer equipment and spare parts, memory units, photocopiers, plotters, printing equipment, cartridges and inks, digital and analog embroidery machines, embroidery threads, and all machines for data treatment and processing; consumer goods. Household appliances, washers, driers, refrigerators, and furniture, dry goods, and the like; office supplies in general, furniture, stationery in general, photocopying equipment, didactic material, supplies, furniture, furniture, office supplies, and supplies in general, national and

international exhibitions of all kinds of products of licit trade, elaboration, exhibition and sale of national and international meals; repair of electrical and mechanical parts for all types of motor vehicles, especially aimed at the conversion of vehicles to the dual fuel system gasoline/natural gas vehicle, including everything related to its operation, maintenance and registration of the system and its components, purchase, sale, import, export, distribution and wholesale and retail marketing of all types of rubber, tires and rims and accessories, domestic or imported, for all types of vehicles, whether light, heavy, machinery, tractors, motorcycles and bicycles, engines, mechanical, electrical, electromechanical spare parts, glass, batteries, electrical parts, brakes, chassis, transmission, engines, hydraulic or mechanical boxes, air conditioners, for all types of vehicles such as automobiles, motorcycles, vans, trucks, bicycles, tractors and machinery in general, repair of engines, gearboxes, chassis, electrical parts, transmissions, rubber, tires, rims and accessories, mechanical or hydraulic steering, brakes and in short, everything related to the mechanical repair of bicycles, motorcycles, land and maritime vehicles, brass plating and painting of motorcycles, automotive and maritime vehicles, as well as everything related to the field of car washing, diesel mechanics in general, as well as repairs of brass plating, painting and upholstery, may perform any type of services, maintenance, electro auto services and mechanics in general, repair and marketing of everything related to lubricants, air filters, oil and gasoline, accumulators, accessories, tires, installation, alignment and balancing in general, electrical parts, brass, painting, repair of front axle, service and repair of brakes, mechanics, mounting and repair of exhaust pipes, oil and filter change, service and repair of air conditioning for vehicles; automotive, electrical and mechanical services, brass, painting, washing and greasing, automotive refrigeration, crane services, automotive air conditioning system, also including the assembly of parts, minor and major repairs, periodic inspections of the proper functioning, bodywork repairs and can perform repair work of brass including the assembly and disassembly of bodywork parts in all types of vehicles, whether light or heavy, motorcycles and bicycles, as well as the application of paint and all kinds of products necessary for the development of the activity. Spare parts, and electrical, electronic, communication and data transmission equipment, such as radios, telephones, digital equipment, hardware items and equipment, hardware for industrial and household use, water supply materials, electrical materials in general, construction materials in general, machinery in general, clothing and footwear, dry goods, groceries, beverages and food in general, cleaning materials, supplies and equipment. Cleaning utensils in general; air conditioning equipment and refrigeration systems; as well as all kinds of accessories and spare parts in general, both domestic and imported, for machinery, equipment, vehicles; medical and surgical materials and equipment, medical and dental materials and equipment, work and all kinds of uniforms, toys

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hygiene items, jewelry, hardware and everything related to the distribution and supply of materials in general. Footwear for workers and professionals, ladies, men and children; electronic equipment and home appliances; accessories, medicines in general; industrial safety equipment and implements in general, equipment for the oil and/or petrochemical, industrial and commercial industries; material equipment and industrial safety equipment (HSE), remodeling of all kinds of properties and everything related to the maintenance and repair of equipment; accessories and spare parts for household appliances, washers, driers, new and used entertainment devices, industrial supplies, clothing for ladies, men and children, any kind of national and international food, beverages and non-alcoholic species, organization of special events such as: public shows, fairs and parties, party agency, as well as all aspects developed in the specialty of computer science, computerized graphic design and development of web pages. Accessories and sports equipment of any kind, confection, embroidery and printing of sports uniforms, technical and professional services; support to all solidarity initiatives of the society, spare parts, products and supplies related to cooling, remodeling of offices in the commercial and industrial area for the public and private sector, services of brand representation for national and international brands or firms, representation, commercialization and marketing. Industrial, commercial, residential, road, agricultural and personal communication and security systems, security services, unarmed, personal, digital and satellite surveillance, safeguarding and custody of business premises, commerce, residences and vehicles, installation and sale of door, gate and window motors. The organization, administration and promotion of all types of recreational, cultural, socio-cultural, educational, social, sporting, artistic and entertainment events, aimed at both individuals and public and/or private companies; promotions in general. Technical assistance in the area of radio, television, press, textile manufacturing, advertisements, billboards, banners, banners, banners, P.O.P. material, the provision of party agency services, tables, inflatable mattresses, playgrounds, awnings, organization of special events, cultural events, parties, entertainment and recreation for adults and children, rental of stages, chairs, tables, tablecloths and props in general for such events; transportation, provision of services in the area of: rental of sound and lighting for all types of social and cultural events; technical service for repair and maintenance of sound, audio and video equipment; preparation, purchase and sale, distribution of food, meals, drinks, sweets, candies, snacks, etc.; provision of the services of: executive transportation services, purchase, sale, distribution, export, import, wholesale and retail commercialization of perishable and non-perishable food, beverages, groceries, grains, cheese, charcuterie, spices, delicatessen, carbonated and pasteurized beverages, beef, pork, chicken, and all its derivatives, hardware, household items, confectionery and mass consumption products; as well as the elaboration, distribution and commercialization of breads, pastries, sweets and

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cakes; purchase and sale of bakery and pastry products, purchase, sale, import

and export of machinery and equipment for the elaboration of food, breads and their derivatives; and in general, to create economic services in the agri-food area, based on the sustainable development of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, industrial or textile production, also in the area of food consumption, agricultural production, livestock, poultry, fish, transportation, recycling, and supply in general, by itself or associated with the costs in the formulation of projects and execution of works; to fulfill its purpose it may temporarily contract other legal or natural persons, oriented under the same concept of solidarity economy. all activities related to communication, touristic, educational, educational communication, tourism, education, health, to preserve the social conditions of the communities, purchase, sale, distribution, import and export of goods and services in general, building the development of the country, implementing strategic plans for human development, promoting the interrelationship of friendship, companionship and mutual work among people, as well as recruiting, preparing, selecting and placing highly trained personnel in the administrative area in both public and private sector activities and their continuous improvement, promoting and encouraging the use of tools and technological advances that in such areas are modernly applied for the improvement of effective and efficient management, promote and encourage the creation of associations and/or federations that allow the unification of criteria and the development of the areas that make up the administrative management and in the case that such associations already exist, strengthen their management, promote, encourage the guidelines, designs, planning and organization of seminars and congresses, conventions, workshops, exhibitions, meetings, conferences, forums in the areas foreseen in the purpose of the foundation: and to carry out any other activity that the executive committee considers convenient for the benefit of the foundation and the integral development of the person as well as the purchase, sale, and rental of equipment and materials necessary for the best development of the same. Technical assistance in the area of radio and television advertising, press, textile manufacturing, posters, billboards, banners, professional services in accounting, administration, internal auditing, financial analysis, sales, warehousing and storage of merchandise; purchase and sale of livestock, breeding of pigs, goats and beef cattle, marketing of medicines and veterinary supplies wholesale and retail, development of projects, maintenance and services of everything related to civil works in general, construction of housing, housing complexes, buildings, urban planning and landscaping works; general maintenance in areas of gardening (green areas), electricity, painting in general, waterproofing, mechanics, instrumentation, plumbing, metalworking, manufacturing and welding, carpentry; Also, projects, services, maintenance, supplier of chemical products for maintenance, advertising services, works and services, maintenance of educational facilities, hospitals, maintenance and provision of mobile clinics, everything related

