



Annual Report 2023-2024 about Crimes Against Humanity

Venezuela: The installment of a Terror regime and Generalized Systematical Persecution with the impunity of power and the interference of the Cuban regime.

The cry of the victims of crimes against humanity: ¡JUSTICE!



This report will be sent in the moment of its publication to the International Criminal Court, as back up to the reports made by the CASLA Institute.

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Introduction

At the time of writing this Report, events as serious as the revelations of the Chilean Prosecutor Héctor Barros, who is handling the case of the kidnapping and subsequent execution of the former political prisoner Lt. Ronald Ojeda asylum in Chile, former Venezuelan soldier who was torn from his residence in the early hours of February 21, by an armed and hooded group, who were identified by Prosecutor Barros as members of the criminal organization "Tren de Aragua", a crime that according to the prosecutor was organized from Venezuela and had a political motive.

The arbitrary arrests or arrest warrants and the accusations by Prosecutor Tarek William Saab against countless citizens, criminalizing their profession or trade just for being from the opposition, for denouncing them, or for carrying out social organization and political activism, have been growing as the elections are approaching next July.

Furthermore, they have approved a new Law that will surely be applied to persecute, frighten, imprison dissidents and whistleblowers and silence social networks that until now they have not been able to control, because senior government officials are already accustomed to calling opponents "Fascists", "Chuckys of Fascism", "Fascist groups", and what they were missing was the "law against fascism, neo-fascism and similar expressions", that is, the legal framework, which is added to the "Law against hatred" to minimize and silence civic space, limit freedom of expression and the right to be informed, censorship of the media, and so on.

In this Report containing VI Chapters, the reader will be able to understand the importance and insistence that we have placed on how the repressive and spy structure of the government of Nicolas Maduro works, which allows him to have the population under siege and surveillance, the political opposition completely infiltrated, with the capacity to introduce cooperating patriots into the ranks of political parties, into civil associations and unions, into businesses, companies, schools, universities, hotels, clubs, neighborhood associations, and so on., where everyone is watched and the spies used at the time to mount files and accusations when they want to neutralize a person, a group, an organization, or a political party.

In chapters IV and V, on the intervention of the Cuban State in the Commission of Crimes Against Humanity in Venezuela and the SEBIN Unit created in the image and likeness of those that exist in Cuba, whose function is the infiltration and monitoring of people of operational interest for the regime, which adds to what was denounced in the past Report on how the other Intelligence body, the DGCIM, operates, allows us to understand the monster they have created and why the Senior Responsible for Crimes

Against Humanity remain in power, despite the great social and military discontent that exists in the country.

Chapter II, III and VI, the process in the International Criminal Court, what the victims want and the Systematic Repression documented in the period covered by this Report, with the multiplication of Arbitrary Detentions, Physical, Psychological and White Torture, Violence Sexual and Gender Violence, reflect that the Maduro regime is not willing to stop the crimes for which the State is being investigated in the highest International Criminal Court, but has also introduced new widespread patterns to persecute and repress and torture. , the terrible tortures of all kinds, which can only be planned and executed by perverse and sadistic minds with the consent of their bosses who applaud and reward them, will continue to happen because the Institutions responsible for protecting the Human Rights of all citizens They are at the service of the oppressive regime.

There can be no independent and impartial justice when the officials in charge of dispensing justice are militants of the ruling party or furious sympathizers of the regime. Judges, Prosecutors and Public Defenders used in cases of political persecution respond to orders from “above”, regardless of whether the victims are presented full of wounds and blood on their clothes, regardless of whether they are told how they were tortured.

To write about the pain and horror that Venezuelans experience every day is extremely heartbreaking. It is watching the same movie for 20 years and the situation does not change, but rather worsens with the time they have had to multiply their criminal structure and their methods and legalization of systematic and widespread persecution. Despite this, Venezuelans have not lost hope, they continue to fight to recover their Democracy and the Rule of Law, and they eagerly seek International Justice so that crimes do not go unpunished.

I encourage you to read each page thinking about it. Perhaps you can imagine why 8 million Venezuelans have fled the country, how the regime has taken advantage of this exodus, why protests and demonstrations are quickly dismantled, why the list of persecuted and imprisoned people grows and grows and why Venezuela has become in a country where parents have been left without their children and grandparents without their grandchildren.

Tamara Suju Roa

Annual Report about Crimes Against Humanity 2023-2024

Chapter I

General Context about the Repression in Venezuela.

For the period included in this annual report, Venezuela has gone through different moments of social unrest and intense persecution and widespread systematic repression against civilians and military personnel, with the addition of dozens of new detainees, including political leaders, union members, directors and members of NGOs, social media influencers, relatives of persecuted people, in addition to the persecution carried out against dozens of Venezuelans in exile, which includes arrest warrants, accusations and intimidation regarding their activities and location.

To maintain total control, the persecution against María Corina Machado and the Vente Venezuela Party, the candidate who won the primaries held on October 23, 2023, with 92.5% of the votes, was launched. María Corina Machado has managed to raise hope in a short time in the population, who have come out massively to receive her throughout the country.

The regime used its legal tools, and the Institutions that respond to it politically without any indication of independence for years, to maintain the disqualification of opponents. On June 30, 2023, they announced the disqualification for 15 years of María Corina Machado, 3 months before the primaries, ratifying said disqualification later, through the TSJ, on January 26 of this year, an illegitimate disqualification against Machado. Other political leaders, such as Henrique Capriles Radonsky and Fredy Superlano, also remain disqualified, preventing them from holding any public office.

The disqualification of opponents is illegitimate, because none has been sentenced with a criminal conviction, and only in this situation can a judge politically disqualify a person in Venezuela. Despite this, the candidate chosen by the majority in the primaries continued with her campaign, until the last days, and seeing that nothing could be done, she decided, with the support of the “Mesa de la Unidad”, that Corina Yoris would be her replacement, taking the regime off guard, then they prevented Ms. Yoris from registering on the only two opposition cards on which she could register until the last minutes of the night of March 25, the registration deadline. On the card, as of the time of writing this Report, there is neither the candidate chosen by the Venezuelans nor the

substitute chosen by consensus, but there are those who did not participate in the primaries.

In the course of 2023, the regime used to its benefit the so-called “Barbados agreement” (Partial Agreement for the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All), managing to alleviate sanctions, exchanging Alex Saab for ten American citizens who were detained in Venezuela, taking oxygen while violating said agreement from the beginning, with supposed releases of political prisoners that are not such because for the most part, the Venezuelan prisoners supposedly released, continue with trials in full development and precautionary measures of presentation and/or ban on leaving the country, and one of those released, Adrián de Gouveia, was imprisoned again.

As the registration dates for presidential pre-candidates approached, in March 2024, widespread repression and intimidation multiplied against political leaders, coordinators and members of the Vente Venezuela Party and others such as CAUSA R, against civil society who participated in the campaigns and were confronted by violent groups affiliated with the ruling party, even trying to attack pre-presidential candidates and people who participated in the events on several occasions, acting with total impunity; In addition, they prevented the free movement of the candidates through the national territory, they momentarily detained those who collaborated with the campaigns in some way, providing some service, especially those who supported María Corina Machado, closing premises where she appeared, detaining those who He collaborated with sound equipment, among others.

During 2023 and the rest of 2024, the Venezuelan State has not stopped setting up conspiratorial plots to accuse the opposition and continue the persecution. The lawyers of the detained persons denounce the lack of foundation of these accusations, files set up by intelligence organizations such as the DGCIM or the SEBIN, where by the mere fact of belonging to a political party, being a relative of a person persecuted or detained for reasons politicians, being a social activist or human rights defender, having American nationality, or denouncing irregular acts or human rights violations by the regime on social networks, is enough to detain or persecute them.

In several cases, those who accuse the detainees are “cooperating patriots” who serve as witnesses, accusing the victim under personal assumptions that that person could be thinking of conspiring or doing something against the government, using the structure of spies or “sapos” reported by CASLA in the 2022 report.

Such is the case, for example, of the young student Jhon Álvarez, belonging to the youth of the Red Flag political party, who was arrested on August 30 by the Bolivarian National Police (PNB) in the center of Caracas. They detained him arbitrarily for allegedly posting

pamphlets with flags of Venezuela and Ukraine, but the real objective was for him to implicate two other people. While they were interrogating him, they realized that he had been related to the case of the 6 union members arrested in 2022, a plot that came directly from the DGCIM laboratories.

Álvarez was hooded and taken around the center of Caracas, beaten with a baseball bat through some sheets so that there were no marks, and received electric shocks in various parts of his body, including his private parts, to force him to record several videos accusing union leader Carlos Salazar of inviting him to plant explosives on a highway and journalist Carlos Julio Rojas of leading street closures and demonstrations in the center of Caracas. The accusation presented by the Public Ministry against Jhon Álvarez was based on information provided by a “cooperating patriot”, an anonymous informant, violating article 57 of the Venezuelan Constitution, which prohibits anonymity. Álvarez was released under precautionary measures, 115 days after his arrest, but his trial continues. He presents loss of mobility in his left leg, loss of vision in his left eye and kidney problems, as consequences of the torture to which he was subjected.

The same happened with the six Venezuelan unionists arrested in 2022 and sentenced on August 1, 2023, to 16 years in prison for demanding decent wages and other labor rights, accused of conspiracy and association to commit a crime. Alcides Bracho, Alonso Meléndez, Emilio Negrín, Gabriel Blanco, Néstor Astudillo and Reynaldo Cortes were sentenced without the only witness promoted by the prosecution appearing throughout the trial, using as evidence only screenshots of WhatsApp and Twitter with their opinions.

One of the cases of persecution against relatives of political prisoners is that of Yosida Vanegas de Monasterio (67), detained on August 15, 2023, when she arrived in Venezuela through a border post in the State of Táchira. Yosida returned to the country to see her son, Sergeant Juan Carlos Monasterio, a political prisoner. She was detained without having an arrest warrant or having any type of investigation against her. She was accused of financing terrorism and conspiracy to commit a crime and was physically and psychologically abused while she was detained at the DGCIM headquarters in San Cristóbal and Caracas. She was a victim of temporary forced disappearance, completely isolated for more than a month, and presented secretly, with the imposition of a public defender.

Other people arrested and accused of “financing terrorism or terrorism” were Didelis Corredor Acosta and Bruno Juárez Flores, who were also physically and psychologically tortured.

At the end of 2023 and the months that have passed in 2024, the regime has undertaken the largest repressive wave of persecution, intimidation, detentions, torture and cruel treatment against civilians and soldiers in this Report period. Everything has been related in some way to dismantle María Corina Machado's campaign team and accuse leaders of the coalition of political parties, lawyers and human rights defenders, journalists, activists and soldiers of conspiracy, assassination attempts, terrorism, among others.

On December 6, after the failure of the Referendum on the Essequibo Territory, the government attacked several leaders, including Henry Alvarez, national coordinator, Claudia Macero, head of communication and Pedro Urruchurtu, coordinator of international relations of the Vente Venezuela party, Roberto Abdul, from the Súmate organization and the leaders in exile David Smolansky, Juan Guaidó, Yon Goicochea, Julio Borges, Carlos Vecchio and Leopoldo López. Roberto Abdul was detained, remained missing for more than 40 hours, and was released with precautionary measures of presentation and prohibition of leaving the country, after holding the presentation hearing at the SEBIN facilities in El Helicoide, precautionary measures that the coordinators of Vente Venezuela that were in hiding also received.

On December 14, Captain Ányelo Heredia was detained at a border crossing between Colombia and Venezuela, and remained missing, without knowing where he had been taken, until January 22, the day Prosecutor Tarek William Saab admitted his arrest at a press conference, showing a video edited several times of Heredia, with clear signs of torture on his face and parts of his body, reading something that he had in front of him to incriminate himself and naming other people in an alleged plan called “Brazalete Blanco”, without any meaning, without being intertwined with each other. Military experts have referred to what the Prosecutor showed as a crude setup made with the complicity of the DGCIM, the SEBIN and the Public Ministry itself, which corroborates what CASLA has published in its various Annual Reports on how these intelligence agencies and counterintelligence prepare files to accuse those whom the Venezuelan regime wants, those whom it needs to neutralize, intimidate and persecute, taking advantage of the fact that both the Public Ministry and the Judiciary have functioned as its executing arm, without any independence for years.

Since that day, the regime has involved in this case called “Brazalete Blanco” - the name given to one of the 5 alleged conspiracies denounced by Prosecutor Tarek William Saab personalities, militants of the opposition political party “Vente Venezuela” and other political parties, human rights defenders, journalists, and soldiers. The CASLA Institute has been able to make the following list based on information obtained, but today it is unknown how many people in total are detained in this case. The names received are the following:

- TCnel. Guillermo Enrique Cesar Siero
- Gral. Div. Tomás Martínez Macías *
- Coronel Carlos Jesús Sánchez Vázquez *
- Ronald Alejandro Ferrer Vera
- Cap. Guillermo José Cesar Siero*
- Cap. Tomás Martínez Chico
- Diana Desiré Victoria Justo*
- 1Tte. Karen Gómez G. *
- May. Cesar Arturo Burgos
- Abogado Roció San Miguel. Directora de la ONG Control Ciudadano
- Alejandro González de Canales Plaza
- Emil Brandt Ulloa. Vente Venezuela
- Juan Freites. Vente Venezuela
- Luis Camacaro. Vente Venezuela
- Guillermo López. Vente Venezuela
- Jesús Suarez Gil.

Tarek William Saab also announced 19 detention orders, among them:

- Pablo Antonio Parada Díaz
- Cap. Jonathan Méndez Chacón
- Wender Villalobos
- Norbey Marín
- Mario Iván Carratu Molina
- José Antonio Colina
- Sebastiana Barraez. Journalist.
- Tamara Suju. Director of the CASLA Institute.

It is important to highlight that in addition to detaining the lawyer Rocío San Miguel, the regime also detained for several hours her daughter Miranda Díaz San Miguel, her brothers, Miguel Ángel and Alberto San Miguel, and her father Víctor Díaz Paruta, released on February 13 at the presentation hearing, with precautionary measures of periodic appearances in Court, prohibition of leaving the country and prohibition of speaking to the media.

In the case of Colonel Carlos Jesús Sánchez Vázquez, his partner, the 1Lt. Karen Gómez was arrested on January 22, after deceptively calling her to a meeting at the ZODI in Guatire. She had been going to the DGCIM to ask about her husband, about whom nothing was known, and she had left her two small children, an almost two-year-old boy and an 11-month-old girl in the care of their grandfather. The next day, January 23, Karen Gómez appeared as a detainee in the courtyard of honor of the Ministry of Defense, in Fuerte Tiuna in Caracas, in an act of degradation and expulsion of 18 officers,

from a list of 33 in total, pointed out by the Minister of Defense Vladimir Padrino as "all those traitors who have betrayed their country, have betrayed us."

At that event, all the officers, women and men, arrived handcuffed by their hands and feet and joined at the waist with the same chain. They were forced to publicly undress and put on an olive green uniform. Captain Ángel Heredia arrived handcuffed and in a wheelchair, in very poor physical condition, since he could not even get up, as a result of the torture he suffered. He had to be carried to be stripped and dressed in the uniform they provided to the group. Today, no one has been able to see him, since he has no family in Venezuela.

On January 18 of this year, Nicolas Maduro activated the "Bolivarian Fury" Plan and gave orders to Diosdado Cabello and Commanders of the FANB to confront any terrorist attempt: "Diosdado Cabello will announce a set of actions to deploy the Bolivarian Fury plan that it must be a civic, military, and police plan to confront any terrorist attempt, whatever the time, whatever it may be, however it occurs," Maduro said.