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to the areas of civil works, architectural, agricultural, mechanical, electrical,

refrigeration and advertising projects, construction of general buildings, such as, single-family housing, multi-family, concrete and metal structure, electrical and mechanical hydraulic systems, road works such as earthworks, highway, agricultural penetration roads, deforestation, reforestation. Maintenance and cleaning of internal and external areas in all types of buildings, loading and unloading of all types of materials and equipment. Purchase and sale, import, export, storage and distribution of finished products, leasing of machinery and equipment for construction and distribution of hydrocarbons. Production, installation and maintenance of agro-industrial, maritime and land systems and machinery, as well as their import, export and construction. Manufacture, sale and distribution of products and equipment for the preparation of cold asphalt. Organization and training of human and technical resources. Topographic survey. Preparation of feasibility studies of projects in general. Providing advertising services in general. Purchase, sale and distribution of vehicles and motorcycles. Provide through its members, services in civil works, construction of electrical and mechanical works; promote and carry out the construction, refurbishment of social housing; preparation of engineering, agro-industrial, mechanical and civil projects; construction, remodeling and maintenance of penetration roads, electrical and infrastructure networks; earthworks, contract inspection, audits, supervision and appraisal of real estate; construction of drainage systems of rain, river and sewage waters; maintenance of green areas; promotion and tourist and creative exploitation; for the purpose of the activities on the field and farms, in order to execute these works in urbanized zones; All the related professional services of engineering, technical, civil valuations, professional services in general. Design of architectural projects. Design and calculations of concrete and steel structures. Design and calculations of sanitary installations, design and calculation of electrical installations, landscaping, metric computations, budgets. Sale of horizontal property, or any form of the same, execution and contracting of works, subcontracts of the same, topographic survey, land clearing, earthworks, reinforced concrete and structural steel structures, and in general everything related to urban planning, boundaries, roads, drainage, sewage, plumbing, electrical installations, Civil Construction; Develop activities related to construction, including construction, reconstruction, repair, remodeling and maintenance of houses, as well as related activities, such as electricity, plumbing, painting, fumigation, blacksmithing, waterproofing, masonry and construction in general. Services in solid waste collection, cleaning and maintenance of physical infrastructure of public and private organizations. Maintenance of green areas, general civil works, carpentry, decorative works, drywall, formica and similar, ceilings, perimeter fences, gabions, construction of aqueducts and sewers, sewage network, sewage network, related activities. To develop activities in the area of obtaining multiple consumption services, purchase and sale of houses and real estate, as well as the creation of production and service units or departments.

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Purchase and sale of construction materials; construction and promotion of housing and urban developments; purchase, sale and rental of machinery, equipment, real estate and furniture; may project, design and calculate all kinds of projects, topographic and geo-environmental studies and surveys; Construction of industrial sheds, roads, asphalting, paving of urban and extra-urban roads, excavations, foundations, sidewalks, curbs, single-family and multi-family houses, concrete, metallic and wooden structures, bridges, viaducts, footbridges, highways, avenues, drainage, collectors of all kinds, installation of clean water, sewage, gas and electricity networks; Services and maintenance of green areas, forestry, reforestation and adequacy of land; Supply of personnel; Import and export of machinery, implements, equipment, parts and spare parts for construction; Rental of heavy machinery for construction; Acquisition of land plots for construction, land division, and urban development, Blacksmith work, electricity, plumbing, welding and general services such as: manufacture, design and installation of doors, windows, grills, general maintenance to infrastructure, among others, in addition to the installation of electricity systems of houses, as well as: asphalting, repair of potholes, sidewalks, among other services; Develop and implement projects in the area of engineering, civil construction, road, electrical, telecommunications, mechanical, urban, architectural, industrial, agricultural, livestock, agro-industrial, hydraulic, forestry, environmental studies, hydrocarbons, natural gas and distribution networks, utilities. To carry out tourism, ecological, cultural, sports, education and training programs for its associates and the community, promoting the integral development of the same, in order to project the cooperative towards the multiplicity of services. develop activities in the area of obtaining multiple consumption services, purchase and sale of food items and sale of consumer goods, provide repair services, storage, mechanical maintenance, assemblies, shower, greasing, brass and paint to all kinds of vehicles (cargo, passengers and individuals), provision of tourism service, throughout the national territory, provision of passenger, cab, public and private, multimodal transportation service, office materials, participating in food consumption activities, through food fairs, including the sale of all kinds of food, strategic school food program, school canteens, canteens for public or private companies, consumer products in general and food, equipment and trailer rental, purchase and sale of equipment and trailers. Urban and extra-urban land transportation of dry goods and groceries, goods, furniture and light and heavy cargo in general, as well as transportation of substances, materials and chemical cleaning wastes, hazardous and/or toxic wastes, after hiring the appropriate means. Distribution of automotive spare parts and heavy machinery. Pharmaceutical products. To promote cooperative education, social services, social welfare and welfare programs for its members and in general, to carry out any activity of lawful commerce, related to the main purpose or in any way that is convenient to the

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commercial development of the Cooperative".

His companies have signed contracts with six government agencies, between 2014 and 2016, according to information found in the National Contractors Registry:

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- In 2015, a contract was signed with Agrotrujillo, S.A. for the promotion of the sowing of beans through 10 daily 60-inch wedges.
- In 2015, a rotating advertising contract was signed with the Mayor's Office of the municipality of Valera for 10 daily spots.
- In 2014, a contract was signed with the Municipal Comptroller's Office of the Municipality of El Hatillo for the supply of uniforms for the use of the personnel of the Comptroller's Office.
- In 2015, a contract was signed with the Government of Trujillo State for the retransmission of a 60-minute institutional program (from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.) on Wednesdays.
- Between 2014 and 2016, contracts were signed with INCES for: corrective maintenance of pumps and tank washing in the INCES building, the air conditioning system of the INCES building, corrective maintenance of the chilled water air conditioning units, installation of a submersible pump for sewage in the existing tank in the pump area, corrective maintenance of the 312 KVA diesel electric

plant, unclogging of river water branches with electromechanical equipment and wrenches, unclogging of water points with wrenches and electromechanical equipment, maintenance and minor repairs of works in private property, maintenance and minor repairs of office and lodging equipment, supply and installation of a 24,000 BTU compressor for air conditioning equipment located in the basement of the INCES building, preventive maintenance of precision air conditioning equipment located on floor 1 of the INCES building, maintenance and minor repairs of works in private property, service request for the repair of the food storage tank located in the warehouse of the INCES building dining room, maintenance and corrective changes of the food freezer tank located in the dining room-basement warehouse, maintenance and minor repairs of works in private property, among others.

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In these companies, 10 names are listed as directors or shareholders, some of which share the same surname: **David Alexander Torres Huertas, Elizabeth Naim De Torres,** Erika Penélope Juan, **Guillermo Torres De Jesús**, Jorge Andrés Sandia Bracho, Kevin Alexandre Juan, **Pedro José Torres Naim**, Sara Paola Cid Montes, Sergio Augusto Soto Núñez and Valentina Zambrano Carrillo.

COMPANIES RELATED TO LEONARDO ENRIQUE TORRES NAIM							
Name of company	Country	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions	
Asociación Cooperativa Santor 339-L, R.L.	Venezuela	12/06/2014	Carabobo	Diversos	Leonardo Enrique Torres Naim	Presidente	
	Venezuela				Jorge Andrés Sandia Bracho	Secretario	
	Venezuela				Valentina Zambrano Carrillo	Tesorera	
	Venezuela				Sara Paola Cid Montes	Contralora	
	Venezuela				Sergio Augusto Soto Núñez	Coord. De Educación	

**COMPANIES RELATED TO LEONARDO ENRIQUE TORRES NAIM** Date of Name of company Country Place Purpose Partners/Directors Positions incorporation Copilco300 C,A Venezuela 19/03/2014 Miranda Leonardo Enrique Torres Presidente Diversos Naim Venezuela Adriana María Mejia Villasmil Comisario Venezuela Comercializadora 10/08/2011 Miranda Diversos Leonardo Enrique Torres Director Insumayor, C.A Naim David Alexander Torres Director Venezuela Huertas Venezuela Adriana María Mejia Villasmil Comisario Emisora Trujillo 102.5 Venezuela 09/03/1985 Trujillo Radiodifusión Guillermo Torres De Jesús Director Fm Stereo, C.A Pedro José Torres Naim Director Venezuela Principal Presidente Venezuela Leonardo Enrique Torres De lesús Venezuela Leonardo Enrique Torres Vicepresidente Naim Venezuela Elizabeth Naim De Torres Directora Principal Venezuela Leonardo Enrique Torres De lesús Venezuela Guillermo Torres De Jesús Venezuela Kennya Pernía Comisario Corona Hill Reino Unido 08/05/2018 Erika Penélope Juan Director Investments Limited Reino Unido Kevin Alexandre Juan Director Reino Unido Leonardo Enrique Torres Director Naim

## **13. Olvany Marián Gaspari Bracho.** Arrest warrant issued. Surrendered.

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On March 31, 2023, she appeared at the Courthouse in Caracas, seat of the Criminal Courts. Her Instagram account @OlvanyGB was closed hours after Saab's announcement against her. She reopened it on March 31, after archiving all posts, to upload a video about her surrender to the authorities for prosecution. <sup>60</sup>

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"Today, March 31, I am here, showing my face, because they are making accusations against me I have nothing to do with. Today I am appearing here, before the authorities, so that all the investigations that need to be done can be done, so that I can have my right to a defense,"<sup>61</sup> said Gaspari.

<sup>60</sup> https://elpitazo.net/politica/quien-es-la-tiktoker-olvany-gaspari-vinculada-caso-corrupcion-pdvsa/

<sup>61</sup> https://twitter.com/LaMananaDigital/status/1642155477491412993?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed% 7Ctwterm%5E1642155477491412993%7Ctwgr%5E53013fbc9e97cbd666c8cb26831d023fcee0d899%7Ctwcon%5Es1\_&r ef\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fd-9562446201487831897.ampproject.net%2F2305252018001%2Fframe.html

"You might say why did she disappear, why did she close her Instagram account; because it is not easy to be accused of crimes you have nothing to do with. Mom, dad, be strong as a rock, because I have faith that we will get out of this," the accused added.