On January 22, Prosecutor Tarek William Saab, in another press conference, announced 5 alleged conspiracies, and said that by then there were 32 people detained. In addition to "Brazalet Blanco", he referred to the "Espionaje Güasdalito" case, an alleged group made up of civilians and police operated by a foreign organization that held meetings in Bogotá to recruit agents in Venezuela supposedly to carry out assassinations and to give confidential information; the "La Viñeta" case, alleged conspiracy to assassinate Maduro and Vladimir Padrino; the "Fortunato case" that bears the last name of José Fortunato, who supposedly entered Venezuela to carry out alleged espionage and terrorism activities.

The regime has used the excuse of these conspiracies to conveniently link the Vente Venezuela party and its members, and the "Bolivarian fury" was activated on January 23, when a series of acts of vandalism occurred in several states of the country against headquarters of the political party and homes of several of its leaders and other members of opposition political parties, commercial premises, etc., marking said places with the phrase "Bolivarian Fury." These events occurred in Caracas, Vargas, Mérida, Anzoátegui, Monagas, Táchira, Falcón and Bolívar on the same day, which demonstrates the planning and its execution as part of the systematic and widespread repression ordered by the Head of State himself against the political opposition and in particular, against the Party of María Corina Machado.

That same day, the leaders Juan Freites, who is state coordinator and head of María Corina Machado's campaign command in Vargas state, were arrested; Luis Camacaro, state coordinator and head of María Corina Machado's campaign command in Yaracuy

state; and Douglas Rodríguez, state coordinator and head of María Corina Machado's campaign command in Bolívar state, who was the victim of an attempted kidnapping by SEBIN officials. Luis Camacaro and Juan Freites were presented on January 25, without the presence of their trusted lawyers, after keeping them missing for more than 72 hours, without having contact with their families or lawyers. In an intimidating action, the "Palace of Justice" was taken over by three dozen SEBIN officials, who evicted the lawyers and relatives who were waiting for the leaders to be transferred.

Emill Brandt, campaign manager for Vente in the state of Barinas, was arrested on March 8 by alleged SEBIN officials, and the next day, Tarek William Saab announced that Mr. Brandt had an arrest warrant since January, linking him to the "White Bracelet" operation and that had been presented in the courts of the same state. Joe Villamizar, coordinator of Vente in the Girardot municipality of Aragua state, was arrested on March 18 by the SEBIN and presented on the 20th, dictating precautionary measures for presentation and payment of bail.

On March 20, the leaders of Vente Venezuela Henry Alviarez and Dignora Hernández were arrested, after a series of systematic attacks on television programs carried out by Diosdado Cabello, who has ended up serving as a parallel prosecutor to William Saab, pointing out people in his program that later end up being accused by the Public Ministry. Henry Alviarez is National Coordinator of the Organization and Dignora Hernández, National Political Secretariat and Coordinator of the Political Central. That same day, Tarek William Saab announced an arrest warrant against 7 other party leaders: Humberto Villalobos, National Electoral Coordinator of the Command; Omar González, head of the Campaign Command in Anzoátegui; Claudia Macero, national communications coordinator of the Command; Pedro Urruchurtu, coordinator of International Affairs at Vente Venezuela and coordinator of International Relations at the Campaign Command; Magalli Meda, head of the National Campaign Command; Oswaldo Bracho and Fernando Martínez Mottola, Advisor to María Corina Machado.

The Venezuelan State practically dismantled the party of the political leader who won the primaries, harassing its leaders and sympathizers, sabotaging Ms. Machado's presentations in various places in the interior of the country with acts of vandalism, intimidating several youth leaders, persecuting and imprisoning members of the board of directors and main coordinators, 6 of those persecuted, at the time of the closing of this report, were in the Argentine embassy in Caracas as protected.

Chapter II.

Investigation Process in the International Criminal Court

In our 2022 report, the summary on the Venezuela I case at the ICC ended with the invitation made on November 18 by the Preliminary Affairs Chamber to all direct and indirect victims and their legal representatives to present their opinions and observations on the request of the Prosecutor's Office to continue with the Investigation, and tell the Chamber of Judges why said investigation should continue, after the Venezuelan State requested the activation of article 18(2) of the Rome Statute, so that the ICC could stop the investigation, arguing that Venezuela had undertaken its own investigations.

On April 20, 2023, the Section for the Participation of Victims and Representatives of the ICC, hereinafter VPRS, made public the report with the results of the consultation with victims and their representatives requested by the Preliminary Affairs Chamber, where they said they had received comments from approximately 8,900 victims, comprised of 1,875 applications containing their opinions and concerns. The applications include approximately 8,900 victims, 630 families and 2 organizations.

On February 28, the Venezuelan State tried to discredit the process at the ICC, arguing that it was a political process and also that they considered that it involved new facts that the State could not reasonably have foreseen and requested to respond to the VPRS report. On May 4, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC rejected the Venezuelan government's request to respond to the VPRS Report, arguing among other points that:

- Venezuela limits itself to pointing out that the report presents facts related to alleged victims that could be the subject of internal criminal investigations or even the perpetrators could have received effective sanctions or could be facts that were never reported in the Venezuelan internal judicial system.
- This presentation, in itself, is not sufficiently precise to allow the Chamber to determine the appropriateness of granting authorization to respond. Furthermore, a response under the Court's legal framework is not intended for the type of exhaustive presentations that Venezuela wishes to provide.
- That the VPRS transmitted observations and concerns of potential victims, since it is not yet at the stage in which these potential victims have been recognized as such, so they are not part of the process, therefore, the VPRS Report could not be responded to by the State.

On June 27, 2023, the Preliminary Affairs Chamber decided in favor of the Court's Prosecutor's Office to continue with the Investigation, denying the request of the Venezuelan State to stop it. In the statement published on the ICC portal, you can read the following:

“The Chamber concluded that, although Venezuela is adopting some investigative measures, its internal criminal processes does not sufficiently reflect the scope of the investigation planned by the Prosecutor's Office. The Chamber drew its conclusion from the observations and material before it. In relation to the factors that the Chamber considered decisive for its conclusion, it concluded that it appears that Venezuela is not investigating the factual accusations that underlie the contextual elements of the crimes against humanity, and that the focus of the internal investigations appears to be on general indirect and/or lower level perpetrators. As part of its consideration of the remaining factors, the Chamber noted that Venezuela appears to have taken limited investigative measures and that, in many cases, there appears to be periods of unexplained investigative inactivity. The Chamber also noted that the internal investigations appear not to sufficiently address the forms of criminality that the Prosecutor's Office intends to investigate, referring in particular to the discriminatory intent underlying the alleged crime of persecution and the apparent insufficient investigation of crimes of a sexual nature. This conclusion does not prevent Venezuela from providing material in the future for the Prosecutor's Office or the Chamber to determine inadmissibility on the basis of complementarity. Furthermore, when the Prosecutor's Office presents a real case, a new evaluation of admissibility may be carried out. The Chamber highlighted that evaluating the status of domestic procedures is an ongoing process and requires ongoing dialogue between the relevant State and the Court, to ensure that the principle of complementarity is respected with respect to investigations and prosecutions authorized by the Court.”

On July 3, 2023, the Venezuelan State notified the ICC Appeals Chamber of its appeal against the decision of the Preliminary Affairs Chamber that authorized the resumption of the Investigation. On July 14, the Appeals Chamber extended the deadline at the request of the Venezuelan government until August 14 to present its arguments on the appeal.

On July 21, 2023, the Appeals Chamber granted a request from the Public Defender of Victims (OPCV) and invited it to submit written observations to Venezuela's appeal brief in relation to the general interests of the victims.

On August 14, the State presented its appeal arguments. On August 24, 2023, the Appeals Chamber partly granted, the victims' requests, allowing them to submit statements, with the assistance of their legal representatives if they so desired, and

ordered the VPRS to collect and transmit to the Appeals Chamber representations of any victim and group of interested victims, with the assistance of their legal representatives if they so wish, and submit a report thereon.¹

On October 12, the Appeals Chamber announced that, in addition to receiving written submissions, it would convene a public hearing to give “the parties and participants the opportunity to address specific issues arising from their submissions and to respond to any questions that may be raised by the Appeals Chamber”.²

On October 17, the Appeals Chamber published the rules for the participation of the Representatives of the Venezuelan State, the representatives of the Prosecutor and the Office of the Public Defender of Victims (OPCV) in the hearing on November 7 and 8 of 2023.

In this sense, and for the purposes of this hearing, the CASLA institute presented a considerable number of opinions from victims and family members, and also collaborated so that other victims, family members and witnesses could present their opinion in this second consultation, like we did in the first consultation with the victims, that the Appeals Chamber carried out. Furthermore, and on behalf of the victims, the CASLA Institute requested the honorable Appeals Chamber to participate in said consultation, since the Chamber authorized the legal representatives of the victims to present written statements on any of the issues identified in the Instructions of the Appeals Chamber and to submit them to the Victim Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS) no later than November 6, 2023. Our application was accepted and registered in accordance with the decisions of the Appeals Chamber ICC-02/18-73, ICC-02/18-76 and ICC-02/18-79. CASLA participated with two (2) versions, one public and one strictly CONFIDENTIAL EX PARTE.

Once the public hearings had passed, on March 1 of this year, the Appeals Chamber dismissed the Appeal made by the Venezuelan State and confirmed the decision of the Preliminary Affairs Chamber that authorized the ICC Prosecutor's Office to resume the Investigation.³ The investigation continues.

¹ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/0902ebd1805e31b9.pdf>

² <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/0902ebd1805e31b9.pdf>

³ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-03/2024-03-01-venezuela-summary-spa.pdf>

Chapter III.

What the victims want

As we mentioned in the previous chapter, the CASLA Institute was actively working on the two consultations that the International Criminal Court has made to the victims. The one carried out by the Preliminary Affairs Chamber I, and the one carried out by the Judges of the Appeals Chamber. In both consultations, we were promoting the participation of victims and witnesses, providing information on filling out the templates through social networks, contacting the greatest number of possible victims of the cases presented by CASLA so that no one was left without participating, and assisting to those who wanted to be present and who had never reported it. On August 24, 2023, in the Second Consultation that has been made to the victims, the Appeals Chamber instructed the VPRS to collect and transmit to the Appeals Chamber the opinions and concerns of the victims and interested victim groups, with the assistance of their legal representatives if they so wish, on the question of whether, in their opinion, the Article 18(2) decision allowing the resumption of the ICC Prosecutor's investigation should be confirmed, modified, or overturned on appeal.

The CASLA Institute requested the Chamber of Appeal Judges to participate as a representative of a significant number of victims and witnesses in said hearing, participation that was approved by the Chamber, which allowed the participation of the applicants by presenting the allegations in writing.

On November 5, CASLA sent two documents to the Judges of the Appeals Chamber, one "Confidential Ex PARTE" and a public version that was registered as annex 4 ICC-02 /18 -81-Anx-Red 06-11- 2023 1/31 PT OA, ⁴ with the main observations, additional information and new observations that victims and witnesses wanted to send to you as a complement to the questions of the Consultation, and especially, referring to Question 12 of said consultation, which expressly said what following: "Do the victims have additional opinions or observations that they wish to communicate to the judges, in relation to the Venezuela I Investigation."

Below, we reproduce the full text of the "Public Version", a compendium of information obtained by dozens of victims, family groups, witnesses, who wanted to contribute their opinion to the consultation by filling out the template, and to the writings to participate, that CASLA would send to the Appeals Chamber.

⁴ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/RelatedRecords/0902ebd180647956.pdf>



DOCUMENTO PÚBLICO

Madrid, 5 de Noviembre del 2023

Attention: THE APPEALS CHAMBER:

Judge Marc Perrin de Brigambaut
Judge Piotr Hofmański
Judge Luz del Carmen Ibañez
Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa
Judge Gocha Lordkipanidze

Dear Judges of the Appeals Chamber:

Ante todo un cordial saludo. Como representante legal de un numero significativo de víctimas y de un partido político, quiero hacerle llegar las principales observaciones, e información complementaria y nuevas observaciones que las víctimas y testigos quieren hacerles llegar, como complemento de las preguntas de la Consulta sobre las Observaciones de las víctimas a la apelación del gobierno de Venezuela, ante la decisión de autorizar la reanudación de la Investigación en la situación Venezuela I.

En cuanto a la Pregunta 12: Tienen las víctimas opiniones u observaciones adicionales que deseen comunicar a los jueces, en relación con la Investigación Venezuela I:

a) Las víctimas dicen que el Estado venezolano ejecuta como política de Estado los presuntos Crímenes de Lesa Humanidad que están siendo investigados por esta Corte. Varias víctimas y Testigos que han aportado sus testimonios y documentación dicen, que al menos entre los años 2014 al 2019, la mayoría de los Organismos de Seguridad estuvieron involucrados en la represión contra la Sociedad Civil en todo el país, que no fueron casos puntuales como quiere hacer ver el Estado y que si hubo planificación por parte de las autoridades venezolanas para dar órdenes de reprimir y contener el malestar social, a costa incluso de la vida de los venezolanos. Es importante destacar, que además de las cifras de muertos y detenidos, las víctimas directas e indirectas quieren denunciar, que hay cientos de personas que fueron heridas por balas de perdigón en todo el país durante las manifestaciones masivas, que sufrieron alguna malformación, pérdida de un ojo o ambos o algún tipo de inmovilidad, ante la practica de los funcionarios de disparar al rostro o a las piernas de los manifestantes. También se conoce que hay víctimas que fueron torturados al momento de su detención en galpones de los organismos de

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seguridad o comandos, que no fueron presentados en Tribunales, y que fueron liberados, sin que quedaran registradas las torturas sufridas.

Varias víctimas quieren destacar, que en varias ciudades donde se llevaban a cabo grandes manifestaciones, a los detenidos los llevaban a los comandos de los organismos de seguridad, y los recibían con lo que se llegó a describir como “combos de torturas”, que consistía en que varios oficiales o funcionarios les daban el mismo recibimiento, con los mismos patrones de torturas físicas y psicológicas, golpeándolos con las culatas de las armas, con cascots o rolos, dándoles puntapiés, poniéndolos en posiciones incómodas como de cuclillas con las manos atrás por horas, echándoles gases lacrimógenos en las celdas o polvos en el rostro, mojándolos con agua fría por las noches, para que no pudieran dormir, amenazarlos con dejarlos presos por manifestar, recibiendo insultos denigrantes y amenazantes, sin importar la edad, sexo o condición física, así llegaban a las audiencias de presentación, golpeados y sucios, y los jueces y fiscales, ni los observaban y mucho menos les interesaba lo que decían los abogados sobre esto.

b) Varias víctimas y/o familiares y testigos, oficiales y ex oficiales de la FF.AA y ex funcionarios de organismos de inteligencia quieren decirle a la Sala, que el Estado venezolano ha construido o remodelado Centros y Celdas de Tortura oficiales y clandestinos, con conocimiento de toda la Estructura de mando del Estado, incluyendo el Ministerio Público (Fiscalía), la Defensoría del Pueblo, Jueces civiles y militares que representan al sistema de justicia, médicos forenses que prestan servicios a los organismos de inteligencia, organismos que se supone tienen entre sus funciones prevenir, investigar o sancionar los hechos que atenten contra la ética pública y la moral administrativa, velar por la buena gestión y la legalidad en el uso del patrimonio público y por el cumplimiento de los principios constitucionales del debido proceso y de la legalidad. En este sentido:

- Varias víctimas de detención arbitraria, desaparición forzada por tiempo determinado, torturas y violencia sexual, y familiares han insistido en que esta Sala conozca, como el Estado venezolano construyó a lo largo del tiempo, celdas especiales de Tortura para manifestantes y adversarios políticos, lo que demuestra la planificación de la represión y castigo para los perseguidos. Algunas de ellas construidas con asesoría forense y donde el solo hecho de estar en ellas ya es una Tortura. Entre otras, nombran a “La Tumba” en el Sebin de Plaza Venezuela, “Las Brigadas” en el Helicoide; la “Casa de los Sueños” en el 3er. Sótano del DGCIM, ubicado en Boleíta; las celdas de Castigo denominadas “El Tigrito” en la Cárcel 26 de Julio, las celdas denominadas “La Caracas de Antaño” ubicadas en Fuerte Tiuna, “La Casa de los Sueños 3” ubicada en el 23 de Enero, “La Celdita”, oficinas del DAE en el DGCIM. También expresan que se remodelaron celdas especialmente para torturar física y psicológicamente a sus oponentes, y las víctimas nombran recurrentemente por ejemplo, las siguientes: “el Ascensor”, “La Jaula de los Locos”, “la Celda Marrón”, “La Pecera”, “el cuarto oscuro”, “La Caja de Muñecas” ubicadas en el DGCIM; “El bañito” y la celda de “las cucarachas” ubicadas en el SEBIN. También quieren resaltar, como estos lugares y otros espacios dentro de distintos organismos de seguridad e inteligencia en el país, han sido remodelados o adecuados para Torturar, con instrumentos como baterías, cables de electricidad, cadenas en las paredes, bates de Béisbol o palos de madera, látigos, pinzas, agujas, aparatos denominados “Taser”, mangueras y envases de almacenar agua, bolsas plásticas, foami o colchonetas para envolver a las víctimas, cartones y cintas adhesivas, entre otros.
- Varias víctimas quieren llamar especial atención sobre como el Estado permitió y multiplicó los Centros de Torturas Clandestinos, para llevar, no solo a víctimas directas, sino a familiares y amigos de víctimas que buscaban, incluyendo a padres, madres, hijos, sobrinos, tíos, abuelos, sin importar la edad y la condición física. Utilizar casas o apartamentos incautados, adecuados para mantener rehenes o detenidos, con materiales para torturar, que están en manos del Estado, entregados a cuerpos policiales, organismos de seguridad y colectivos para delinquir, es parte de la planificación sistemática en la

que incurrió el Estado venezolano para intimidar, amenazar, y/o torturar a sus víctimas, perseguidas por motivos políticos.