Her TikTok account, with the same handle @OlvanyGB, boasts 1.6 million followers, and she keeps it private. In this social media account she has posted at least 200 videos on travel, fashion and popular lip-syncs that went viral after she was linked to the PDVSA corruption scheme. Her most recent tours were in Europe. In 2016, she started with a business called @amore\_tuestilo, a store located in Acarigua where she sells clothes, accessories and other items for women. <sup>62</sup>

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Olvany Gaspari Bracho, Railin Elizabeth Yépez Jaimes, Ximena Cagide Parada and Yuravic have been dubbed in social media as "PDVSA's dolls" after prosecutor Tarek William Saab accused them of being money launderers.

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Olvani Gaspari registered a company in the National Register of Contractors that she incorporated in 2019, whose purpose is linked to the food sector.

COMPANIES RELATED TO OLVANY MARIÁN GASPARI BRACHO						
Name of company	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions	
Inversiones Olvany C.A.	06/05/2019	Portuguesa	Food	Olvany Marian Gaspari Bracho	President	
				Giovanni Gaspari Heredia	Vice President	
				Yaneidis Vásquez	Statutory auditor	

#### 14. Railin Elizabeth Yépez Jaimes. Arrest warrant issued.

Railin Yépez is another of the so-called PDVSA dolls. She registered a company in the National Register of Contractors that she established in 2015, whose purpose is broad and diverse.

COMPANIES RELATED TO RAILIN ELIZABETH YÉPEZ JAIMES							
Name of company	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions		
La Gabana, C.A.	19/08/2015	Bolívar	Diversos	Railin Elizabeth Yépez Jaimes	Manager		
	Ramón José Yépez Perero General Manage				General Manager		
	Faustino Valentín Aguilera Mata Statutory auditor						

# **15. Ximena Cagide Parada**. Arrest warrant issued.

Ximena Parada was an employee of Grupo Hardwell Technologies C.A., a company owned by the Khalil Majzoub brothers, which has a broad corporate purpose and signed almost 100 contracts with more than 25 government agencies, according to information published in the Venezuelan National Register of

62 https://elpitazo.net/politica/quien-es-la-tiktoker-olvany-gaspari-vinculada-caso-corrupcion-pdvsa/

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Contractors. She joined that company on May 2, 2016 and by September 2020 she was still active in the company, according to records kept at the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security IVSS.

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Subsequently, she worked at Poes Internacional, C.A. until January 30, 2023, according to a more recent report of the IVSS. This company was created in 2014 and its purpose is to provide consulting and technical, technological and managerial advice and also to carry out recruitment and personnel selection processes, according to the Venezuelan National Register of Contractors. Poes Internacional signed contracts with the state-owned company Petromonagas, S.A. and Petrocedeño, in 2016, to provide advisory and consulting services, preparation of procedures and oil services. In 2018, it also signed a contract with the oil company Sinovensa S.A. for training and consulting activities.

Parada is a director of at least two companies in Venezuela created between 1986 and 2018. Inversiones Cetriolo 2018, C.A. signed a contract with the National Electoral Council, in 2020, for the provision of advertising services. The other company, Servimestic, signed contracts with the state-owned company Lácteos Los Andes, C.A., for the sale of spare parts for plastic utensils and Cherry machines.

	COMPANIES RELATED TO XIMENA CAGIDE PARADA						
Name of company	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions		
Inversiones Cetriolo 2018, C.A.	18/07/2018	Miranda	Advertising and propaganda	Kralys Beatriz López Díaz	Director		
				Ximena Cagide Parada	Director		
				Nixon David Becerra Gutierrez	Statutory auditor		
Servicios Mecanicos Integrados (Servimestic), C.A.	03/11/1986	Distrito Capital	Machinery and industrial equipment	Gumersindo Arada Justo	Director		
				Rebeca Parada Rozados	Administrator		
				Ximena Cagide Parada	Administrator		
				Gisela Antonia Bastardo Rodríguez	Statutory auditor		

#### 16. Rafael Guillermo Perdomo Rodríguez y Roger Vicente Perdomo Rodríguez. Arrested.

A report published by Armando Info in September 2022 claims that the Perdomo brothers built the highest, most luxurious towers in the Las Mercedes neighborhood—the so-called "pink zone of Caracas"—, "without being registered in the Venezuelan Construction Chamber" and secured contracts to do repair and maintenance work on the docks of the Paraguaná Refining Center facilities in the state of Falcón and in the Petrochemical Complex of Jose in Anzoátegui.<sup>63</sup>

63 https://armando.info/desde-las-torres-de-lujo-saltaron-a-los-muelles-de-pdvsa/



The granting of such contracts is reportedly linked to businessmen and persons associated with high-ranking members of the military, including Pérez Suárez. Previously, they were owners of a car wash in the middle class neighborhood Las Acacias in Caracas.

They incorporated three companies in Venezuela in 2012 and 2016, two of which are engaged in construction.

COMPANIES RELATED TO RAFAEL GUILLERMO PERDOMO RODRÍGUEZ Y ROGER VICENTE PERDOMO RODRÍGUEZ						
Name of company	Date of incorporation	Place	Purpose	Partners/Directors	Positions	
Constructora Hp, C.A	13/01/2012	Miranda	Construction	Rafael Guillermo Perdomo Rodríguez	President	
				Roger Vicente Perdomo Rodríguez	Vice-President	
				Soly Maryerling Pacheco Cabezas	Statutory auditor	
Constructora 2 Pto, C.A.	01/04/2016	Miranda	Construction	Rafael Guillermo Perdomo Rodríguez	President	
				Roger Vicente Perdomo Rodríguez	Vice-president	
				Maryury Nataly Perdomo Rodríguez	Sales Representative	
				Soly Maryerling Pacheco Cabezas	Statutory auditor	
Auto Servicios Las Acacias Express C.A				Rafael Guillermo Perdomo Rodríguez	Legal Representative	

#### 17. Salem Hassoun Atrach. Arrested

Salem Atrach has registered at least five companies, three in Panama between 2012 and 2019; and two in Venezuela between 2006 and 2012.

The purpose of Dolce Pan, C.A., incorporated in Panama, is to engage mainly in wholesale and retail sales, processing, distribution, import and export of food, purchase and sale of cell phone cards, investments and general social development, purchase and sale of real estate and personal property, borrowing money, issuing bonds, and in general any other lawful business permitted by law.

His companies in Venezuela signed more than 100 contracts with PDVSA and at least

10 of its subsidiaries, between 2010 and 2017, according to information published in the Venezuelan National Contractor Registry. They also signed contracts with the Simón Rodríguez Municipality, Eleven, C.A. and the Municipal Superintendency Tax Administration of the Simón Rodríguez Municipality.

In the companies, eight names are listed in management positions, many of which with the name surname: Ediud Macuare Padilla, Ingrid Del Valle Padilla Marin, Marli Salome Indave Mosquera, **Mohanad Alameddin Attrach**, **Rola Hassoun Atrach**, Silverio Enrique Selva Castillo, **Wasin Hassoun Atrach and Yasmin Atrach**.

#### COMPANIES RELATED TO SALEM HASSOUN ATRACH Date of Purpose **Partners/Directors** Positions Name of company Country Place incorporation 24/10/2012 Managing Director Inversiones Saw, C.A. Venezuela Anzoátegui Salem Hassoun Atrach Venezuela Rola Hassoun Atrach Managing Director Venezuela Luis Beltrán Quiroz Manzano Statutory auditor Cooperativa Venezuela 07/03/2006 Anzoátegui Salem Hassoun Atrach Vice-president Transatlantis, R.L. Venezuela Wasin Hassoun Atrach Secretary Venezuela Yasmin Atrach Treasurer

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	Venezuela			Marli Salome Indave Mosquera	Coordinator
	Venezuela			Ingrid Del Valle Padilla Marin	Comptroller
	Venezuela			Ediud Macuare Padilla	President
Dolce Pan S.A.	Panamá	17/03/2015	Food	Napoleón Arce Fistonich	Agent
	Panamá			Mohanad Alameddin Attrach	President
	Panamá			Salem Hassoun Atrach	Director
	Panamá			Wasin Hassoun Atrach	Director
Nimsa Petrol, S.A.	Panamá	03/07/2019	÷	Ibrahim Jair Serrano Pinto	Agent
	Panamá			Richard José Zamora Mendoza	Subscriber
	Panamá			Rola Hassoun Atrach	Director
	Panamá			Salem Hassoun Atrach	Director
	Panamá			Wasin Hassoun Atrach	President
Multimarkas, S.A.	Panamá	24/05/2012		Rodney Rene Samudio Staff	Agent
	Panamá			Salem Hassoun Atrach	Director
	Panamá			Silverio Enrique Selva Castillo	Director
	Panamá			Wasin Hassoun Atrach	Director

- **18. Manuel Enrique Meneses Guevara.** Arrested. Financial operator of PDVSA while Pérez Suárez was vice-president of Trade and Quality Supply of Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA).
- 19. Eduardo Noriega. Arrest warrant issued.
- 20. Rodolfo Moleiro. Arrest warrant issued.
- 21. William Rivas. Arrest warrant issued.