- Varias víctimas y/o familiares resaltan como fueron torturados en estos Centros Clandestinos ubicados en distintas zonas de Caracas y del interior del país, y también, en Centros Clandestinos de Organismos de Seguridad e Inteligencia, donde fueron llevados fuertemente esposados y encapuchados, para pasar días sometidos a tratos crueles y torturas psicológicas y físicas. Estos centros de tortura pertenecientes a Organismos de Seguridad, están al mando de un Comandante o Jefe que conoce lo que ahí sucede con las víctimas, que son detenidos de forma arbitraria y desaparecidos por horas, días o semanas, para torturarlas y amenazarlas, para que digan donde está la persona que buscan, o para que el perseguido, se entregue. Un ejemplo de esto es la Finca ubicada en las cercanías de La Mariposa, cerca del Fuerte Militar “Fuerte Tiuna”, que pertenece a la FF.AA. y que estaría a cargo del DGCIM, donde oficiales y funcionarios de este cuerpo de inteligencia realizan entrenamiento, y donde han llevadas a víctimas para ser Torturados por días, aplicándole torturas de todo tipo, las peores que la mente pueda imaginar, y donde tuvieron al Capitán de Corbeta Rafael Acosta Arévalo, quien fue llevado a ese lugar por un Comando de oficiales del grupo DAE y DGCIM, provocándole heridas gravísimas por Torturas que provocaron su muerte al ser presentado en Tribunales, donde llegó moribundo. Ninguno de los Jefes de ese lugar, ni los oficiales del comando que intervinieron, ni aquellos que tienen responsabilidad directa dentro de la FF.AA., han sido investigados por estos hechos. No son solo los dos funcionarios de bajo rango los que intervinieron, y que la justicia acusó, fueron todos aquellos que estuvieron presentes en dichas torturas dirigiéndolas y ejecutándolas, aquellos que conocían que el Oficial estaba en ese lugar, el Oficial a cargo de la Finca, el Director del Organismo de Inteligencia, el Ministro de la Defensa y el Comandante en Jefe de la FF.AA.

Para mantener a estas víctimas en estos lugares, se necesita logística, se necesita planificación y conocimiento de los funcionarios u oficiales superiores. El Estado y su Estructura, incluyendo el Sistema de Justicia están al tanto de la existencia de estos lugares, y nada han hecho para investigar lo que tantas víctimas y sus familiares han narrado sobre lo que les han hecho en estos centros de tortura clandestinos.

- Varios familiares o víctimas indirectas dicen que el Estado venezolano utiliza como estrategia, la Tortura conocida como Sippenhaft, consistente en la detención, acoso o persecución, por ser familiar o amigo de un perseguido. Familias completas, incluyendo menores de edad, han sido detenidos y llevados a centros clandestinos, incluyendo centros de inteligencia de organismos de seguridad, para pasar horas o días sometidos a interrogatorios intimidantes, torturas físicas y/o psicológicas para que su familiar se entregue a las autoridades o, para que digan donde está la persona que buscan. También han narrado como sus hijos son acosados a las puertas del colegio, como vigilan sus residencias y lugares de trabajo, acosándolos e intimidándolos. A pesar de las denuncias sobre la desaparición temporal de estas familias en estos centros de tortura, y el conocimiento que tienen las autoridades de las torturas y tratos crueles a las que son sometidos, no existen investigaciones serias y confiables para castigar a los culpables. También, hay víctimas que están y han estado detenidas por ser familia de un perseguido o alguien a quien buscan, padres, hermanos o hermanas, conyugues, que pasan días, meses, años presos, solo por ser familiar.

c) Las víctimas y familiares quieren resaltar como el Estado venezolano desconoce y no cumple con los mandatos del Grupo contra la Detención Arbitraria de Naciones Unidas que han ordenado liberar a varios presos políticos que siguen presos, incluso años después de impartida las resoluciones, así como tampoco cumplen con las Medidas Cautelares de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, que solicita al Estado adopte las medidas necesarias para

que las condiciones de reclusión de los favorecidos por estas medidas se adecuen a los estándares internacionales, y que se les permita tener atención médica adecuada. En este sentido, varias víctimas y/o familiares resaltan la medida cautelar 178-19 sobre las personas detenidas en el DGCIM, *que solicita al Estado adoptar las medidas necesarias para proteger los derechos a la vida, integridad personal y salud de las personas que se encuentran privadas de la libertad en la Dirección General de Contrainteligencia Militar, y en particular dice, que el Estado debe asegurar que sus agentes respeten los derechos de los beneficiarios de conformidad con los estándares establecidos por el derecho internacional de los derechos humanos, absteniéndose de incurrir en cualquier forma de tortura o tratos inhumanos, crueles y degradantes; y debe posibilitar el acceso a un tratamiento médico adecuado para las personas privadas de la libertad que así lo requieran, como resultado de su condición de salud y de acuerdo con los estándares internacionales aplicables*". En este lugar, en esos sótanos de terror, no han cesado las torturas físicas, blancas y psicológicas. Víctimas y familiares han sido objeto de vejaciones y abusos, los castigan privándolos de salir al sol y tomar aire natural por tiempo prolongado, se les prohíbe el culto, incluso les han prohibido en varias oportunidades cualquier material de lectura y varias víctimas han sido confinados en solitario en sus celdas por días, semanas o meses, provocándoles desorientación, cuadros severos de depresión, y un gran deterioro en su salud física y mental, tomando en cuenta que dichas celdas están en 3 sótanos, cuyo aire está contaminado por monóxido de carbono de los autos y motocicletas que estacionan en ese lugar, sin ventilación ni luz natural.

d) Varias víctimas quieren que la Sala conozca, como el Estado venezolano ha permitido a agentes foráneos, ser parte de la represión sistemática y participar activamente en los Crímenes de Lesa Humanidad, especialmente en la Tortura y la Violencia Sexual. Varias víctimas y testigos dicen, que estos agentes, funcionarios y militares, pertenecen en su mayoría a los Organismos de Seguridad e Inteligencia de Cuba, y se dedican a entrenar y formar a funcionarios venezolanos, tanto en Cuba como en Venezuela, formando parte integral de los Organismos de Inteligencia venezolanos, participando activamente en la planificación de la represión, induciendo y/o ejecutando el crimen de la Tortura. Como representante legal de varias de estas víctimas quiero certificar ante esta Sala, como varias han narrado la intervención de agentes y/o oficiales cubanos durante los periodos de sus torturas, y como han sido más crueles y dolorosas, cuando los agentes y/o oficiales cubanos, se molestan porque los torturadores venezolanos no son efectivos en obtener de las víctimas lo que desean. Varias víctimas señalan sobre el funcionamiento de una oficina permanente de agentes y/o oficiales cubanos dentro del DGCIM en Boleíta, y como participan en las reuniones de los Altos Mandos de ese organismo.

Las víctimas y familiares de víctimas de torturas físicas, psicológicas y sexuales, ejecutadas por agentes y/o oficiales cubanos dentro de las instalaciones de organismos de seguridad e inteligencia venezolana, quieren que se investiguen estos hechos, la injerencia cubana en la comisión de Crímenes de Lesa Humanidad en el marco de la represión sistemática contra el pueblo de Venezuela. Esto, dicen las víctimas y sus familias, debe ser una prueba más, de que el Estado venezolano ha planificado la represión de forma amplia, invitando e incluyendo a agentes foráneos a ser parte de dicha represión, utilizando la experiencia de ellos para ejemplarizar el castigo en las víctimas, e incluso, causarles más daño.

e) Como representante legal de las víctimas, hemos obtenido testimonios de exfuncionarios de inteligencia y desertores de estos cuerpos, así como de militares y civiles venezolanos que nos han indicado cómo participa el régimen cubano en la inducción de la represión. Los cubanos instruyen constantemente en técnicas de represión, intimidación y seguimiento, a miembros de la FANB e inteligencia, para que ellos realicen labores de investigación y espionaje a sus propios compañeros y sus familias, a líderes políticos y sociales y hacerle seguimiento directo al malestar social. Estas labores de inteligencia cubana la realizan con pleno conocimiento de Nicolás Maduro, Presidente y Comandante en Jefe de la FF.AA, Vladimir Padrino López, Ministro de la Defensa, del Comando Estratégico Operacional (CEOFANB) y del General Iván Hernández Dala, director de la DGCIM. Como representante de un número representativo de víctimas torturadas

por agentes cubanos, presentaremos ante la Sala de Jueces que lleva el caso Venezuela I, un anexo con la compilación de todos los casos, el contexto histórico y las declaraciones de las víctimas y los testigos.

f) Algunos testigos y víctimas han hablado del Manual de Operaciones Especiales del DGCIM, la mayor muestra de la Planificación Sistemática contra la población civil y de la FFAA que nuestro Instituto ha denunciado. Los funcionarios y oficiales lo llaman “La Constitución”. El DGCIM responde directamente a la Presidencia de la República, Comandante en Jefe de la FFAA, en la parte operacional, y al Ministerio de la Defensa, en la parte Administrativa. Es el propio Presidente, según el Reglamento de ese Organismo y el Manual de Operaciones Especiales quien tiene asignado el Grado de “Responsabilidad I”, sobre todas las acciones que se realicen contra altos líderes de la oposición y militares de altos rangos y sus familiares. Al Presidente responden todos los demás Jefes de la cadena de mando de dicho Organismo de Inteligencia, que tienen la responsabilidad de espiar, perseguir, intimidar, y forjar falsos expedientes para perseguir a sus oponentes. Son 5 niveles de Responsabilidad en cuanto a la vigilancia y el seguimiento que determinan como todos los venezolanos son observados, espíados y como todos los oponentes son considerados potenciales enemigos de la “revolución”. La persecución contra líderes políticos, diputados, activistas y defensores de DDHH, activistas de partidos políticos, periodistas, medios de comunicación, gremios, estudiantes y jóvenes, sindicalistas, manifestantes y oficiales de la FF.AA., no solo ha sido constante e incisiva, generalizada y sistemática, sino que además, y como muestra de la planificación, ha avanzado mediante la utilización de mecanismos de espionaje, infiltración de agentes en sus redes sociales, técnicas individualizadas de intimidación persecución, atacando incluso a familiares cercanos.

Algunas víctimas han narrado, como se forjan expedientes en sus casos, como se fabrican pruebas inexistentes, se cambian fechas de detención, encubriendo la desaparición forzada temporal de la que son víctimas mientras los torturan, ante la inacción de los Jueces y Fiscales que se hacen parte de estas violaciones al debido proceso y los DDHH de las víctimas y sus familiares.

g) Varios testigos y víctimas, oficiales y exfuncionarios públicos quieren decirle a esta Sala, que conocen como oficiales y funcionarios han sido formados ideológicamente para el control social de la población civil, la formación en contrainteligencia para el control absoluto de civiles y militares, la programación y desarrollo de los planes de defensa, incluyendo la “defensa integral” para quitarle el control de las armas a la FAN y armar a grupos y colectivos en defensa del sistema, y la formación de oficiales para la inducción en materia de represión sistemática y masiva, además de participar directamente en ella.

h) Varias Víctimas masculinas han narrado, como la violencia sexual ha sido aplicada para denigrarlos y humillarlos por su propia condición de hombres, agrediendo su masculinidad como una forma de profundizar la tortura a la que esta siendo sometido, para causarle traumas psicológicos, llantos, sufrimientos graves y daños físicos y en especial, a víctimas militares, sin importar el grado de oficial o condición física. Un ex oficial del DGCIM dijo lo siguiente: *“A un prisionero político en el DGCIM, antes de doblegar o dominar su mente, primero tienen que experimentar con su cuerpo, y no solo es herir el cuerpo, también debe hacerle saber a esa persona que no es dueño de su propio cuerpo, por esa razón, a la mayoría de las víctimas que oponen mucha resistencia optan por violarlas y así, dominando su cuerpo, dominan su mente”. Se trata de “Dominio y podría ser morbosidad por parte de los agentes o militares, que quieren dominar a la víctima en todos los sentidos, el fin es doblegarlos, desmoralizarlos, derrumbarlos, para dominarlos”*. Es la peor de las Torturas para los hombres, sobre todo cuando son militares, oficiales formados para defender la Patria, y que son vilmente torturados de esta manera.

i) las víctimas han narrado como Hombres torturan sexualmente a otros hombres, en ocasiones disfrutando perversamente de tenerlos sometidos y a su disposición para golpearlos o darle punta pies en los genitales, amenazarlos con violarlos continuamente durante los distintos periodos de tortura, y humillar a los oficiales superiores que tienen bajo custodia. A varias

victimias le han abierto las piernas sosteniéndolos fuertemente para golpearlos en los testículos varias veces. Oficiales y civiles fueron violados por el ano con palos, y muchos otros amenazados con “hacerles el amor” con los palos que tienen para eso, si no dicen lo que ellos quieren. Un gran número de victimias sufrieron descargas eléctricas en sus genitales hasta hacerlos desmayar, causándole a varios daños severos de por vida, incluso, una victima militar sufrió desprendimiento de uno de sus testículos. También expresan, que han sido desnudados por largos periodos de tiempo, varios han sido obligados a ponerse en posiciones incómodas con sus partes íntimas expuestas para que los funcionarios y/o oficiales se burlen de ellos, incluyendo a oficiales femeninos y además, los amenacen con violarlos estando en esa posición. Estas victimias expresan a esta Sala, que la tortura sexual contra varones detenidos, es una practica generalizada utilizada por distintos organismos de seguridad e inteligencia, para torturarlos física y psicológicamente, y dejar huellas que no se borran ni se olvidan, tortura que es un patrón, ejecutada con la permisividad de los Jefes y con su conocimiento, sin que al día de hoy, hayan sido investigadas y sus ejecutores e inductores enjuiciados.