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22. Yuravic Ravello Machado. Arrest warrant issued.

High ranking officials of the Ministry of Petroleum, PDVSA and SUNACRIP that were excluded from the investigation of the Prosecutor's Office

One of the big questions that has been hovering in public opinion since the official unveiling of the corruption plot dubbed by the Prosecutor General's Office as PDVSA-Crypto Scheme is why some officials with high power within the Ministry of Petroleum, PDVSA and SUNACRIP have not been called to testify, at least not publicly.

To better understand the liability of these officials in safeguarding Venezuelan public money, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of the decision-making power that each one had in the structure of these institutions.

#### Ministry of Petroleum: Tareck El Aissami

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The public opinion has no information on his whereabouts; it is unknown whether an investigation has been opened, and there is no arrest warrant. The Ministry of Petroleum is the body to which the Petróleos de Venezuela is attached, by order of the Presidency of the Republic. According to Article 117 of the Law of the Public Administration, this entity, as well as the other ministries or other national, state, metropolitan district or municipal oversight bodies, have the following powers over the entities under their umbrella:

- 1. Determine the policies to be implemented by such entities, and to that end, they shall issue the necessary general guidelines.
- 2. Permanently exercise coordination, supervision and oversight tasks.

**3.** Continuously evaluate the performance and results of its management and report in a timely manner to the President of the Republic, Governor, Mayor, as appropriate.

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4. Report on a quarterly basis to the national, state, metropolitan district or municipal agency or body in charge of planning on the implementation of the plans by such entities; among others.

In the last two decades, Hugo Chávez, and his successor Nicolás Maduro, have appointed seven Oil Ministers, **at least three of them have been accused in major corruption scandals** by the Prosecutor's Office.

Rafael Ramírez was Minister of Petroleum and President of PDVSA for more than a decade, and is being prosecuted by the Venezuelan justice system, which accuses him, among other charges, of the crimes of active and passive corruption, influence peddling, money laundering and conspiracy to commit crimes. The Supreme Court of Justice approved to request his extradition from Spain and then from Italy. But Ramírez has rejected the charges and remains at large.

In addition, former oil ministers and also former presidents of PDVSA, Eulogio del Pino and Nelson Martínez were arrested in 2017 for their alleged link to a debt refinancing contract of PDVSA's U.S. subsidiary Citgo. Martínez died in December 2018 while in prison.

MINISTERS OF PETROLEUM 2002 - 2023							
FULL NAME	ID No.	TERM					
Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño	V- 5.479.706	2002 - 2014					
Asdrúbal José Chávez Jiménez	V- 4.259.859	2014 - 2015					
Eulogio Antonio Del Pino Díaz	V- 11.041.914	2015 - 2017					
Nelson Pablo Martínez	V- 3.817.768	2017 - 2020					
Manuel Salvador Quevedo Fernández	V- 9.705.800	2017 – 2020					
Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah	V- 12.354.211	2020 - 2023					
Pedro Rafael Tellechea Ruiz	V- 12.067.628	2023 -					

## What about Tareck El Aissami?

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As of June 2023, the Public Prosecutor's Office has not officially reported any investigation against **Tareck El Aissami**, who headed the Ministry of Petroleum during the PDVSA-Crypto corruption scheme. Nor is his whereabouts known.

El Aissami resigned from his position at the Ministry of Petroleum on March 20, 2023, three days after the National Anti-Corruption Police announced the first arrests in the case. He posted two messages<sup>64</sup> on Twitter where he stated that given his "condition of revolutionary militant," he made himself available to the leadership of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) to support the "crusade that President Nicolás Maduro has undertaken against anti-values."

In May 2023, the deputy to the 2020 National Assembly Jesús Faría informed that El Aissami is being investigated for corruption cases surrounding the state-owned company. During an interview for Unión Radio, the parliamentarian claimed that El Aissami "is being investigated by different instances of the Judiciary," but he also failed to inform about his whereabouts.

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Until before the scandal, El Aissami was one of the most powerful figures within Maduro's government. He has served as vice-president of the Economic Area, minister of Basic Industries and executive vice-president of the Republic. He was also governor of Aragua state and minister of Interior and Justice.

After graduating as a lawyer from the Universidad de Los Andes (ULA),<sup>65</sup> he first entered public office as the first head of the Identity Mission, launched in 2003 by the then National Office of Identification and Migration (ONIDEX) under Hugo Cabezas, with whom he had been linked since they founded the Utopia 78 student movement.

At the head of that movement and as president of the ULA Federation of Student Centers, El Aissami met the then professor Adán Chávez, brother of former President Hugo Chávez. He joined Movimiento V República, and in 1997 became part of the national leadership of the Party Youth, together with Alberto Castelar and Alexander Nebreda.

<sup>64</sup> Tweet by former Petroleum Minister Tareck El Aissami. https://twitter.com/TareckPSUV/status/1637891779583148032 20/03/2023.

<sup>65</sup> Poderopedia Tareck El Aissami.

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One of the moments of greatest exposure in office came on February 13, 2017 when he was sanctioned by the U.S. government, after years of investigation, for alleged involvement in money laundering and drug trafficking. The U.S. Treasury Department claimed that El Aissami facilitated shipments of more than 1,000 kilos of drugs from Venezuela to the United States and Mexico.

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#### Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. (Pdvsa)

A key factor to understanding how decisions are made in PDVSA after more than 20 years of Chavez-Maduro administration is that the oil company, once a benchmark of excellence, has gradually lost its independence and managerial autonomy. Some analysts recall that, at its peak in the 1990s, PDVSA and its subsidiaries had a different legal character from other state-owned entities, as they were state-owned companies that operated as corporations, in which the only shareholder was the Venezuelan State, represented by the government in the shareholders' meetings. In other words, there were no political, but rather merit-based appointments in their management structure, and both the budget and financial management were approved by different bodies with managerial and operational autonomy.<sup>66</sup>

With Hugo Chávez as President, the formal relationship of PDVSA with the government through the shareholders' assembly was broken, which affected the operational, strategic or financial aspects, and political control began to be exercised, until it was consolidated with the arrival of Rafael Ramírez as President of the state-owned company. Since then, the reins of the oil company have depended on the president and his political circle.

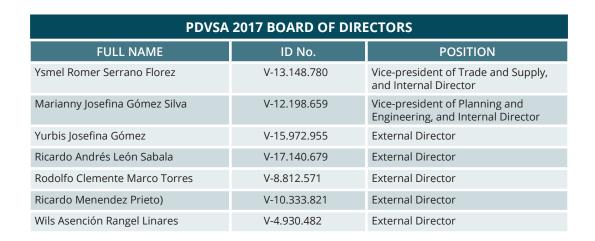
From January 2017 through 2019, Nicolás Maduro has issued at least four decrees appointing the president and board of directors of PDVSA.

#### 2017:

According to Official Gazette No. 6,284 Extraordinary of January 29, 2017, Maduro appointed the board of directors of PDVSA, which was formed as follows:

PDVSA 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS						
FULL NAME	ID No.	POSITION				
Eulogio Antonio Del Pino Díaz	V-11.041.914	President				
Maribel Del Carmen Parra Perozo	V-7.804.750	Executive Vice-president				
Nelson José Ferrer Sánchez	V-5.879.729	Vice-president of Exploration and Production, and Internal Director				
Guillermo Gustavo Blanco Acosta	V-5.276.070	Vice-president of Refining and Internal Director				
Simón Alejandro Zerpa Delgado	V-16.544.324	Vice-president of Finance and Internal Director				
Delcy Eloina Rodríguez Gómez	V-10.353.667	Vice-president of International Affairs and Internal Director				

66 Ramón Espinasa. El auge y el colapso de Pdvsa a los treinta años de la nacionalización. Revista Venezolana de Economía y Ciencias Sociales. UCV. Abril 2006.i.