j) La violencia sexual ejecutada contra el sexo femenino, ha sido descrito por algunas victimias como denigrante, humillante y vejatorio en su condición de mujer que exige sus derechos, y que esta bajo el dominio de unos machos (machismo) que, aprovechándose de la impunidad que le da el Estado para ejecutar dicha violencia, pueden aprovecharse de su intimidad, morbosearlas, manosearlas en su partes íntimas, intentar violarlas o violarlas como castigo. Una victimias quiere destacar, que fue violada por un General Jefe de un Destacamento, quien la agredió utilizando su fuerza después de saber que ella era de la comunidad LGTB.

k) Las victimias y sus familiares dicen que al Estado no le interesa investigar a los oficiales señalados expresamente como torturadores en las audiencias de juicio, y que por el contrario, son obligados a estar en presencia de ellos cuando la Fiscalía los presenta como “Testigos”. Los Torturadores sirviendo como testigos, luego de haber sometido a las victimias a las más cruentas torturas.

l) Las victimias acusan al Estado venezolano de premiar a los Represores de las protestas y a los Torturadores con ascensos y altos cargos, en especial, a aquellos Altos Responsables que las propias victimias han reconocido y señalado como sus torturadores. Esto es claro indicio de que al Estado venezolano no le interesa investigar a los Altos Responsables de los Crímenes con competencia de esta Corte, sino que los protege y los incita con la impunidad y permisividad que les otorga, a continuar cometiendo. Hoy, prácticamente la cadena de mando de la represión sistemática, sigue casi intacta en los organismos de inteligencia y seguridad, con algunos de sus protagonistas en otros altos cargos, o rotados de un cargo a otro, muy pocos de baja, pero en su mayoría, todos activos, ascendidos y reconocidos, y ninguno investigado por la justicia.

m) Varios familiares y victimias denuncian la practica de las distintas autoridades judiciales, jueces y fiscales, de “conminar” a las victimias que tienen años detenidos, sin juicio ni sentencia, a declararse culpables, ofreciéndoles liberarlos, igualando la pena a los años que tienen detenidos. Si no se declaran culpables de delitos que no han cometido, no son liberados. En ninguno de los casos, las denuncias de las victimias sobre los crímenes de lesa humanidad a las que fueron sometidos, como detención arbitraria, torturas, desaparición forzada temporal y/o violencia sexual, ha sido investigada. También denuncian la privación al acceso a los expedientes de la Defensa Privada, privándolos de realizar acciones legales a tiempo, como apelaciones, denuncias de violaciones de DDHH de los detenidos, solicitud de traslados, juramentaciones, etc. Las victimias también indican, que al querer denunciar algún tipo de situación, no son recibidos ante el Ministerio Público, la Fiscalía o cualquier órgano judicial. En el mejor de los casos, toman las denuncias pero no proceden las investigaciones y los funcionarios, en lugar de ser sancionados, son premiados con altos cargos.

n) Varias víctimas han sido obligadas a ser asistidos por defensa pública, impidiéndoles el acceso de la defensa técnica privada, con el fin de favorecer la impunidad, justificar las detenciones arbitrarias, y ocultar las torturas y maltratos que han recibido. Esto se ha convertido en un patrón, con el propósito de lograr de ellos el control de sus declaraciones, la sujeción psicológica a una operación de detención, con el cual los obligan a dar declaraciones forzadas, a delaciones producto de presiones y torturas, mientras ensamblan el expediente de la persecución, con el único propósito de callar a la disidencia política, o perseguir aún más allá, que implique que el régimen tenga el control absoluto del imputado.

o) Varias víctimas y sus familiares quieren que la Sala sepa que las Torturas físicas, psicológicas y blancas continúan siendo aplicada a los opositores. Nuevos detenidos por motivos políticos han sido desaparecidos por tiempo determinado, incomunicados de sus familiares y abogados, amenazados y torturado. Presos políticos siguen siendo objeto de castigos y privaciones de sus derechos fundamentales, como el acceso a la salud, a pesar de que varios tienen patologías avanzadas, enfermedades degenerativas, y les impiden hacerle el seguimiento necesario para evitar su deterioro físico y mental. *Los familiares de los presos políticos enfermos describen esto como la "Muerte Natural Inducida", no darle asistencia medica a los Presos Políticos y dejar que su salud empeore progresivamente, hasta que sea demasiado tarde. Algunas víctimas han tenido que ponerse en huelga de hambre para que atiendan sus graves patologías.*

Las víctimas dicen que otra practica recurrente utilizada como tortura, ha sido la privación de alimentos e hidratación para los detenidos. Un gran número de víctimas estuvieron días completos sin recibir comida o agua, generalmente los primeros días de detención, mientras eran fuertemente torturados, antes de ser presentado en antes de ser presentado en tribunales, ocasionándoles deshidratación, debilidad e incluso, alguno sin fuerza para levantarse o caminar.

p) Varias víctimas quieren hacer de conocimiento de la Sala, como el Ministerio Público se ha dedicado a perseguirlos y acosarlos, aún estando fuera del país. También hemos tenido conocimiento que llevan las citaciones a sus familiares en Venezuela, e incluso se la envían a familiares que están en el exterior, haciéndoles llegar citaciones para que comparezcan con carácter "obligatorio" por su representado o víctima. Las víctimas y sus familiares se han negado a asistir o declarar nuevamente ante un Ministerio Público que obedece al Estado, que no hizo nada en años por su caso, en un sistema de justicia en el que no creen y no aceptan ser perseguidos fuera de Venezuela por el mismo régimen que los encarcelo y/o torturó. Además, varias víctimas alegan que en las citaciones nombran de algún funcionario que van a implicar o acusar, cuando en la mayoría de los casos, las víctimas fueron objeto de detención y tortura en comandos policiales o de organismos de seguridad, donde varios funcionarios u oficiales fueron actuantes, bajo el mando de un comandante o jefe, que permitía todo lo que ocurría en ese lugar y que encubrió y fue inductor y cómplice, conjuntamente con sus superiores.

Una víctima que vive exiliado dijo lo siguiente en la consulta: *"Y no es solo que ellos puedan llegar hasta mí y mi familia, sino que continúan con la intimidación, hostigamiento y amedrentamiento en contra de sus víctimas, utilizando el poder del aparato estatal. En la condiciones actuales tienen la capacidad probada de inventar cualquier delito e imputárselo a quien sea que se enfrente a ellos para pedir su extradición, o como han hecho en el caso de algunos opositores, tienen la capacidad de introducir el nombre de sus perseguidos en la lista de alerta internacional de la INTERPOL, lo que ha causado que a varias personas las hayan detenido y amenazado con la extradición, lo cual les ha dejado con mucho miedo y prisioneras de los sitios en los que residen para no correr ese riesgo".*

q) La mayoría de las víctimas dicen que el Estado venezolano no tiene capacidad ni la voluntad de investigar los presuntos crímenes cometidos, y no existe, porque siguiendo las investigaciones que el Instituto CASLA ha realizado para responsabilizar a la Cadena de Mando o a los Altos Responsables, es el mismo Presidente de la República, Comandante en Jefe de la FFAA, quien tiene la responsabilidad de la represión y persecución contra la población civil y militar en

Venezuela. Cuando las mismas autoridades actuales están involucradas por inducción, acción u omisión en los Crímenes cometidos por el Estado Venezolano, no hay ninguna probabilidad de que exista voluntad de realizar investigaciones serias, independientes y creíbles que enjuicie y condene a los culpables.

r) Algunas víctimas quieren que la Sala sepa, que fueron detenidos por el simple hecho de ser ciudadanos estadounidenses, y que además, fueron torturados y encarcelados sin piedad, forjándoles expedientes falsos, con pruebas inauditas, además de haberlos mantenido incomunicados y/o desaparecidos por tiempo determinado para que nadie pudiera comunicarse con ellos. Esta práctica, que aún continúa ejecutándose, ha sido utilizada por el Estado venezolano para chantajear al gobierno estadounidense, que le ha dado el estatus de “Rehenes” a sus connacionales y canjearlos o intercambiarlos por familiares de la familia presidencial o personas afectas al régimen que se encontraban detenidos en EE. UU. por haber cometido delito.

s) Varias de las víctimas que participaron en la consulta quieren que esta Sala conozca, algunas de las torturas a las que fueron sometidos por los organismos de seguridad, cuerpos de inteligencia y agentes foráneos, donde se demuestra la intención, la planificación y confabulación para ocultarlas, no solo por parte del poder Ejecutivo, el Ministerio de la Defensa, el poder Judicial, el Ministerio Público y la Defensoría del Pueblo, que conocen los casos hartamente denunciados, sino también, por otros organismos e instituciones que deberían velar por el respeto de los DDHH de todas las personas.

Entre las más dolorosas recuerdan el desprendimiento de uñas de las manos y pies; la extracción con alicates o ruptura de piezas dentales; cortaduras en las plantas de los pies con navajas; descargas eléctricas en varias partes del cuerpo y en los genitales, mientras las víctimas permanecían atadas de mano y pies y eran mojados continuamente, además de acostarlas o sentarlas en objetos metálicos; azotes con látigos, correas o cables de electricidad; ahogamiento en pozos de agua natural o en pipotes de almacenamiento; fracturas en el rostro por golpes con armas o patadas para provocar heridas permanentes; algunas fueron arrastradas desnudas por bosques y/o lanzadas varias veces por precipicios llenos de arbustos cortantes estando encapuchados y atados de pies y manos; varias fueron colgadas por los brazos atados a la espalda para electrocutarlos, asfixiarlos, azotarlos y golpearlos con palos, varas o puños; varias fueron sometidas a simulación de ejecución o sometidos a la ruleta rusa, incluso arrodillados para simular su ejecución; varias fueron colgadas de objetos fijos al techo por días, con sus pies apenas tocando la orilla de un rin de caucho, para someterlos a múltiples golpes y patadas, descargas eléctricas en sus partes íntimas, y asfixias; Azotes en las plantas de los pies o bastinado con látigos, correas, cables o un palo; varias víctimas fueron orinadas por los funcionarios mientras eran torturados para humillarlos, o le colocaron en la cabeza bolsas llenas de excrementos para asfixiarlos con sus propias heces.

El Estado venezolano no puede decir que no conocía estas prácticas, porque en su mayoría, las víctimas, sus familiares o abogados han denunciado los horrores de las que han sido víctimas, sin que al día de hoy un Alto Responsable, una autoridad, un jefe, un comandante, un director de organismo este siendo investigado.

Familiares de víctimas ya fallecidas afirman que es una burla para la memoria de estas víctimas, los intentos del Estado de eludir su responsabilidad en la represión y persecución sistemática ejercida contra sus familiares, que fueron encarcelados y torturados sin piedad en distintas épocas y que jamás se investigaron sus denuncias ni aquellas personas a las que señalaron.

Familiares y víctimas que aun están en prisión y varias víctimas que han sido liberadas y siguen sufriendo los efectos y traumas de las torturas sufridas, también dicen que es una burla que el Estado no se haga responsable de la represión sistemática generalizada que ha llevado a cabo por años, ejercida contra civiles y militares por manifestar o protestar, por declarar en contra del

sistema político implantado o incluso, por sospechar de dichas víctimas, sin pruebas verdaderas, utilizando a los “patriotas cooperantes” o espías como fuentes.

Atentamente

Directora
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In this compendium sent, years of pain and suffering of human beings subjected to the most horrendous crimes are summarized, under a regime that determined that anyone who is not with the “revolution” is the enemy to defeat. For this consultation of the Appeals Chamber, all the victims assisted in some way by CASLA said that they did want the Chamber to confirm the decision of the Preliminary Affairs Judges Chamber to continue with the Investigation in the Venezuela I case.

In general, the victims stated that they wanted the Investigation to continue so that all those responsible for the Crimes Against Humanity committed by the Venezuelan State are investigated and prosecuted so that they are not repeated. They agreed that the investigations and procedures carried out by the regime are not authentic, for example, the Chain of Command is not investigated, and they saw the International Criminal Court as their only option to obtain justice.

It is also important to highlight that the victims say that the systematic repression continues, that it does not stop, and that the regime becomes radicalized and cruel against those who dare to denounce it or those who directly oppose the imposition of an Authoritarian State.

A significant number of victims and family members who are in Venezuela fear persecution, harassment, and imprisonment if they testify for the ICC. Several victims who are abroad are afraid of espionage by the regime, in countries where the presence of Venezuelan agents is known, and they are afraid of being located. Some people were threatened by the Ombudsman's Office in the country if they continued to report. Several victims continue to be persecuted and intimidated within Venezuela even after several years, including after going to testify as “witnesses” again before the Public Ministry.

Chapter IV.

Request to investigate the intervention of the Cuban State in the Commission of Crimes Against Humanity in Venezuela, within the framework of the investigation that the International Criminal Court is carrying out to hold responsible the Senior Officials who have intervened directly or indirectly to make this happen.

During the last years, CASLA has collected testimonies from victims and witnesses who, in their stories, when the incidents were written to be reported to the ICC, commented on the direct participation of Cuban officials, officials, and/or agents in the training and planning of the systematic repression and persecution, and in the induction and execution of crimes classified in the Rome Statute as Crimes Against Humanity. They did it through their own experience, because they worked with them in different Institutions, because they received training from them in Venezuela or Cuba, or because they were present during their imprisonment when they were being tortured. Given this situation, we addressed several communications at the time to the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court drawing attention to this, and we included it in the Annual Reports on Crimes Against Humanity for the year 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 that the Institute also recorded.

In the previous chapter, “What the victims want”, we exposed the public document sent to the Judges of the Appeals Chamber, where in the letter “d” you can read the following:

“Several victims want the Chamber to know how the Venezuelan State has allowed foreign agents to be part of the systematic repression and actively participate in Crimes Against Humanity, especially Torture and Sexual Violence. Several victims and witnesses say that these agents, officials and soldiers, mostly belong to the Security and Intelligence Organizations of Cuba, and are dedicated to training and educating Venezuelan officials, both in Cuba and in Venezuela, forming an integral part of the Venezuelan Intelligence Organizations, actively participating in the planning of repression, inducing and/or executing the crime of Torture. As the legal representative of several of these victims, I want to certify before this Chamber, how several have narrated the intervention of Cuban agents and/or officials during the periods of their torture, and how they have been more cruel and painful, when the agents and/or officials Cubans are upset because Venezuelan torturers are not effective in getting what they want from victims. Several victims point out about the operation of a permanent office

of Cuban agents and/or officials within the DGCIM in Boleíta, and how they participate in the meetings of the High Command of that organization. “The victims and relatives of victims of physical, psychological and sexual torture, executed by Cuban agents and/or officials within the facilities of Venezuelan security and intelligence agencies, want these events to be investigated, as well as Cuban interference in the commission of crimes. Against Humanity within the framework of the systematic repression against the people of Venezuela. The victims and their families, say that this should be further proof that the Venezuelan State has planned the repression in a broad way, inviting and including foreign agents to be part of said repression, using their experience to exemplify the punishment on the victims, and even cause them more harm.”

On March 25 of this year, the CASLA Institute formalized, before the Investigation team of the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court that is handling the Venezuela I Case, the formal request to Investigate the intervention of the Cuban State in the Commission of Crimes Against Humanity in Venezuela, within the framework of the Investigation that the International Criminal Court is carrying out in that South American country, to hold responsible the Senior Officials who have intervened directly or indirectly to make this happen.

The complaint about the direct and indirect participation of representatives of the Cuban government in the Report-Complaint was comprised in three parts, which we will present in this Report in a short and precise manner, with some examples of its content, reserving the confidentiality of those who collaborated.

Part I: In this chapter, a compendium was made on the background of the interference of the Cuban regime in Venezuela and the penetration and imposition of the communist Castro ideological model in all Public Institutions, Security and Intelligence Organizations, and the National Armed Forces, through testimonies of frontline witnesses, Cubans and Venezuelans, who contributed their experience and knowledge about how the regime that has reigned in Venezuela for 25 years, transformed an imperfect democracy, yes, but a democracy, into a dictatorial system with a regime that some experts also name “authoritarian government,” “electoral dictatorship,” “tyranny,” among other qualifications.

From the first day that Chávez assumed power, when he won the elections in December 1998, with 56% of the votes, and with the participation of 63.45% of the electorate, by then, he had Cuban advisors, who worked in his presidential campaign since 1997. Chávez needed total control of the country, especially, he needed to control the National Armed Forces, because, leading a military coup in 1992, he knew that it was the military who could remove him from power.

One of the witnesses to this complaint, who was part of the Cuban intelligence body, narrated the following for this report:

“When Chávez won the elections and took office in early 1999, Chávez had been a project of Fidel Castro, who already had Intelligence work in Venezuela, Cuba had many agents who secretly worked for them and different penetration agents in Venezuela. Chávez arrives, ready to hand over Venezuela to Fidel Castro at a time when Cuba was bankrupt, without the help of the USSR. At this time, Cuba was without economic aid from the Soviet Union, with tremendous economic hardships, although there was no international pressure for a change to occur in Cuba, it was impossible in material terms, because Russia had not yet consolidated, and that perhaps with Yeltsin a process of democracy could be carried out in Russia, the Chinese still did not have economic power. There was an international scenario where Cuba did not have any economic bar to support it to maintain intelligence and counterintelligence to control inside Cuba and abroad, that apparatus costs money. In the midst of this, Chávez came to the Presidency, and the first thing he did was open the pipeline to Fidel Castro, which he had created in the early 90s, with José Ignacio Lula Da Silva, had created the Sao Pablo Forum, which It was a project of regional conquest, but from the beginning of its creation it had had a problem, which was the economic lung. When Chávez arrived, he put the checkbook to Cuba and all Fidel Castro's believers. Since the time of the Soviet Union, which is estimated to have subsidized Cuba with around 6 billion dollars annually, plus the entire military establishment that was free, and that those 6 billion dollars were wasted, because if of those 6 billion millions would have been distributed to give something to the Cubans, they would have been a little better in their poverty, when Chávez arrived, from the beginning he gave him a pipe of money and a checkbook. If the Soviet subsidy was 6 billion a year, from what I was able to know since 2001, PDVSA's checkbook already exceeded 10 billion. That was oil and money. “Chávez gave more money to Fidel than the Soviet Union gave him for years, and that was what allowed many things not to happen in Cuba.”

Later in his testimony he says the following:

“In the beginning, there was an Intelligence Center, there was a very powerful Ambassador, German Sánchez Otero, and what Chávez allowed was a greater Cuban diplomatic presence and Cuban advisors began to arrive in the country. When the events of April 11-13, 2002, which was the attempt to remove Chávez and when he signed his resignation, and then returned to power, by General Raúl Baduel, what Chávez does is make Cuban support more massive , and accelerates the process of transformation of Venezuela, taking control of the entire government apparatus, the main police forces disappeared, (PM for example), the guy was taking control of the country, with the advisor of Fidel Castro. This entire process was carried out until approximately 2008,

when Baduel was removed from the Ministry of Defense and later taken to prison. Once the Cuban presence became widespread, there were already Cuban advisors everywhere, and from here on, everything that was done in Nicaragua and Angola for example, with the massification of advisors for issues of security, advisors in the FANB, and we are talking about thousands of advisors. At this point, there must be a Cuban delegate in the Ministry of the Interior, a Cuban delegate in the Ministry of Defense, and the Ambassador covering the political part. Cuban intelligence has been training Venezuelan officers for many years in intelligence, in prisons, in the repressive department, which is what Cuba calls the operational part of the G2, and in counterintelligence, which were the guys who captured people, they tortured them, put them in cold rooms, and the psychological pressures, among others., that is another item that they worked for Intelligence. “The job of the counterintelligence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to fill them with spies, the toads, the snitches.”



Imagen de archivo de VTV.

When Hugo Chávez bid farewell to Cuban Ambassador Sánchez Otero, he pronounced the following words: “This country is yours”, “This country recognizes you and is grateful for so many things. Your contribution to the Venezuela that began to be born when you arrived is lost from sight.” “This tricolor of giants, of Bolívar, of all of us, which joins the Cuban flag in a single flag. “Today we are one country.”

Another witness, a high-ranking Venezuelan military officer, classified the Cuban penetration into 3 stages:

1st. stage: Positioning in unarmed public institutions: the witness commented that as a result of the tragedy that occurred due to the landslide in the Vargas State in December 1999, Chavez coordinated with Fidel Castro to send personnel to attend to the emergency and rejected the help offered by USA “A social aid process began, creating “missions” that allowed the entry of hundreds of Cubans through the signing of an agreement called Cuba-Venezuela, coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, with which They activate these missions and that began with the sending of Health personnel for the tragedy and Education personnel with a literacy program called Mission Robinson.

By 2010 there was no sector or public power that was not assigned to some mission in its area at the national level."

2nd. stage: Positioning in the country's military and police institutions: after being re-elected in December 2006, Chávez advanced in his project to transform the FAN "a la Cubana" and all its institutional concessions. The witness says that he first attempted it within the reform of the constitution and, failing to achieve it, through enabling laws. *"In 2007, an intense exchange of Cuban military personnel to Venezuela and of Venezuelan military personnel to Cuba began in a very discreet manner, under a very closed circle of generals close to Chávez and other trusted ranks, beginning this transformation of the FAN. In 2008, 15 secret agreements were signed between the two Armed Forces, with Gen. Rangel Briceño, very close to Chávez, as minister. There, the agreement to create the military unit stands out to encompass all the Cuban soldiers who arrived in Venezuela through these agreements, also in the area of Intelligence and Counterintelligence that would give rise to the transformation of these bodies both military and civil police. Likewise in the educational area, strengthening of military power and civilian integration as a combatant in the new Militia corps."*

3rd. stage: Popular integration and formation of national groups under the schemes of the Cuban revolution: this stage could be described as the consolidation of the Institutions, the Judiciary and the Armed Forces at the service of the prevailing regime, and not of the Nation, as mandated by the Constitution of that country. Politicization and ideologization took over the Armed Forces to pay honor to "21st Century Socialism", to the "Bolivarian Revolution", practically turning it into the Praetorian Guard of the Dictatorship.

The witness comments that, *"with the creation of the GRUCE and the reform of the Organic Law of the FAN through an enabling law, the Comprehensive Defense Regions are created with a similarity of organization and functions within the Cuban regime that involve, not only the military function of Security and Defense of Sovereignty as an essentiality of the institution, otherwise political, economic development, social and other relevant functions are attached to public management bodies of regional and municipal governments. Model of Cuban origin, former USSR and China."* Later in his testimony he commented that *"From Chávez's second term and the transformation that the FAN underwent, the political imposition and the search to safeguard the ill-gotten revolution increased, imposing more and more sectarianism and political segregation*

that was taking place in persecution and repression of dissent, whether civil or military, which leads to more arrests and disqualifications within a framework of imposition of the hegemonic model of a single party in power, contrary to democracy, the rule of law and Freedom itself. For this, Cuban advice was strongly manifested in the premises of the security agencies for their transformation, ideologization and methodization of investigation processes to restrict and neutralize movements of any order against the revolution. While the structure of the Cuban G2 was increasingly established in the different sectors of the public administration, with its own human resources and technological tools that would allow for the systematic establishment of security programs to protect and defend the revolution as it is in Cuba, being directed by General Ramiro Valdez in a total and specific manner in the Military, initially by General Andollo Valdez.”

He also spoke about the formation of the GRUCE Group, made up of at least 300 Cuban G2 officials distributed throughout the country, how after the death of Chavez "and the resurgence of the electoral contest that caused various demonstrations against the frauds committed by the regime and other irregularities in the context of said death, the military, police and intelligence security bodies are deepened, increasing persecution and political repression"; of "the consolidation and integration of the militia as an armed component through the massive incorporation of public employees and citizens with labor needs who offered them a ration for it"; how in the year 2011-2012 with General González López as head of that body, the Cuban advisory team was integrated in order to capture the method of the Cedrist militiamen of Cuba in their actions against dissidents in communities or streets and parishes until today they seek the same street methodology in the face of protests" and how "as a result of the loss of the National Assembly in 2015, the renewal of the agreements with the FAN with Gen. Vladimir Padrino in the ministry, strengthens and diversifies the establishment of the Cuban military occupation, the G2 and the militia fighters, who despite being much less than in 2012 (approximately 45 thousand in 2020), already have their own employment plans since 2016 to counteract any exceptional situation, which they place on public demonstrations or protests against the regime, as well as the consideration of external military intervention, mainly from the United States or Colombia.”

The CASLA Institute obtained exclusively for the Report-Complaint delivered to the ICC, 8 secret agreements signed between Cuba and Venezuela on May 26, 2008, which were signed by General (Ex) Álvaro López Miera, Vice Minister of the Forces Revolutionary

Armed Forces of Cuba and head of the General Staff, and General (Ex) Gustavo Reyes Rangel Briceño, Minister of Defense between 2008 and 2009.

In relation to this, it is worth highlighting three specific agreements, which have to do with the Intelligence and counterintelligence part, and how the DGCIM, formerly DIM, became the torturing monster in charge of the Commander in Chief of the National Armed Forces and President of the Republic. The first Agreement talks about the Creation and Conditions of Permanence in Venezuela of the Cuban Coordination and Liaison Group; the second Agreement on “the Development of the Military Intelligence Service”; the third Agreement on “Technical Assistance in the Sphere of Military Counterintelligence” (Creation of the DGCIM).

In this third agreement, the Cuban side agreed, according to the signed text:

- The exchange of experiences for the training and design of the Military Counterintelligence system,
- The Instruction and training of cadres and specialists,
- Collaboration for the discovery and confrontation of the enemy's intelligence and subversive work and criminal activity,
- The review of the special technique and criminalistics and exchange of experiences for their exploitation,
- The development and preparation of the study material base for the preparation of personnel.
- Collaboration for the design of the Regulatory Base of the CIM Activity.

The importance of having had access to these agreements was to reconfirm what has been denounced so much about Cuban interference in security and intelligence organizations, and how they have participated in the drafting of manuals, training of civil and military personnel, implementation of the espionage and persecution, even in the way in which torture methods had to be carried out to obtain from the victims, persecuted and imprisoned civilians and soldiers, the information, confession and involvement of people that they need to accuse and neutralize.

In the last two Annual Reports of the Institute, we published parts of the DGCIM Special Operations Manual, of which military personnel and former officials of that counterintelligence organization have said that it is a faithful copy of the Cuban one, which they call "The Constitution." We highlight again what was published in last year's Report, on how the Manual describes the levels of approval by Hierarchy of the main operational measures that govern the DGCIM and where at Approval level 1, the

responsibility falls directly on the President of the Republic and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and in the following 4 levels, responsibility falls on the structure of that organization.

The Head of State took charge of Military Counterintelligence in the country alongside the Cuban regime. The DGCIM became the common place for planning systematic persecution through the training of ideologically related and loyal officers and officials; of the forging of files; from the fabrication of evidence; of the installation of the espionage and monitoring system within the Armed Forces and political and civil factors of interest to the regime; and to maintain several official and clandestine headquarters as Civil and Military Torture Centers, with the consent not only of the President, but of the entire hierarchical structure of the Armed Forces, of the Public Ministry that keeps an office in the Main Headquarters of that Organization in Caracas, of Judges, Magistrates. The Cubans also have an office at the headquarters of the DGCIM and SEBIN in Caracas, where they teach courses, monitor everything that happens, and actively participate in the interrogations of people detained for political reasons.

In Chapter V of this Report, we will refer to findings on the work of Cuban officers in the SEBIN.

Part 2: The second part of the complaint delivered contains testimonies from soldiers and civilians and their experience with the Cuban government, either because they worked with them within the institutional structure, because they were trained or trained in Venezuela and Cuba by Cuban officers, or because they had direct contact with Cuban intelligence agents and/or officials or soldiers, who through their work or position knew their country's system from the inside.

Below, we reflect some example paragraphs of what some witnesses said, preserving their identity:

1. DGCIM Officer: “Several Groups of Officers went to take courses in Cuba on military pedagogy at the “Aridis Estévez Sánchez” Military Counterintelligence School located in Havana. In this month-long course, we receive training in the ideologization of staff through different techniques through pedagogy, in “creation of curriculum and subject matter,” in the use of tools such as rhetoric, psychology and ideologization of personnel and each of the elements that make it up to capture and indoctrinate students, creating a strong political ideology related to the Bolivarian revolution. First, convincing them of certain facts favorable to the regime, where a common enemy was created for the current government, in order to make them think that the Bolivarian revolution is right, and that we must fight against that common enemy. The intention is to seize people's feelings to obtain an element useful for the purposes of the revolution and, according

to its profile, use it in various tasks such as, for example, infiltrating it into their work, livelihood and civil society, being a multiplier of the message, among others. This strategy through pedagogy is currently used throughout all areas of public education in Venezuela, and gave as an example the educational missions “Robinson”, “Ribas” and “Sucre”.

The officer narrated how the permanent “Cuban advisory” office is located on the 2nd floor of the headquarters building, run by a Colonel from that country, which works together with the Subdirector of said organization, the DGCIM Inspectorate, the Legal Consulting Office, the Protection and Control Division and a Counterespionage Division. The two Cuban officers who worked in said office, at that time, were always dressed in civilian clothes and to access said floor, a fingerprint is needed to open the door.”

2. Former SEBIN official: *“In all the Units there were Cuban trainers. The training is divided into two parts, basic physical training that does not correspond to the handling of weapons and training to acquire knowledge of what handling is like within the Units. The latter, the internal management of the Unit, all the material and most of the knowledge imparted is supplied and given in progress by the Cubans. The courses given to officers who belonged to the different components of the FANB, the Navy, the National Guard and the army, said students at that time received instructions and knowledge from the Cuban High Command that advises the Intelligence Service, were of 3 or 4 advisors they have at the national level regarding various topics. Regarding the acquisition of knowledge, the guides and everything are previously designed by the Cuban advisors, who are the ones who teach the students. One of the Cuban colonels explained that they had four colonels, that the Intelligence Service (SEBIN) had the advice of four Cuban agents on various national security issues in which they were directly involved.*

3. Public Official: *“I traveled to Cuba where I participated in a seminar on the thoughts of Fidel Castro as an anti-imperialist fighter. In the seminar, they told us how Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, among others, fought all their lives against imperialism, and clandestinely gave us the green book of Libya and the exegesis of Gaddafi's green book, trying to justify the separation between Cuban and Russian thought in the years after the missile crisis. Thousands of young people have been trained and indoctrinated on the Island and in Venezuela by Cubans. In this way, they ensure a faithful generation, formed by themselves, willing to follow orders to ensure ideological and repressive continuity in the South American country. For the communists, the submission of the masses and total control of the economy placed at the service of their repressive structure is fundamental, and in Venezuela, they have achieved open doors to put their doctrine into practice. The young people trained by the Francisco de Miranda front, for example, are already between 30 and 50 years old, that is, they are taking*

relevant positions in the state, and now they are training generations of young people to take over."

4. FAN official: *"After the signing of the international cooperation agreements with the Republic of Cuba, a mission represented by the GRUCE Special Command Group, represented by a general and his General staff, is established in the city of Caracas in the military sector. Its main mission was cooperation in the military area: surveillance, control, training and execution of plans to keep the president informed of the situation of the Armed Forces. In their structure they have subordinate units in the Strategic Operational Command CEO, located in the building where the command post and directions of the Strategic Operational Command are located where there are four colonels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba. In the Directorate of Military Counterintelligence DGCIM its main mission is to advise in the area of counterintelligence and prepare curricula, training plans for officers, professional troops and civilian counterintelligence agents and plan torture methods and training. Cuban officials have a voice and vote in all meetings in the DGCIM. They came to verify and change, from the name of the institution, the procedure manuals, the training both here in Venezuela and in Havana, Cuba, where every three months certain personnel that they chose to do that training there in the Republic of Cuba. The Ministry of Health uses the structure of the Barrio Adentro program to obtain information from people in all the states of Venezuela and develop the operational part of the Cuban G2. The Ministry of Mines has a group of Cubans where they carry out the exploration of mineral products of Gold, Iron, Aluminum."*

Part III: In this chapter, the complaint contains testimonies from victims of detention, forced disappearance, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, rape and other types of sexual violence, induced and/or executed by Cuban officials and/or public servants, jointly with Venezuelan officials and/or public servants.