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#### 2018:

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According to Official Gazette No. 6,405 Extraordinary of September 7, 2018, Nicolás Maduro appointed the board of directors of PDVSA, as follows:

PDVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018						
NAME	ID NO.	POSITION				
Manuel Salvador Quevedo Fernández	V- 9.705.800	President				
Nelson José Ferrer Sánchez	V- 5.879.729	Vice-president of Exploration and Production and Internal Director				
Guillermo Gustavo Blanco Acosta	V- 5.276.070	Vice-president of Refining and Internal Director				
Fernando Manuel De Quintal Rodríguez	V- 16.888.364	Vice-president of Trade and Supply and Internal Director				
Nemrod Antonio Contreras Mejías	V- 11.606.408	Vice-president of Gas and Internal Director				
Iris Yari Medina Fernández	V- 16.288.707	Vice-president of Finance and Internal Director				
Marcos Alejandro Rojas Marchena	V- 19.334.043	Vice-president of International Affairs and Internal Director				
Miguel José Quintana Castro	V- 6.465.453	Vice-president of Planning and Engineering and Internal Director				
Yurbis Josefina Gómez	V- 15.972.955	External Director				
Ricardo Andrés León Sabala	V- 17.140.679	External Director				
Wils Asención Rangel Linares	V- 4.930.482	External Director				
Simón Alejandro Zerpa Delgado	V- 16.544.324	External Director				
Ricardo José Menéndez Prieto	V- 10.333.821	External Director				
Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah	V- 12.354.211	External Director				



A few months later, some changes were made to the oil company's board of directors, according to Official Gazette No. 41.507 of October 22, 2018, also by decision of Nicolás Maduro

# PDVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018FULL NAMEID NO.POSITIONManuel Salvador Quevedo FernándezV- 9.705.800PresidentMiguel José Quintana CastroV- 6.465.453Vice-president (A) of Exploration and Production; Vice-president of Planning and Engineering; and Internal Director

Miguel Jose Quintana Castro	V 005155	of Planning and Engineering; and Internal Director
Rodolfo Enrique Jiménez Jiménez	V- 11.380.972	Vice-president of Refining and Internal Director
José Alejandro Rojas Reyes	V- 6.692.973	Vice-president of Trade and Supply and Internal Director
Nemrod Antonio Contreras Mejías	V- 11.606.408	Vice-president of Gas and Internal Director
Marcos Alejandro Rojas Marchena	V- 19.334.043	Vice-president of International Affairs and Internal Director
Fernando Manuel De Quintal Rodríguez	V- 16.388.364	Vice-president of Finance and Internal Director
Yurbis Josefina Gómez	V- 15.972.955	External Director
Ricardo Andrés León Sabala	V- 17.140.679	External Director
Wils Asención Rangel Linares	V- 4.930.482	External Director
Simón Alejandro Zerpa Delgado	V- 16.544.324	External Director
Ricardo José Menéndez Prieto	V- 10.333.821	External Director
Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah	V- 12.354.211	External Director

#### 2019:

According to Official Gazette No. 41.653 of June 12, 2019, Nicolás Maduro appointed the following officers to the board of directors of PDVSA:

PDVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019						
FULL NAME	ID NO.	POSITION				
Manuel Salvador Quevedo Fernández	V-9.705.800	President				
Miguel José Quintana Castro	V-6.465.453	Vice-president (A) of Exploration and Production; Vice-president of Planning and Engineering; and Internal Director				
Rodolfo Enrique Jiménez Jiménez	V-11.380.972	Vice-president of Refining and Internal Director				
Marcos Alejandro Rojas Marchena	V-19.334.043	Vice-president (E) of Trade and Supply; Vice-president of Inter- national Affairs; and Internal Director				
Nemrod Antonio Contreras Mejías	V-11.606.408	Vice-president of Gas and Internal Director				
Fernando Manuel De Quintal Rodríguez	V-16.888.364	Vice-president of Finance and Internal Director				
Yurbis Josefina Gómez	V-15.972.955	External Director				
Ricardo Andrés León Sabala	V-17.140.679	External Director				
Wils Asención Rangel Linares	V-4.930.482	External Director				
Simón Alejandro Zerpa Delgado	V-16.544.324	External Director				
Ricardo José Menéndez Prieto	V-10.333.821	External Director				
Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah	V-12.354.211	External Director				



### 2020, 2021, 2022 y 2023: PDVSA Board of Directors is secret

On February 19, 2020, the declaration of the energy emergency of the hydrocarbons industry was published in Official Gazette No. 41,825, and the "Alí Rodríguez Araque" Presidential Commission for the Defense, Restructuring and Reorganization of the National Oil Industry was created, in charge of "designing, supervising, coordinating and boosting all the productive, legal, administrative, labor and commercialization processes of the national public oil industry and its related activities, including PDVSA and the Venezuelan Oil Corporation (CVP)".

This commission was made up of 18 people, while **Tareck El Aissami**, as Minister of Petroleum, was chairman and **Asdrubal Chavez**, then President of PDVSA, was vice chair. This emergency declaration was extended in Official Gazette No. 42,071 of February 19, 2021.

From 2017 to 2013, which is the period of Nicolás Maduro's appointments analyzed here, most of the officials remained in their positions in the oil company, but only Ysmel Romer Serrano Florez was named by the Prosecutor General as part of the corrupt scheme. Serrano is a close associate of former Minister El Aissami who has held 13 public positions since 2008, according to the details provided below.

The President of PDVSA from 2020–2023, Asdrúbal Chávez, cousin of former President Hugo Chávez, was not named at the start of the investigation, nor as of this writing. He was appointed by Nicolás Maduro as head of PDVSA and the board of directors as per Official Gazette No. 6,531, Extraordinary, dated April 27, 2020.

### National Superintendency of Crypto-assets (SUNACRIP)

Its official website<sup>67</sup> states that it is "an autonomous government body, governing the Comprehensive Cryptoassets System," and that it was created "through the Constituent Decree published in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 41.575 dated January 30, 2019," from the National Constituent Assembly, a body criticized as unconstitutional.

But already in April 2018, this agency had been created under the name of Venezuelan Superintendency of Cryptoassets and Related Activities (Supcacven), attached to the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, which at that time was headed by Tareck El Aissami, who was in office until June 2018.<sup>68</sup> In October 2018, Nicolás Maduro inaugurated the Sunacrip,<sup>69</sup> attached to the Ministry of Industries and National Production, an office also headed by El Aissami from June 2018 until August 2021.

Sunacrip was intended to support the development of the Petro as Venezuela's digital currency. The Constituent Decree on the Integral System of Cryptoassets, issued by the National Constituent Assembly and published in Official Gazette No. 41,575 of January 30, 2019, establishes in Article 21 that Sunacrip, shall be integrated by the following Intendancies:

- 1. The Intendancy of digital mining and associated processes.
- 67 Sunacrip. https://sunacrip.gob.ve/es/sunacrip

<sup>68</sup> Poderopedia. Sunacrip.

<sup>69</sup> Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Comunicación e Información. Inauguran Superintendencia Nacional de Criptoactivos. http://www.minci.gob.ve/inauguran-superintendencia-nacional-de-criptoactivos/. 01/10/2018.



- 2. The Intendancy for the promotion and development of crypto-assets and related activities.
- 3. The crypto-financial intendancy.
- 4. The supervisory intendancy.

Article 22 of the aforementioned law sets out that the Intendants as a whole make up the **Executive Council**, which is a

body in charge of setting the guidelines for its activity and the management policies of the various processes to be developed by the Superintendency, as well as the evaluation and monitoring of the results obtained.

The following table lists the names of SUNACRIP's intendants:

SUNACRIP INTENDANTS					
Name	Position	Date	Gazette		
Pablo Ernesto Carrillo Ríos	Oversight Intendant	27/4/2021	42.114		
Rajiv Alberto Mosqueda Fregona	Intendant of Digital Mining and Associated Processes	14/12/2020	42.028*		
Ángel Rafael Mujica Escobar	Intendant for the Promotion and Development of Crypto-assets and Related Activities	2/2/2020	41.829		
Jorge Román Soto Ramos	Cryptofinancial Services Intendant	16/5/2019	41.634		
Kenny Beatriz Rodríguez Intriago	Cryptofinancial Services Intendant	16/9/2021	42.214		

\*Only person named in the PDVSA-Crypto Scheme

The four intendants that make up the Executive Council were appointed by the then president of Sunacrip, Joselit de La Trinidad Ramírez Camacho. However, besides Ramírez Camacho, only one of the intendants was appointed by the Prosecutor General appointed by the National Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, namely Rajiv Alberto Mosqueda Fregona, Intendant of Digital Mining and Associated Processes.

SUNACRIP's official website states that the Digital Mining Intendancy "regulates, controls, organizes, legalizes, authorizes and supervises the digital mining activity in the country" and that its competences include "the registration of digital mining and mining activity licenses."

The Prosecutor General published on March 25, 2023 on his Twitter account, a commonly used channel to inform about the actions of the Public Prosecutor's Office, that another of the detainees is Renny Gerardo Barrientos, an official of the Office of Digital Mining and Associated Processes, described below.<sup>70</sup>

There is an "oversight unit", according to SUNACRIP's official website, in charge of ensuring compliance with the legal framework that regulates the economic activity "carried out using cryptocurrency, through the supervision of the different actors that make up the Integrated Cryptoassets System."

There is no reliable information on whether any high-level official in charge of oversight at Sunacrip is being investigated for this scheme.

<sup>70</sup> Prosecution Ministry @MinpublicoVEN. https://twitter.com/MinpublicoVEN/status/1639666497785135105?lang=es



## 5 History of actions of the agencies in the socalled "crusade against corruption"

The authorities, especially in the judiciary, did not hesitate to apply the same pattern of prosecution to the arrested ex-officials and businessmen that they have used against opposition politicians and individuals who have criticized the government of Nicolás Maduro in recent years.

The United Nations International Independent Fact-Finding Mission for Venezuela has reported that people who are subjected to judicial proceedings are not guaranteed due process or the minimum procedural guarantees. These irregularities have been present again in the PDVSA-Crypto corruption schemes, the Corporación Venezolana de Guayana (CVG) and in the Judiciary.

The accused were arraigned outside the statutory deadline. Detainees accused of embezzlement were arraigned on March 28 at the Second Control Court against Corruption and Terrorism of Caracas. The timing runs counter the provisions of para. 1 of Article 44 of the 1999 Constitution, which clearly states that any person arrested in flagrante delicto "shall be brought before a judicial authority within forty-eight hours from the time of arrest."

In addition, this process took place outside a court of law, because the arraignment hearing was not held at the Caracas Courthouse. The hearing took place during the night at the headquarters of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN), at the Helicoide headquarters, as was clearly seen in the images posted by the Prosecutor General in his Twitter account.

In spite of the fact that both the Venezuelan Constitution and the Organic Code of Criminal Procedure (COPP) grant the accused "the right to be accompanied by a trusted legal counsel" for any court procedure, in the hearing held at the SEBIN none of the accused were allowed to have a counsel chosen by themselves. "There are counsels of the Public Defense present," announced state-run Venezolana de Televisión (VTV) when reporting the act. Public defenders are lawyers assigned by the State to people who cannot afford a private defense attorney to represent them in trials. According to para. 2 of Article 311 of the Organic Code of Criminal Procedure (COPP) these public defenders may also be assigned to the accused when their private defense attorneys fail to appear.

In the case of the judicial corruption scheme, with unknown relation to the embezzlement known as PDVSA-Crypto Scheme, the former anti-terrorism judge José Mascimino Márquez García received the same treatment that many denounced that he, as a judge, applied in several of the cases he presided over, such as those of the defendants in the so-called Operation Gideon, the indigenous people detained in Operation Aurora, or against Voluntad Popular leaders Freddy Guevara and Ronald Carreño. THE PDVSA CRIPTOSCHEME AN INVESTIGATION THAT SHOCKED THE NATION

The actions of the National Assembly have been limited to agreements in support of the "anti-corruption crusade" and the stripping of the immunity of Congressman Roa. A Law of Domain Extinction was also quickly issued, which allows the State to seize assets of those who incur in crimes, while the Supreme Court of Justice hastened to assign that task to 8 civil courts of Caracas.<sup>71</sup> But no word is spoken at Parliament about the silence of the Comptrollership Commission and the failure to act on its comptroller power.

## Timeline:

**2/18/2023:** Arrests begin. Lawyer Mario Aquino, deputy prosecutor assigned to the Presidency of the Criminal Judicial Circuit of Caracas, was captured for allegedly having favored the release of Oswaldo José Cheremos Carrasquel (aka "Pelón" Cheremos), accused as one of the members of the criminal organization known as Tren del Llano. Aquino is being held at the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN). <sup>72</sup>

**2/18/2023:** Mario Aquino's arraignment hearing was adjourned, according to judicial sources.<sup>73</sup> There has been no further information on the status of his case.

**3/17/2023:** Joselit Ramírez Camacho, then president of SUNACRIP, was arrested for the alleged disappearance of millions of oil funds through operations with cryptocurrencies.<sup>74</sup>

**3/17/2023:** Official Gazette No. 6,739 Extraordinary published the order to

restructure SUNACRIP. It was informed that the restructuring process will be a six (6) month process, extendable for the same period. The members of the Restructuring Commission include:

- Anabel Pereira Fernández V.-14.122.851 President
- Héctor Andrés Obregón Pérez V.-17.123.100 Principal Director
- Luis Alberto Pérez González V.-17.088.336 Alternate Director
- Julio César Mora Sánchez V.-7.903.990 Principal Director
- 5. Pavel Javier García Sandoval V.-6.321.859 Alternate Director
- Román Daniel Maniglia Darwich V.-16.432.329 Principal Director
- Carlos Eloy Pirela Méndez V.-17.720.169 Alternate Director
- Larry Daniel Devoe Márquez V.-13.943.870 Principal Director
- Edgardo Alfonzo Toro Carreño V.-14.675.941 Alternate Director
- 71 Suprema Injusticia. Ocho juzgados civiles de Caracas aplicarán la Ley Orgánica de Extinción de Dominio en una primera fase https://supremainjusticia.org/ocho-juzgados-civiles-de-caracas-aplicaran-la-ley-organica-de-extincion-de-dominio-en-una-primera-fase/
- 72 https://ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/sucesos/sebin-detuvo-a-funcionario-por-favorecer-liberacion-del-pelon-cheremos/
- 73 https://ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/sucesos/difieren-audiencia-de-presentacion-de-mario-aquino/
- 74 https://www.elnacional.com/venezuela/detuvieron-a-joselit-ramirez-camacho-mano-derecha-de-tareck-el-aissami/

**3/18/2023:** An arrest warrant was issued against the president of the Criminal Judicial Circuit of Caracas, Cristóbal Cornieles Perre, and of the mayor of the Santos Michelena municipality in Aragua, Pedro Hernández.<sup>75</sup> In a parallel operation, the Fourth Control Judge of Caracas with competence in crimes associated to Terrorism, José Mascimino Márquez García, was arrested.

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**3/18/2023:** Jorwis Bracho Gómez,<sup>76</sup> First Control Judge of Falcón State, was arrested.

03/19/2023: National Assembly deputy Hugbel Rafael Roa Carucci was arrested at the headquarters of the ruling party (PSUV) in Caracas, for allegedly being part of a scheme to divert funds from PDVSA.<sup>77</sup>

**3/20/2023:** Tareck El Aissami announced his resignation through a message on Twitter in which he stated: "by virtue of the investigations that have been initiated into serious acts of corruption in PDVSA; I have made the decision to submit my resignation as Minister of Petroleum, with the purpose of supporting and fully backing this process."<sup>78</sup> **3/21/2023:** The Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) agreed to strip the parliamentary immunity of pro-government Deputy Hugbel Rafael Roa Carucci, at the behest of the prosecutor appointed by the Constituent Assembly, Tarek William Saab, after declaring that there are reasons to determine in flagrante delicto of serious corruption crimes and, consequently, his prosecution before regular courts and not before the highest court as established by the Venezuelan Constitution.<sup>79</sup> Although the Supreme Court decision was made in March, by mid-May the court had not yet published the grounds for its decision.<sup>80</sup>

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**03/21/2023:** On the same day of the Supreme Court's decision, the ruling partydominated National Assembly unanimously approved the urgent motion filed by Deputy Diosdado Cabello Rondón, which stripped the parliamentary immunity of his party colleague Hugbel Roa.<sup>81</sup>

**22/03/2023:** Businessman Daniel Ricardo Prieto Prieto was arrested after attempting to flee Venezuela to the Dominican Republic, where he was denied entry. Prieto reportedly escaped on 03/17/2023.<sup>82</sup>

- 75 https://www.elnacional.com/venezuela/detuvieron-a-alcalde-chavista-y-jueces-del-circuito-judicial-de-caracas-en-operativo-contra-la-corrupcion/
- 76 https://nuevodia.com.ve/juez-de-falcon-entre-detenidos-por-corrupcion/
- 77 https://portuguesaaldia.com/policia-anticorrupcion-detuvo-a-diputado-hugbel-roa-en-la-sede-psuv-en-caracas/
- 78 https://twitter.com/TareckPSUV/status/1637891779583148032?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7C twterm%5E1637891779583148032%7Ctwgr%5Ec7162f3eb1783df7a4b2c460fb385e7147515e51%7Ctwcon%5Es1\_&r ef\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eluniversal.com%2Fpolitica%2F151527%2Ftareck-el-aissami-renuncio-a-su-cargo-como-ministro-de-petroleo
- 79 http://www.tsj.gob.ve/es/web/tsj/decisiones#
- 80 Suprema Injusticia. El TSJ sigue sin publicar la sentencia con la que permitió el procesamiento del diputado chavista Hugbel Roa. https://supremainjusticia.org/el-tsj-sigue-sin-publicar-la-sentencia-con-la-que-permitio-el-procesamiento-deldiputado-chavista-hugbel-roa/ 19/05/2023.
- 81 https://tenemosnoticias.com/nacionales/noticiasaldiayalahora-co/allanada-inmunidad-parlamentaria-al-diputado-hugbel-roa-por-unanimidad/
- 82 https://www.elnacional.com/venezuela/detuvieron-al-gestor-negocios-de-hugbel-roa-que-intento-fugarse-a-republica-dominicana/