Below, we reflect some example paragraphs of what some victims said, preserving their identity:

1st. victim: *"I could perceive the presence of those two Cuban agents, I could see them. They sat me down without bandages or a hood in front of the "fish tank" (DGCIM, Boleíta, Caracas) where two cubicles (space divisions that measure one meter high) where the Cubans were located are located. I could see and hear everything they did and said. They were in charge of emptying the phones, with direct orders from Colonel Franco Quintero, Captain Abel Angola and Lieutenant Mendez Aponte. We were pinned down for more than three days, they put electricity in our private parts, they didn't give us*

access to food, they gave us many electric shocks on our bodies. When the person refused to give the password to their phone, the Cubans said “make them talk no matter what”, you know where to take them, and then they would put you in the “cuarto de los locos” where they hurt us with everything.”

2nd. victim: *“Given my position, two elements of the GNB left and the other two stayed and I was surprised when I noticed their very obvious Cuban accent and I told them right away. They were upset when they noticed that I had detected their accent and I told them so, they pushed me against the concrete wall and one of them told me that I was going to make that video whether I wanted to or not because they wouldn't let me sleep for a long time and that's how it was, there were approximately 26 hours where there were 4 changes of guard shifts, including absurd interrogations about my family and opposition political leaders. (they were all Cubans). They poured cold water on me and hit me all over my body, they laid me down on a bar of ice that measured approximately two meters high and one meter wide and they did not let me get down because they threatened me with a device that released electrical energy where they managed to hit me. “Only once, the harassment decreased every time there was a change of shift between them and until they noticed that they would not force me to do anything against anyone.”*

3rd victim: *“They burned my feet with a hot soldering iron, they soaked me with cold water all day and early in the morning. There was so much torture that I received that I wanted to die because I couldn't stand it anymore. These tortures were directed and carried out by Cuban soldiers. Everything what was done inside was directed by the Cubans, they gave instructions to the Venezuelan military. How do I know they were Cuban soldiers? Because on one occasion when I fainted, when I came to my senses, I managed to remove the hood, which they had put over my face, and I was able to realize that the uniform was different, the insignia were different, and even, as far as I understand, , the Venezuelan military cannot wear a beard, and they used it, and the accent, more than all the accent.”*

4th. victim: *“One of those Cubans told an official, referring to me when they were torturing me in the DGCIM: “Look for plastic tape to cover his eyes, look for plastic tape, and that's when they put a cardboard over my eyes and blindfolded my head with plastic tape or strip”. Another Cuban, or I don't know if it was the same one, told the official who was hitting me, “tell him that we are going to look for his entire family, because he knows, tell him, tell him, that we are going to look for his entire family and bring them here, so that you can see that he is going to start talking.”*

5th. victim: *“The Cuban officer directed my torture. Granko Arteaga and Blanco Hurtado allowed that Cuban to take control of the interrogation and of the tortures that they*

were doing to me. The Cuban said that in his country they killed people who could identify them. He hit me multiple times with his hands, slapped me in the face and hit me in the ribs with his fists.

We have reflected some examples of the testimonies obtained. There are more victims and witnesses of the actions of Cuban officials and how they have transformed themselves into the “experts” who direct the torture to make the detainees say what the regime needs, using terrible methods, sometimes without getting their hands dirty, only directing from the other side of the glass or door, and sometimes taking control of the beating themselves. In several testimonies, the Cuban officers were present when the victims suffered sexual violence of stripping and applying electric shocks to their private parts, and in another, they raped one of the male victims with a stick.

For this Report, we highlight the role taken by the officers sent by the Cuban government in the repression, planning, induction and execution of Crimes Against Humanity, since the arrival of Nicolas Maduro to the presidency. Although as we have described previously, the interference of the Cuban regime in Venezuela had its origin from the moment of the arrival of Hugo Chávez to power, who was the architect of the ideological penetration and leadership of Cubans in all Public Institutions, in the different security organizations and in the National Armed Forces, that is, it opened the way for planning and advancing more in-person action in the containment of social discontent, in the systematic persecution and repression against the civil and military population, that is Nicolás Maduro who directs and authorizes the full action of Cuban officials in the planning, induction and execution of Crimes Against Humanity such as torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence that also includes gender violence.

It was February 2015 that the already denounced “DGCIM Special Operations Manual” was approved, made in the image of the counterintelligence guidelines of the Cuban regime, the “constitution” as the officials of that organization call it, and which gives the President of the Republic the level of Responsibility 1 of authorizing the persecution, monitoring and imprisonment against political leaders, governors and mayors, high-ranking military personnel and their families, which also contains 7 chapters, referring to counterintelligence in general and its functions and that It was signed by who serves as general director of Military Counterintelligence and head of the Military House, Major General Iván Hernández Dala and who, on that date, was the deputy director of Military Counterintelligence, General Manuel Cristopher Figuera.

In March of the same year, the Organic Regulations of the DGCIM were approved and published in the Official Gazette, which confirms who is its head, since it indicates that the DGCIM depends functionally and organizationally on the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and administratively on the Ministry of Defense.

As for the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN), in the same year 2015 the Coordination for the Protection of Democratic Order (CPOD) was created, a coordination that operates in a “semi-clandestine” manner to this day, with a Secret Training Base of the Agents, which also has its own Operations Manual where, among other points, it indicates how to monitor people who are against the regime, their detention and where high-ranking Cuban officials have a special role in the training of officials. We will talk about DMFT in the next chapter of this report.

The Venezuelan Head of State took personal command of the systematic persecution in Venezuela and has relied on the experience of the Cuban regime in terms of repression and monitoring, application of intimidation techniques and torture techniques to subject his opponents and dissidents through fear, pain and death. Two political prisoners died when they were being tortured or immediately after the torture, Councilor Fernando Albán, tortured by the SEBIN and Capt. (Cta.) Rafael Acosta Arévalo. Other political prisoners have been slowly murdered due to the ineptitude and inertia of the regime, which has left them to die due to lack of timely medical care, and/or physical deterioration due to prison conditions.

The Venezuelan Head of State knows the vile torture, the most painful and invasive that a human being can suffer, that has been applied to civilians and military personnel within the Security and Intelligence Organizations, many of them in the presence of Cuban officials. Nicolás Maduro needs a repressive apparatus, to which he integrated foreign agents, in this case, officers sent by the Cuban government, to maintain control and contain social and military discontent.

In Chapter V, officers sent by the Cuban regime to “train” SEBIN officers and agents, have a special role.

Chapter V

The SEBIN: The Coordination for the Protection of Democratic Order (CPOD) and the “Basic Instruction Guide on the Progressive and Differentiated Use of the Police Force for aspiring Detectives of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service SEBIN”.

A. The Coordination for the Protection of Democratic Order (CPOD)

This year, the CASLA Institute exclusively learned of the existence of a SEBIN Unit that has been operating in a “semi-clandestine” manner since 2015, although its name was changed momentarily in January 2019 to “Coordination of Special Operations” COES, then of an incident that generated the change for a short time, of the director of that organization, Gustavo González López, who was replaced by Manuel Cristopher Figuera. The Coordination for the Protection of Democratic Order, hereinafter CPOD, has as its main headquarters the 11th floor of the SEBIN headquarters, Plaza Venezuela, Caracas, and responds only to the director of SEBIN and officials belonging to it from the beginning, who are still active and in office.

The Unit is divided as follows:

1. **Visual Check Unit:** *Its main objective is to carry out surveillance and monitor people of operational interest to the regime, generally politicians or relevant activists. This unit has personnel to carry out infiltrations in opposition parties, in addition to having the support of cooperating patriots who are in various areas of society such as: communal councils, UBCH, businessmen, and so on. The training of the agents of this Unit, who trained and operated in a “clandestine” manner, is based in a house called “Base 100” located in the Santa Mónica Urbanization in Caracas, near the FPUV headquarters, enabled only for the formation.*

This visual checkup unit is a carbon copy of the Cuban technical department called “KJ” or Visual Checkup, which will surely have other acronyms today, and which has thousands of men in that country.

This Unit has its own personnel and its own espionage machinery, military and civilians trained in courses given by Venezuelan and Cuban officers, who respond only to the Senior Chiefs, the Senior Responsible for Repression and Persecution, the Chief of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the SEBIN, Director Gustavo González López, the Vice Presidency and Presidency of the Republic.

2. **Analyst Unit:** *the objective of this Unit is the Processing of information collected by the Visual Check Unit and transforming it into information of interest to the counterintelligence directorate, director of SEBIN and Vice Presidency of the Republic. Its headquarters are located on the same 11th floor*

of the SEBIN headquarters in Plaza Venezuela, and some of its components are or have been part of the Visual Check Unit.

3. **Detention Unit:** *the agents of this unit are responsible for the arrest of politicians of relevance to the regime and persons of interest once the information has been processed and ordered by superiors and the regime's high political command. They receive training at the SEBIN headquarters in El Helicoide like the others and are in charge of executing orders, whatever they may be.*

This Unit as a whole and its operation was only known during the first years of its operation by those who have served as “Heads”, by the Directors of SEBIN and by the Vice Presidency of the Republic and Presidency, to preserve the secrecy of its existence and the protection of its agents.

Although in the SEBIN there are other Units that have also been trained in techniques of persecution, repression, torture, among others., such as the so-called “Comandos”.

The agents of the Visual Check Unit, who were trained under strict rules of appearance and functioning, and whose identities were somehow protected under the figure of secrecy, without any type of identification that said where they worked or from SEBIN, are in charge of monitoring people of operational interest for the regime (PIO), and collecting all the information to be delivered to the analysis unit. The analysts process this information, which is then sent to the person in charge of Counterintelligence, and to the Director of SEBIN, who in turn inform their Heads, Presidency, Vice Presidency (until May 2020) and Ministry of the Interior and Justice. ***The members of this unit were trained by Cuban personnel who provided service and advice to SEBIN.***

Two graduations from that Unit (those who take the course) are low-ranking officers of the Armed Forces, and the following are civilians. The desired effect is to go as unnoticed as possible to infiltrate and carry out the follow-up task, so military training and the behavior of the officers means that they cannot always achieve this objective. They do not wear uniforms, they always go to “Base 100” in civilian clothes and those who carry out the monitoring work dressed in civilian clothes - unlike the Detention Unit - precisely to protect themselves.

In the courses taught in this first Unit, the knowledge taught to spies and infiltrators had the following specific topics as a curriculum:

- Surveillance control.
- Control of the PIO, the Cooperating Patriots and/or trusted people.
- Performance. How to go unnoticed or without suspicion when they carry out the monitoring work, the honorary officials, that trusted person that they have in the area, in the territorial units throughout the country, people who administer information to the SEBIN. (It is the same pattern imposed by the DGCIM MANUAL).
- Technical means: cameras, and other types of instruments to achieve the objectives.
- Masking: how to dress for the assigned operation, such as how to dress at a political event, so that the agent is not identified as a member of the SEBIN.
- Communication: different visual location techniques.
- The follow-up tactics and the ways to carry them out, which can be public or in closed places and with how much support they should go.
- Public control: has to do with the coordination of all Units, for example, at the time of an arrest, coordinating how to take the person to the place where they are going to be intercepted to detain them. There are owners of hotels, restaurants, offices, a whole espionage system that must precisely be prepared. All these people, these “Cooperating Patriots” must precisely coordinate with this Unit, which is the most trusted Unit of the entire Chain of Command upwards, Vice President and President and the General Director. It is coordinated with the Visual Check Unit how to allocate the space to specify the objective, which is to monitor and monitor the persecuted, the informative work, how to process, how to file, how to analyze the information properly, how to write all the information and the subject of photographs, audios, etc.
- Preparatory means: try to adapt this space to place sound recorders, video cameras, microphones.

A witness tells CASLA that in all the Units there were Cuban trainers and that SEBIN has at least four Cuban advisors on various national security issues in which they are directly involved.

One of those advisors, a Colonel of the Cuban army for example who was nicknamed “ABOAL”, who was also the head of the Visual Check Unit in Havana at the time, when he carried out the subversive activity part of the course, showed videos on how to reveal, how to follow up on opposition politicians, how to achieve infiltrations, how to achieve filming. The Visual Check Unit, for example, is the same one that exists in Havana, with the same name, and the Cuban Colonel had the task of reinforcing the

proposals of the subversive activity, what the enemy is, how to reveal it, how to follow it up, how to achieve film capture through videos or photographs.

The training of these infiltration agents was divided into two parts, basic physical training that does not correspond to the handling of weapons and training to acquire knowledge of what handling is like within the Unit. The latter, the internal management of the Unit, all the material and most of the knowledge imparted is supplied and given in progress by Cubans.

These agents have been infiltrated since 2015 in youth movements (they are young or they appear to be), in opposition demonstrations where their mission, for example, has been to agitate those who protest and follow the leaders in the different demonstrations, or be close to the political leaders and know their surroundings and closely monitor the people of interest, in addition to coordinating with the "cooperating patriots" how to allocate the space to specify the objective, which is to monitor and monitor the persecuted, the work informative, how to process, how to archive, how to analyze the information properly, how to write all the information and the subject of photographs, audios.

B. "Basic instruction guide on the Progressive and Differentiated Use of the Police Force for aspiring Detectives of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service SEBIN.

The CASLA Institute obtained the guide provided by the SEBIN School of Intelligence Studies, which is called "Basic Instruction Guide on the Progressive and Differentiated Use of the Police Force for aspiring Detectives of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service SEBIN" and which is used as a teaching manual of the techniques to use to control the people they detain, which clearly shows methods of torture that the "students" learn in the most natural way, due to their police training, but which are, in reality, different degrees of mechanisms of submission to pain to be used for the purposes they need, since it is an Intelligence organization recognized for its responsibility in the Commission of Crimes Against Humanity.

A witness narrated the following for this Report: ***"The problem is that they pass it off as training... for example, they are not going to say: look, you are going to torture this way, you are going to do it, no, they pass the guide and this is basic training on how you can apply techniques to not generate evidence in people, so they cover it up, like training for a police officer, but later, you analyze and realize that they are training you to apply torture methods, and that is torturing people."***

We reproduce the complete Guide below, drawing attention to Objectives 7 and 8, which describe the “Soft” Physical Control Techniques and the “Hard” Physical Control Techniques, the first described as “pressure” techniques on certain sensory nerves, which supposedly cause the least physical abuse for the purposes of controlling the passive resistance of citizens or groups of them. The second are those techniques used to control the defensive resistance of citizens, affecting some motor nerves and/or preventing normal blood flow to the brain, and therefore the passage of oxygen, which without causing serious injuries, counteract any type of hostile action.

These techniques, which we also found reproduced in other Venezuelan police training manuals that we were reviewing,⁵ and in courses given in police institutes, are methods of submission that also serve to show specific sensitive and painful areas where any other method of torture, such as shocks, electric shocks, pressure with metal or pointed objects, whippings, cuts or burns, blows with sticks, pipes, gun butts, etc., would work to increase the pain and get what they want from the victims, which is what they have done with opposition political prisoners.

Among the **GENTLE physical control techniques**, it lists the following:

- Submandibular
- Sublingual
- Double Sublingual
- Tiger Claw
- Supraorbital (Nasal)
- To the neck
- Frontal bronchial
- Supra External

⁵ Tecnicas Suaves y Duras de Control, emitido por la UNES, Universidad Nacional Experimental de la Seguridad, Venezuela.



Estas imágenes ilustran formas de aplicar algunas técnicas.

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Puntos de Presión. Lugares de Aplicación

Garra de Tigre

Punto al cuello .

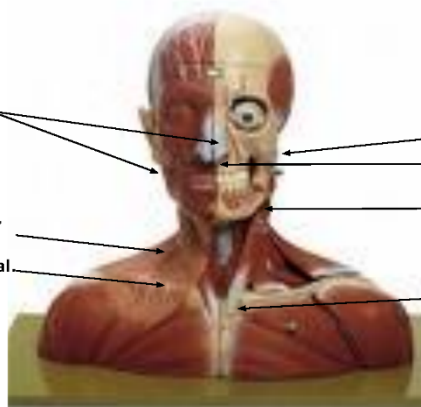
Supra External.

Sub-Maxilar

Supraorbital nasal

Sub Lingual.

Braquial Frontal .

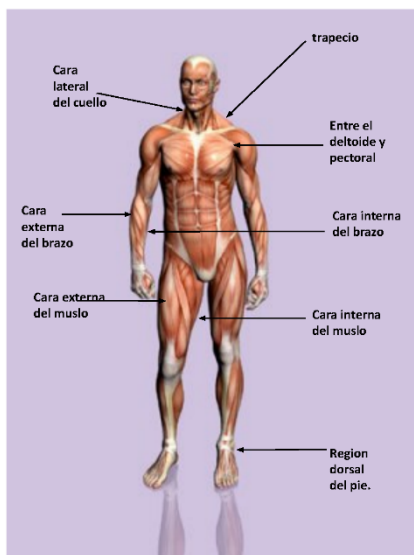


Regarding **HARD physical control techniques**, it says:

- It is a technique that consists of the application of pain that overstimulates motor nerves causing temporary dysfunction.
 - Rule of use:
 - The blow must be against motor nerve points
 - Use the fluid shock wave principle
- Full body rotation should be used for greatest effectiveness upon impact.



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Golpes de Onda Fluida de Choque
Puntos de aplicación de la Técnica



Below, we reproduce the complete Guide:



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Guía de Instrucción Básica en el Uso Progresivo y Diferenciado de la Fuerza Policial para aspirantes a Detectives del Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia Nacional (SEBIN)





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- 1.2 Principios.
- 1.3 Normas de uso.

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- 2.2 Estrés de Supervivencia.
- 2.3 Percepciones que Incrementan el estrés de supervivencia.
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10.1.1.3 Advertencia.

10.1.1.4 Amenaza.





Objetivo 1



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DEFINICIÓN:

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Es la cantidad de esfuerzo intelectual y físico de la funcionaria (o) policial, manifestado a través de acciones inherentes al servicio de policía dirigidas a una ciudadana, ciudadano o grupo de estos, cuya aplicación debe ser sistematizada y respetando el ordenamiento jurídico correspondiente a los fines de controlar los niveles de resistencia de las (os) ciudadanas (os).



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Principios



✓ Legalidad.

✓ Necesidad.

✓ Proporcionalidad.





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M **LEGALIDAD:** Son todos los actos que realizan los funcionarios policiales dentro del marco jurídico vigente nacional e internacional. El uso de la fuerza debe estar dirigido a lograr un objetivo legal.

A
N **NECESIDAD:** Es la respuesta a una situación que representa una amenaza y que requiere de una acción inmediata para evitar el agravamiento en actos delictivos o ilegales. El uso de la fuerza física y armas de fuego es necesario cuando no existe otra forma de lograr un objetivo legal.

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S **PROPORCIONALIDAD:** Es el equilibrio entre la gravedad de la amenaza y la cantidad de fuerza policial empleada, considerando sus posibles consecuencias para alcanzar el objetivo legal deseado.



NORMAS DE USO



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M **Artículo 70 de la L.O.S.P.C.P.N.**

- A** ☐ EL nivel de fuerza a aplicar no lo decide el oficial de policía sino la conducta de ciudadano.
- N** ☐ El nivel de Fuerza a aplicar no está determinado por el tipo de falta o delito cometido.
- D** ☐ Debe mantenerse el menor nivel de fuerza posible para el logro de la misión.
- O** ☐ En ningún momento debe haber daño físico innecesario ni maltratos morales a los ciudadanos objetos de la acción.
- S**



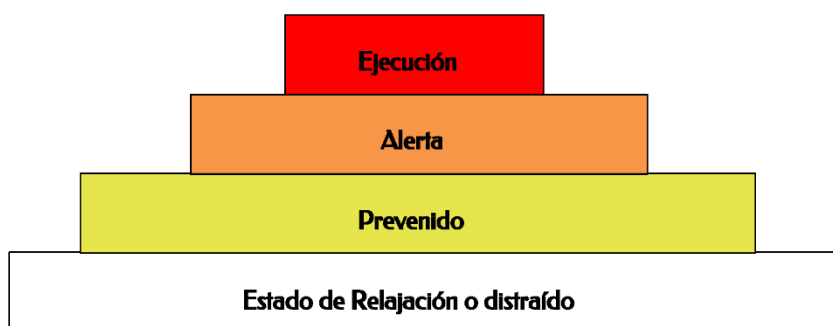


Objetivo 2



Estados de Alerta Mental. Código de Colores/significado.

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Estrés de sobrevivencia



Es un proceso que involucra la percepción de un desbalance significativo entre la demanda y la capacidad de respuesta bajo condiciones donde la demanda implica consecuencias vitales.





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Percepciones que incrementan el Estrés de supervivencia

- Amenaza mortal.
- Amenaza está muy cerca.
- Tiempo de Control es Mínimo.
- No hay Confianza de las habilidades personales.
- No se tiene la Experiencia.



Fisiología del estrés de supervivencia. Activación del Sistema Nervioso Simpático (SNS).

SNS



HIPÓFISIS



SUPRARRENALES



ADRENALINA,
NORADRENALINA

Es la glándula "reina" de nuestro organismo debido a que en ella se producen o segregan múltiples hormonas, algunas de ellas son hormonas reguladoras que dirigen el funcionamiento de gran parte del sistema endocrino.





Consecuencias



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Secuencias:

1. Incremento de las ppm

60-80	ppm	normal
115-145	ppm	óptimo para
combate		
175- 200	ppm	limitaciones

2. Exclusión Auditiva

3. Vision de Túnel:

- ✓ Pérdida de:
- ✓ Visión cercana
- ✓ Habilidad para enfocar
- ✓ Visión monocular
- ✓ Visión nocturna

4. Incremento del tiempo de reacción

5. Deterioro de habilidades motoras

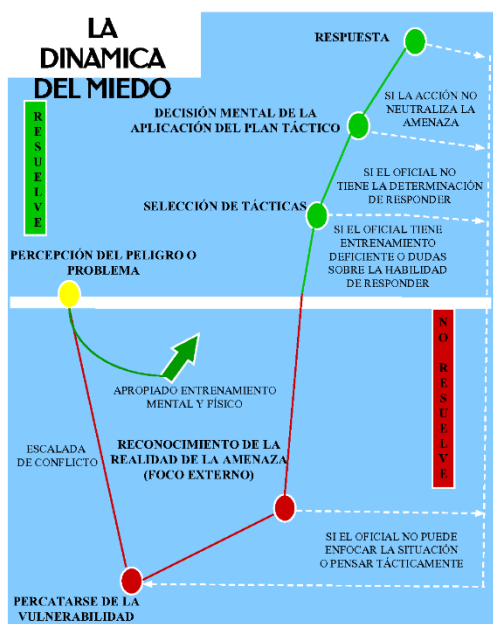
6. Vasoconstricción



Objetivo 3



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Métodos para Reducir el Tiempo de Respuesta.

- ☐ Mantenga un adecuado Estado de Alerta Mental.
- ☐ Seleccione el Plan.
- ☐ Distancia Razonable.
- ☐ Busque Claves específicas de ataque.



Variables que influyen en el uso de la Fuerza

- ☐ Funcionario/ciudadano (Contextura y capacidad).
- ☐ Lugar y condiciones ambientales.
- ☐ Tiempo de Respuesta.





Objetivo 4

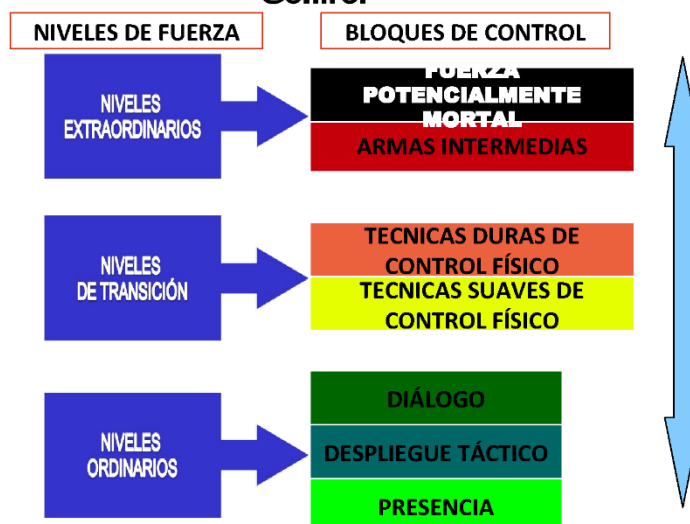


Uso Progresivo y Diferenciado de la Fuerza Policial.

Diagrama (Resistencia - Control)



Esquema de los niveles de Fuerza Policial y sus Bloques de Control





Objetivo 5



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Presencia Policial

□ Impacto Psicológico.



Despliegue Táctico.



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Es una acción operativa que permite establecer una distancia prudente de seguridad física corporal, en distintas posiciones estratégicas alrededor de la ciudadana, ciudadano o grupo de estos en conflicto, estableciendo ventaja táctica para el control psicológico, pudiendo así solventar en determinados casos la situación conflictiva sin necesidad de establecer el diálogo como nivel de fuerza.





COMANDOS

Elementos del Despliegue Táctico

- Distancia.
- Posicionamiento Relativo.
- Posicionamiento Táctico.



Distancia





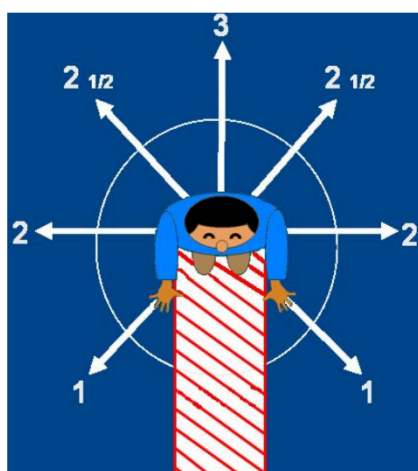
COMANDOS

Posicionamiento Relativo



COMANDOS

Posicionamiento Táctico





Objetivo 6



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Esposamiento

Es una técnica en la cual los funcionarios (as) realizan una intervención policial para inmovilizar o restringir a un ciudadano en conflicto de manera segura, utilizando las esposas. Su uso es discrecional de acuerdo a los principios de legalidad, necesidad, proporcionalidad.



Tipos de Esposamiento



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- Esposamiento de Pie: Se emplea para esposar personas cooperativas que no representen riesgos potenciales para el Oficial.
- Esposamiento de Rodilla: Se aplica a ciudadanos con actitudes indecisas, es decir aquellos que asumen poco acatamiento de las ordenes impartidas por él o los oficiales, que puedan representar peligro de fuga o posibles riesgos físicos para éstos.
- Esposamiento Cubito Abdominal (Tendido): Es realizado ante ciudadanos no cooperativos y que potencialmente represente alto riesgo para el oficial o terceros.





Objetivo 7



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Técnicas Suaves de Control Físico

□ Puntos de Presión:

Estas Técnicas de control, consisten en ejercer presión en determinados nervios sensoriales, causando el menor maltrato físico a los fines de controlar la resistencia pasiva de las (os) ciudadanas (os), o grupos de estos.



Puntos de Presión



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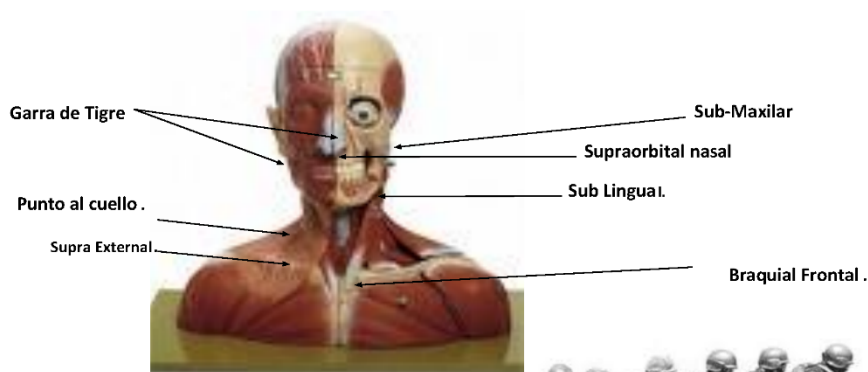
- Sub-Maxilar
- Sub-Lingual.
- Doble Sub-lingual.
- Garra de Tigre.
- Supraorbital (Nasal).
- Al cuello.
- Braquial frontal.
- Supra external.





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Puntos de Presión. Lugares de Aplicación



Objetivo 8

Técnicas Duras de Control Físico

Son técnicas utilizadas para controlar la resistencia defensiva de las (os) ciudadanas (os), afectando algunos nervios motores y/o evitando el fluido normal sanguíneo al cerebro y por ende el paso de oxígeno, que sin causar lesiones graves contrarrestan cualquier tipo de acción hostil.





Técnicas Duras de Control Físico

COMANDOS

- Es una técnica que consiste en la aplicación de dolor que sobreestimula nervios motores causando disfunción temporal.
- Reglas de Uso:
 - El golpe debe ser contra puntos de nervios motores.
 - Utilizar el principio de onda fluida de choque.
 - Debe usarse rotación total del cuerpo para lograr la mayor efectividad al momento del impacto.



Golpes de Onda Fluida de Choque Puntos de aplicación de la Técnica





Objetivo 9



COM

Técnica con armas Intermedias

Son técnicas aplicadas como medida extraordinaria para el control de las agresiones activas por parte de ciudadanas (os), los cuales tienen intención de causar daños graves o incluso la muerte al oficial o a terceras personas. Estas técnicas implican el uso del Bastón Policial o cualquier otro tipo de arma no letal, incluyendo en este nivel la aplicación de técnicas de defensa personal.



Bastón Policial



COM

El bastón policial es un arma primordialmente defensiva diseñada para neutralizar las agresiones activas y le permite al funcionario policial garantizar un espacio de protección.



Bastón
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Bastón
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Lugares de Aplicación de la Técnica de Bastón Policial



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Objetivo 10

Diálogo

Es la principal herramienta a ser utilizada por el funcionario policial, con el fin de resolver la mayoría de las situaciones conflictivas. El diálogo como instrumento de fuerza, evita causar maltratos físicos innecesarios a los ciudadanos en conflictos mediante un trato digno y respetuoso.





COMANDOS

Sub-Niveles del Diálogo

- **Investigativo:** Nos permite indagar la raíz del problema y diseñar la estrategia persuasiva.
- **Persuasivo:** Que la persona por voluntad propia desista de sus acciones.
- **Advertencia:** Informarle a la persona las consecuencias que pueden acarrearle de no desistir por su propia voluntad.
- **Amenaza:** Hacer que la persona cumpla lo que el funcionario ordene, de lo contrario será detenido.



Chapter VI

Systematic Repression. Arbitrary Detentions, Physical, Psychological and White Torture, Sexual Violence and Gender Violence.

“During the first months of detention, at least once a week, I was tortured with electric shocks, blows to various parts of the body, wrapped in mats and beaten with bats. They also immersed my feet in punch bowls of water and gave me electric shocks to the chest, on the legs, on the neck, always twice a week. “A police officer pulled out my tooth with pliers.”