03/25/2023: Details on the arrest of 10 officials and 11 businessmen for their links to the PDVSA-Crypto scheme were given at the Public Prosecutor's Office. Officials include: Antonio José Pérez Suárez, vice-president of Commerce and Supply of Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA); Joselit de La Trinidad Ramírez Camacho, National Superintendent of Crypto-assets (SUNACRIP); Hugbel Rafael Roa Caruci, former deputy to the National Assembly; José Agustín Ramos, Yamil Alejandro Martínez, Odoardo José Bordones, Heinrich Chapellín Biundo, Jesús Enrique Salazar, Rajiv Alberto Mosqueda, assigned to the Intendancy of Digital Mining and Associated Processes; and Renny Gerardo Barrientos, Intendancy of Digital Mining and Associated Processes. The businessmen and associates include: Manuel Meneses, Rogers Ramírez, Rafael Perdomo, Roger Perdomo, Daniel Prieto, Kristhonfer Barrios, Johanna Torres, Alejandro Arroyo, Bernardo Arosio, Fernando Bermúdez, and Leonardo Torres.

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Eleven arrest warrants were requested, namely against: Juan Manuel Afonso, Manuel Ramón Afonso, William Rivas, Ximena Cagide Parada, Eduardo Noriega, José Luis Ferrandiz, Olvany Gaspari, Railin Elizabeth Yépez, Rodolfo Moleiro, Alejandro Londoño and Yuravic Ravelo for their alleged connection with the scheme. They are charged with appropriation or diversion of public funds, flaunting or assertion of relations or influence, money laundering and conspiracy.<sup>83</sup>

**3/26/2023:** It was widely reported on social media that the National Anti-Corruption

Police raided three apartments in Caracas, in the Excelsior Plaza building in Los Chorros, in search of an individual with the alias of "El Gordo" Méndez, who is said to be "one of the best friends" of former oil minister Tareck El Aissami.<sup>84</sup>

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**03/28/2023:** The arraignment hearing was held and a prison sentence was handed down to those implicated in the PDVSA-Crypto corruption scheme: Antonio José Pérez Suárez, Joselit de La Trinidad Ramírez Camacho, Hugbel Rafael Roa Carucci, José Agustín Ramos, Yamil Alejandro Martínez, Odoardo José Bordones, Heinrich Chapellín Biundo, Jesús Enrique Salazar, Rajiv Alberto Mosqueda, and Renny Gerardo Barrientos.<sup>85</sup> The detainees were presented with orange jumpsuits unusual in Venezuela—, at night and in a place other than a court of law.

03/28/2023: The Prosecutor General confirmed in an interview (minute 00:18:44) with "En diálogo con La W" of Colombia's W Radio, that Álvaro Pulido Vargas (Álex Saab's partner), is being investigated and that raids had also been carried out in some of his properties. "Many raids are being carried out, including the one you mention (Pulido). Many raids are being carried out because there are telephone reports, statements that are coming to public light and arrest warrants are not ruled out (...) It would be too early and reckless on my part to announce what could happen, not only with this person, but with others," said the Prosecutor, who also denied that the investigation against Pulido is linked to Álex Saab, detained in the

<sup>83</sup> Transparencia Venezuela. La fiscalía deja muchas preguntas por responder sobre investigaciones por corrupción https://transparenciave.org/la-fiscalia-deja-muchas-preguntas-por-responder-sobre-investigaciones-por-corrupcion/

<sup>84</sup> https://reportedelaeconomia.com/venezuela/por-esto-es-buscado-alias-el-gordo-mendez-amigo-cercano-de-tareck-el-aissami/

<sup>85</sup> https://www.vtv.gob.ve/realizan-audiencia-presentacion-corrupcionexfuncionarios-pdvsa/ https://radiomiraflores.net.ve/caso-pdvsa-cripto-realizan-audiencia-de-imputacion-a-implicados/



United States and claimed as a diplomat by the Venezuelan Government.<sup>86</sup>

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**3/30/2023:** The president of the state-owned holding company Corporación Venezolana de Guayana (CVG), Pedro Maldonado Marín, and the president of the Siderúrgica del Orinoco (SIDOR) complex, Néstor Astudillo Leal, were arrested.

**03/31/2023:** The Prosecutor General informed on his Twitter account about the apprehension of Jackeline Perico and José Lima, assigned to the Executive Directorate of Production of the Orinoco Oil Belt, for alleged acts of corruption related to the PDVSA-Crypto scheme.<sup>87</sup>

**4/1/2023:** A video went viral through social media accounts of Olvany Gaspari Bracho, one of the women involved and accused by Prosecutor General Tarek William Saab, in the PDVSA-Crypto scheme.<sup>88</sup> On March 31, her home located in Acarigua, Portuguesa state, western Venezuela, was raided.

**4/5/2023:** In the PDVSA-Crypto case—as of this writing—, 34 people have been arrested. The list is as follows: Hugbel Roa, Joselit Ramírez Camacho, Antonio Pérez Suárez, José Agustín Ramos, Yamil Martínez, Odoardo José Bordones, Heinrich Chapellín, Jesús Enrique Salazar, Rajiv Alberto Mosqueda, Alejandro Arroyo, Bernardo Arosio, Leonardo Torres, Jackeline Perico, José Lima, Jesús Ramírez, José Luís Silva, Gustavo Carmona, Juan Moreno, Pedro Fernández, Oscar Rojas, Jean Golman Meyer, Cardozo González, Luis Guzmán, Miguel Irigoyen, and Fernando Bermúdez, businessman, who reportedly fled to Spain. "There is an arrest warrant against him, he is a fugitive in Spain, we are waiting for him to be handed over by Spain," said then Tarek William Saab.<sup>89</sup>

4/5/2023: 13 other people, mostly highranking officials of the Maduro administration, appeared in the early morning of April 5, 2023 before courts to be charged with corruption offenses: 1.- Pedro Maldonado (CVG president), 2.- Edgar Sánchez (VP of Planning), 3.- Felipe Contreras (vice-president of Iron and Steel), 4.- Lino Gómez (executive VP), 5.- Tulio Medina (VP of Finance), 6.- Carlos Moreno (Traffic and Customs manager), 7.-Johan Sequera Manrique (Shipping director), 8.- Isaac Mouhamad Salazar (manager of Legal Affairs), 9.- Néstor Astudillo (president of SIDOR). Also arrested and arraigned was Hugo César Cabezas Bracamontes, president of the stateowned company Cartones de Venezuela; who was, among other positions in the Chavista government, Minister of the Secretariat under Hugo Chávez, Director of SAIME, Governor of Trujillo and Director of the Alfredo Maneiro Publishing Complex.<sup>90</sup>

**4/8/2023:** The Prosecutor General announced on his Twitter account that his office had requested 67 arrest warrants and 142 raids throughout the country, as new actions in the PDVSA-Crypto and CVG investigations. <sup>91</sup>

- 88 https://puntodecorte.net/se-entrego-olvany-gaspari-bracho-una-de-las-munecas-del-petroleo/
- 89 https://talcualdigital.com/saab-informa-que-van-51-personas-detenidas-e-imputadas-por-corrupcion/
- 90 https://efectococuyo.com/politica/detienen-e-imputan-a-hugo-cabezas-y-a-13-altos-funcionarios-de-la-cvg-por-corrupcion/.

<sup>86</sup> https://www.wradio.com.co/2023/04/12/se-libra-una-batalla-por-el-control-politico-entre-facciones-del-chavismo-roberto-deniz/

<sup>87</sup> https://twitter.com/TarekWiliamSaab/status/1641683357829308416?cxt=HHwWgICxkZyUt8gtAAAA

<sup>91</sup> https://twitter.com/TarekWiliamSaab/status/1644909387163529217?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetemb ed%7Ctwterm%5E1644909387163529217%7Ctwgr%5E5c3a3f4d0918f4a6e23d3c12a9cf1f8a01cda9e5%7Ctwcon%5 Es1\_c10&ref\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fefectococuyo.com%2Fpolitica%2Ffiscalia-solicita-67-nuevas-ordenes-captura-142-allanamientos-pdvsa-cvg%2F

**4/8/2023:** A former SUNACRIP employee, who was supporting the development of the Petro as a digital currency, explained that on Monday afternoon, April 3, the Human Resources Department ordered the coordinators and assistants of the agency to offer their resignations if necessary.<sup>92</sup>

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**4/11/2023:** The Intervention Board of the National Superintendence of Cryptoassets (SUNACRIP) composed of Anabel Pereira Fernández, Héctor Andrés Obregón Pérez, Luis Alberto Pérez González and Julio César Mora Sánchez, ordered the temporary suspension of digital mining farms, as well as the restriction on the operations of cryptoasset exchange houses.<sup>93</sup>

**11/04/2023:** A police source revealed to CNN the arrest of Colombian businessman Álvaro Pulido, as part of the PDVSA-Crypto case.<sup>94</sup>

**4/11/2023:** The Police raided two sheds allegedly belonging to a company called Doctorminer, engaged in cryptocurrency mining activities. According to news website "Yaracuy al Día," the sheds are located in the Peña and Páez municipalities of Yaracuy state, despite the fact that the company is headquartered in Caracas, its mining farms operate in rural areas of the country.<sup>95</sup>

**4/12/2023:** The Prosecutor General announced on his Twitter account that the number of officials arrested for alleged

involvement in various corruption schemes totals 58. Regarding the PDVSA-Crypto case, he informed that 53 arrest warrants and 99 raids were requested nationwide.<sup>96</sup>

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**4/12/2023:** Diosdado Cabello, first vicepresident of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), informed that the director of Municipal Engineering of the Mayor's Office of Baruta, Harold Rafael Sosa Padilla, was arrested after investigations into PDVSA corruption cases. He noted that he is being investigated for the granting of permits for buildings in the Las Mercedes neighborhood, located in the Baruta municipality.<sup>97</sup>

04/13/2023: Authorities announced the arrest of Baruta Municipality officials Harold Rafael Sosa Padilla, director of Municipal Engineering and Juan Carlos Posner Pimentel, deputy director of the Mayor's Office, allegedly involved in the "PDVSA-Crypto" scheme. Five other subjects were also arrested, including: Álvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas, financial operator, partner of Álex Saab and linked to Hugbel Roa; Pedro Alejandro Herrera Araque, financial operator and brother-inlaw of Hugbel Roa; Juan Manuel Almeida Morgado, technological operator of the PDVSA-Crypto scheme; Jorge Luis Almeida Morgado, technological operator of the PDVSA-Crypto scheme; Carlos Jesús Almeida Morgado, technological operator of the PDVSA-Crypto scheme.<sup>98</sup> Prosecutor General Tarek William Saab informed via Twitter that these persons

97 https://talcualdigital.com/diosdado-cabello-ratifico-arresto-del-ingeniero-municipal-de-baruta

<sup>92</sup> https://contrapunto.com/nacional/sucesos/trabajadores-de-sunacrip-nos-pidieron-no-volver-despues-de-semana-santa/

<sup>93</sup> https://talcualdigital.com/allanada-granja-de-mineria-digital-tras-trama-pdvsa-cripto-y-cambios-en-la-sunacrip/

<sup>94</sup> https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2023/04/11/corrupcion-detienen-venezuela-alvaro-pulido-socios-alex-saab-orix/ https://talcualdigital.com/cnn-capturan-en-venezuela-a-alvaro-pulido-socio-de-alex-saab/

<sup>95</sup> https://talcualdigital.com/allanada-granja-de-mineria-digital-tras-trama-pdvsa-cripto-y-cambios-en-la-sunacrip/

<sup>96</sup> https://twitter.com/TarekWiliamSaab/status/1646293066750259202?cxt=HHwWhMCz\_cu059gtAAA

<sup>98</sup> https://www.eluniversal.com/politica/153230/presentaron-siete-nuevos-involucrados-en-tramas-de-corrupcion



would appear before the Second Control Court of Caracas. The total number of people arrested for acts of corruption has risen to 58.

A day before, Saab had stated that 18 arrest warrants have been issued and 161 raids have been carried out, without providing further details on the locations where these procedures were conducted. He explained that 99 raids had been carried out nationwide and 53 arrest warrants had been issued around the plot involving PDVSA and SUNACRIP, while in the Corporación Venezolana de Guayana (CVG) case, the raids totaled 48, plus 13 arrest warrants.

Saab added that there were three warrants against officials linked to Cartones de Venezuela and that seven raids were carried out. Also, in the plot involving the Judiciary, six arrest warrants had been issued and six raids had been carried out.<sup>99</sup>

**4/13/2023:** State-owned TV station Venezolana de Televisión (VTV) reported that Juan Almeida was not present at an arraignment hearing, as the arraignment had been done at a healthcare center, "in order to safeguard his right to health.<sup>100</sup>"

**04/18/2023:** Authorities announced the arrest and arraignment hearing of Ysmel Romer Serrano Florez, and Salem Hassoun Atrach, both involved in the PDVSA-Crypto corruption scheme, after being arrested by the National Anti-Corruption Police.<sup>101</sup>

**4/18/2023:** The Prosecutor General announced that 56 arrest warrants and 107

raids had been requested nationwide around the PDVSA-Crypto scheme. He also announced that regarding the CVG scheme, 14 arrest warrants were issued and 51 raids were made. Regarding the Judiciary plot, he reported that there were 6 arrest warrants and 6 raids. Regarding the corruption at the Mayor's Office of Tejerías, Aragua, he mentioned one arrest warrant and one raid. The total number of arrests at that time was 61 persons under arrest, 20 arrest warrants to be enforced and 172 raids. Regarding the case of state-owned Cartones de Venezuela, Saab reported 3 arrest warrants and 7 raids across the country.<sup>102</sup>

**04/20/2023:** The media revealed that Leoner Azuaje Urrea, president of Cartones de Venezuela, who had been arrested for corruption investigated by the Prosecutor General's Office, died in prison.

**4/21/2023:** The Public Prosecutor's Office announced via Twitter that the autopsy of Leoner Azuaje Urrea concluded in death by mechanical asphyxia, i.e. hanging. It was reported that the examination by the Forensics Unit of the Public Prosecutor's Office at the site "determined that the individual hanged himself using sheets in the room where he was confined.<sup>103</sup>

**4/28/2023:** Nicolás Maduro stated that since the start of the anti-corruption operation in Venezuela, authorities have seized a total of 1,007 assets, including real estate, vehicles, offices and companies. Total assets seized include 361 "high-end" vehicles, 52 trucks, 38

- 102 https://twitter.com/TarekWiliamSaab/status/1648515246603251712?cxt=HHwWgMDRib742eAtAAAA
- 103 https://twitter.com/TarekWiliamSaab/status/1649504577287274498?cxt=HHwWhIC2iY7rm-QtAAAA

<sup>99</sup> https://runrun.es/noticias/499439/purgamadurista-presentaron-a-otros-7-detenidos-vinculados-con-tramas-de-corrupcion/

<sup>100</sup> https://www.infobae.com/venezuela/2023/05/16/murio-juan-almeida-el-segundo-implicado-en-la-corrupcion-de-la-petrolera-venezolana-pdvsa-que-fallece-bajo-custodia/

<sup>101</sup> https://www.eluniversal.com/politica/153563/ministerio-publico-anuncia-detencion-de-tres-nuevos-involucrados-encasos-de-corrupcio

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luxury apartments, 28 mansions, 23 pieces of heavy machinery, 19 aircrafts, 16 offices, 13 business complexes, 9 motorcycles, 9 buses, 7 boats, 7 companies, 6 buildings, an inn, a club and "a group of weapons".<sup>104</sup>

**5/15/2023:** The Public Prosecutor's Office informed of the death of Juan Almeida, who was suffering from a terminal illness diagnosed as cirrhosis of the liver. Reports claim that he was at his home at the time of death, because he had been granted house arrest as

a humanitarian measure, as he was a person of interest in the investigation into the PDVSA-Crypto scheme.<sup>105</sup>

**16/5/2023:** A few days after its shutdown was announced, restaurant Altum was served "cautionary" measure from the National Anti-Corruption Police (PNCC), for involvement in the PDVSA-Crypto corruption scheme. According to information circulated in social media, one of Altum's owners is Rafael Hernández, allegedly involved in this case.<sup>106</sup>

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104 https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/venezuela-corrupci%C3%B3n\_venezuela-ha-incautado-un-millar-de-bienes-con-laoperaci%C3%B3n-anticorrupci%C3%B3n/48473046

105 https://twitter.com/TarekWiliamSaab/status/1658329252872192000?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed% 7Ctwterm%5E1658329252872192000%7Ctwgr%5E8eeabfeb69615a50b3eed225d07176e03136187f%7Ctwcon%5Es1\_&r ef\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vozdeamerica.com%2Fa%2Fmuere-bajo-custodia-del-estado-otro-implicado-en-escandalo-decorrupciC3B3n-en-venezuela-%2F7095294.html

106 https://efectococuyo.com/politica/pncc-asegura-restaurante-altum-por-relacion-con-trama-de-corrupcion-pdvsa-cripto/