In the period included in this Report, the CASLA Institute collected at least 16 new incidents sent to the International Criminal Court, whose content in the complaints of the affected victims could cover at least 35 people, since at least two victims were tortured with other companions and locked in the same cell while they waited for their “turn” to be tortured, and they narrated the torture to which they were subjected.

We also reported the widespread systematic persecution, intimidation, acts of vandalism, hostile acts, raids and arrests of members and sympathizers of the Vente Venezuela Political Party, led by María Corina Machado, women, men, young people, coordinators and directors, victims of the fiercest persecution for dismantle the party's campaign command structure and harass and terrorize its members. Today, 7 members of the National and Regional board remain imprisoned: Juan Freites, Luis Camacaro, Guillermo López, Tomás Sequera, Emili Brandt, Henri Alviarez and Dignora Hernández, victims of the bosses denounced in letter “a” of this chapter.

The systematic persecution, discriminatory attacks, instigation of hatred, harassment, exposure to public ridicule, defamation, gender attacks, threats to physical integrity and life carried out by the Venezuelan regime against María Corina Machado, will be the subject of another Report produced by CASLA the next few months.

From the new incidents collected by CASLA in this period and the Vente Venezuela reports on arrests, we obtained the following data:

- At least 22 people are male and 3 are female.
- At least 12 are civilians and 11 are military.
- In 14 cases the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service SEBIN intervened, in 16 cases the General Division of Military Counterintelligence DGCIM intervened. At least in 3

cases the GNB, in 3 cases the PNB, and in 1 case Poli Aragua. In 4 incidents, the joint action of two or more organizations in the detention and torture of detainees was reported.

The reported Incidents include cases that occurred from 2015 to 2024, victims who had never reported out of fear, for example. The period has been characterized by the radicalization of the Venezuelan government in terms of widespread systematic repression, as we describe in Chapter I, in the General Context. The situation of political prisoners, whose list has increased at the close of this Report, continued to be precarious and cruel, with the cruelty of those who were in the Prisons of the Intelligence Organizations, especially in the DGCIM.

The isolation, torture and cruel treatment of detainees in these organizations were denounced at the time. On Friday the 22nd of last December, for example, a command of approximately 200 DGCIM officials entered the facilities where the detainees of said organization are held in the Boleíta Urbanization in Caracas, in a violent manner, with long weapons and with balaclavas (with their faces covered) and took the detainees out of their cells, stripping them, including the women, humiliating them, verbally attacking them all, and stealing their personal belongings, including their clothes, books, family photos, Bibles, medicines, without caring that several were monitored daily with medications for hypertension, depression, allergies, among others.

Colonel Oswaldo García Palomo was a victim of torture and cruel treatment in August 2023, and was kept in solitary confinement for months. One of his lawyers, Rafael Godoy, who recently died, was detained at his residence, and transferred to the DGCIM of Boleíta, where they kept him for more than 5 hours, asking him useless questions, to intimidate him. They forced Gen. Hernández Da Costa to kneel, they stripped him of all his belongings while he was the victim of humiliating treatment and verbal threats, taking all of his medicines, putting his life at serious risk.

In reference to political prisoners in general, some family members felt the need to report to the national and international organizations again and again, as well as on social networks and the media, the serious health situations presented by their representatives and the refusal of the repressive structure of allowing their attention.

Since March of this year, several political prisoners have been transferred to other prisons, without a Court order and without notifying their lawyers and relatives. From the DGCIM headquarters in Boleíta and the SEBIN headquarters in El Helicoide, several political prisoners were sent to the El Rodeo 1 Penitentiary Center, a recently remodeled prison with capacity for 600 inmates, which has not been finished inside, and where the

guards are hooded so as not to be recognized. This prison is managed by the Ministry of Penitentiary Affairs and the DGCIM.

The cells have a septic tank and a water faucet that flows into the same septic tank for washing, with cement beds, and the detainees do not have access to any type of reading material or distraction, in a place whose climate is extremely hot, reached temperatures between 36 and 38 C degrees at this time. The relatives who visit the detainees are hooded and guided to the “locutorio”, where they can see their relative for 15 minutes through a glass, speaking to them on a telephone, whose conversation is listened to by regime officials, so they can end the call when the victim says something that they do not want the family to hear.

Among the political prisoners transferred from the DGCIM (Boleíta) to Rodeo 1, we can mention the following: General Héctor Hernández Da Costa, Colonel Oswaldo García Palomo, TCnel. Igbert Marín Chaparro, Juan Carlos Marrufo, Alejandro González de Canales.

From the SEBIN headquarters in Helicoide: Cap. Juan Carlos Caguaripano. SM/1 Juan Carlos Monasterios, Oswaldo Castillo, Brayan Oropeza, Henrybert Rivas, Wilbert Vázquez, Cap. Antonio José Sequea Torres, Cap. Víctor Alejandro Pimienta, Lieutenant Barreno Alcalá, Fernando Noya Contramaestre, SM/3 Evan Antonio Rincón Piñeiro, Josnal Adolfo Baduel, 1tte Jairo Bettermyth, Sgto./2 Rafael Castro, Sgto./2 Estewin Rojas, 1tte Raúl Manzanilla Almao, Sgto./ 1 Ángel Perdomo, Sgt./1 Roberto Rondón, ofc J PNB Enderson Ríos Marín, Cap. Ebro Delgado.

At least three political prisoners who were detained in the basements of the DGCIM, María Auxiliadora Delgado, 1st Lt. Karen Gómez and Major Diana Victoria Justo were transferred to the National Women's Orientation Center (INOF); 3 political prisoners who were in the New Man Training Center (La Planta) in Caracas, were transferred to the El Dorado Penitentiary Center, in the State of Bolívar, Alberto Bracho, Argenis Valera Ruiz and Yolmer Escalona; 3 political prisoners were transferred from the SEBIN headquarters in El Helicoide to Yare II, José Ramón Alas, Pedro José Orozco and Jhon Rivas, and at least one political prisoner was also transferred from El Helicoide to Yare III, Tomás Ramón García.

A. Detention Patterns: Among the PATTERNS repeatedly applied in all the cases of the new detainees of the alleged conspiracies, we identify the following:

- Temporary Forced Disappearance: detainees are isolated from lawyers and family members for days or weeks without knowing where they are being held.

- They are presented secretly late at night, and/or at the headquarters of the intelligence agencies, without trusted lawyers and their families even knowing that they were presented.
- Violation of the right to defense, imposing public lawyers on them, preventing trusted lawyers from assuming the defense despite being present in the Courts standing guard, awaiting transfer.
- Impediment by trusted lawyers from requesting investigation proceedings and promoting evidence within the corresponding period of 45 days after the presentation hearing due to not being able to take the oath, so the victims of repression arrive at the preliminary hearing without a single means of proof in their favor to defend themselves.
- Several detainees were accused by other detainees in videos shown by the Attorney General of the Republic, where the victims who accuse them, in addition to showing obvious signs of torture, read a script. The Prosecutor, after showing these videos, announces the arrest warrants, pointing them out as conspirators, assassinations, traitors to the Homeland, and so on., violating the principle of the presumption of innocence and exposing them to public ridicule using as evidence the confession of a tortured victim.
- The families and lawyers do not know their physical condition, whether or not they were tortured and/or mistreated, since one of the purposes of keeping them isolated for weeks or months, with public lawyers appointed by the regime, is to prevent the victims from revealing what happened to them and that it is denounced publicly and before the respective regional and universal bodies.
- Some of the detainees have been tricked by their immediate superiors into showing up at their commands where the DGCIM is waiting for them to arrest them without an arrest warrant, immediately taking them away, disappearing them and isolating them.
- In several cases, intelligence agencies have gone looking for the wives or close relatives of the detainees, wanting to take them as witnesses or part of the investigation. They are intimidated and threatened so that they do not say anything, under penalty of having to go looking for them to arrest them.
- Incommunicado. All of them have been cut off from their families and lawyers.
- Physical Torture: some have been subjected to torture sessions, being tightly handcuffed and hooded, receiving beatings all over the body, some type of asphyxiation and possible electric shocks.
- Psychological torture: death threats, threats to go against their families, fathers, mothers, brothers, children, and so on., even telling them that they are going to imprison them.
- Some have been taken to Clandestine Torture Centers, where they have spent the first hours or days being tortured.

B) Physical Torture:

- **Electric shocks:** in at least 10 incidents, victims were subjected to this torture. To execute it, some victims were soaked or had their feet submerged in a bucket of water while handcuffed, others were tied to some metal object and then wetted and the cables placed on them to shock them. The shocks were performed on the chest, neck, legs, nipples, ribs, ankles, testicles, and fingers and/or toes. One victim said the following in her testimony:

"Again they took me, I think, since a floor down from where I was, it was a basement and they laid me on a metal bed and tied me to it with some ropes and I heard a voice directing and recommending with a Cuban accent, who recommended that they removed the handcuffs and avoid leaving marks or permanent injuries on my body. Once I was tied up, the brutal interrogation began again. I was wearing shorts and white flannel. They threw water on my body and began to run electricity through the bed of a dynamo or discharge of electricity that are used to activate explosive charges..."

- **Asphyxiation:** in at least 10 incidents, the victims were asphyxiated with different methods depending on the case: asphyxiation with plastic bags full of toxic gases, and some also received multiple blows while being asphyxiated: one victim was asphyxiated with bags full of dirty water; One victim was suffocated with a pillow and several victims were tear-gassed in their cell, where they were with other people.
- **Water Boarding:** in at least 2 incidents, the victim was subjected to this torture known as one of the most distressing tortures, where the person feels like they are drowning as they pour the water directly on their face, while they keep them immobilized. A victim narrated this torture in the following way:

"Then, seeing that I didn't say anything to them, they put a shirt on my head, they laid me on the floor, a guy got on top of me and another guy tied my feet with a rope, and they started pouring water over my face again and again, with the fundamental purpose of suffocating me as breathing was difficult with wet cloth and water on my face, they kept me like that for more than an hour, I felt like I would die, I was very afraid, I only had God to pray to for help."

- **Hanging:** In at least 7 incidents, victims were hung from a fixed object on the ceiling or from a pipe. They were all handcuffed with their arms behind them and

beaten while remaining in this position. In two incidents, they were raised until they touched the ground with only the tip of their feet and left in this position for several hours.

- **Hits and Kicks:** in at least 11 incidents, the victims were subjected to hits and/or kicks all over their bodies with blunt objects such as wooden or iron clubs, baseball bats, boards, canes, the butts of weapons, plumbing pipes. Also in at least 5 incidents, the victims suffered severe blows to the face, including with fists from the torturers. In general, the blows were directed at the ribs, abdomen, buttocks, back, calves and in two incidents, they were hit in the testicles.
- **Hits on the nails and application of the “Manicure”:** in 4 incidents, the victims were hit with a board and a hammer directly on the nails of their hands, tearing the nails off with the blows. In one incident, the victim was subjected to what the perpetrators call the “Manicure”, burying needles of different thicknesses between his nails, causing them to be lost. In another incident, the victim was whipped on his hands and feet until he lost his nails.
- **Spanking:** In 3 incidents, the victims were spanked with some type of rod and/or a belt with a metal buckle. The spankings were directed at various parts of the body, including the testicles, back, legs and arms. One victim described in her testimony how he was tortured by Cubans in this way:

“Several toenails fell off over the days due to the beatings and torture suffered in that area. Only God knows the indescribable pain I felt with each spanking that preceded me. I confessed, and when I told them that I didn't know what they were talking about, there was a Cuban who, laughing, said to whom was spanking me, “I think you're not hitting the big guy hard enough, I think I'm going to have to show you how to do it,” and that Cuban whipped me brutally by the feet, always I begged them to stop, and I also told them that they were a shame, I told them that they were violating the constitution and the laws, and the mistreatment was greater, they said that where I was there was no law, I received at least twenty (20) lashes on the soles of my feet”

- **Extraction or loss of teeth:** in at least 2 incidents, the victims had tooth loss. In both incidents, the victims were restrained, grabbed by their hands and feet, forcing them to open their mouths, to extract a tooth with pliers. In one of the incidents, the victim suffered the loss of other teeth later, due to the blows

received when he was forced to open his mouth. One victim said the following in her testimony:

"The next day they forcibly removed one of my teeth and knocked others loose in the back. That day ended with a severe beating before being unjustly taken to a Military Court."

C. Rape or any other form of sexual violence of comparable severity:

- **Rape:** we documented in one of the incidents, a rape of a male officer by DGCIM officials.
- **Attempted Rape and/or threats of rape:** in at least two incidents, the victims were threatened with rape, while they were repeatedly tortured. One of the victims said the following:

"Then they told me that they were going to introduce me to 'The Impaler' who was the person who was in charge of putting a stick up the men's rectums, thus violating their Humanity since he did not speak or say who paid us to go to the protests, since they claimed that someone did it."

- **Stripping:** In at least 10 incidents, victims were forced to strip naked or were stripped naked for torture.
- **Electric shocks and/or other forms of injury to the genitals:** In at least 9 incidents, all male, the victims received electric shocks directly to the genitals. In one incident, the victim was whipped on his private parts. One victim narrated the following:

"So they took down my white shorts and underwear and tied the cables to my testicles and passed electricity on multiple occasions. The pain they made me feel is indescribable. I cried, begged, screamed for help without finding an answer, to each brutal interrogation my answer remained the same, I don't know what they are talking about, I must highlight that on my left ankle, on both legs specifically on the shin and on my right hand, there were scars from the torture to which I was subjected, some wounds were aggravated with every torture to which I was subjected"...

- **Explicit sexual positions:** in at least 3 incidents, all male, the victims once stripped naked, were forced to remain in positions to expose their private parts

to the torturers, such as being forced to kneel and press their forehead to the floor, or placed in a fetal position, leaving them vulnerable, and causing humiliation. In addition, the officials urinated on one victim in this position.

D. Gender violence: one of the widespread patterns that we have denounced before the ICC is the regime's intention to inflict sadistic terror among male victims, especially officers of the Armed Forces, to whom in addition to applying terrible torture, they apply sexual violence to them in any of the ways indicated in the letter "C" of this chapter, they attack them in their dignity and masculinity, knowing that for many of them it will be the most terrible thing they could have done to them. Some victims do not dare to tell their families, they do not want their wives and children or their parents to find out. For this period, in at least 12 incidents, the victims, all male, 4 civilians and 8 soldiers, were victims of some type of sexual violence while they were being tortured, and the executors mocked and enjoyed doing it, which demonstrates their premeditation in the use of these methods to inflict sadistic terror on their victims and try to achieve their goals or punish them.

E. Psychological torture and White Torture:

- **Isolation: without any contact with family members and lawyers:** in at least 12 incidents, the victims have been isolated for different periods of time, ranging from 5 days to even 7 months, the maximum documented in this period. In several incidents the victims were isolated for between 30 and 40 days and in one incident the person was isolated for 4 months. These isolations mean that families cannot provide them with medicine, clothing, hydration, nor can they know what physical condition they are in. The torture is meant for the whole family.
- **Solitary Isolation:** in at least 4 incidents, the victims were completely isolated, alone in a cell and without being allowed to leave or wash themselves, or have any contact with another detainee, for between 30 and 79 days. In one incident, the victim was locked in "The Doll Box", a cell that measures 60cm x 60cm x 2.75 meters high, where he was kept for 48 hours, without light or natural air, without food or hydration, doing his needs on himself.
- **Pain of Others:** in at least 5 incidents, the victims heard and saw how other detainees were tortured while waiting for their turn, or after them. One witnessed the rape of one of the detainees, another witnessed the officials' intention to rape several of the detainees, another heard how an official gave

orders to rape other detainees. All cases occurred in the DGCIM. The victims narrate how the heartbreaking screams of the other people made them react, screaming and begging not to be tortured anymore. In one case, the victim even offered to replace the person they were torturing when he saw that he fainted several times and thought that he was dying.

- **Death threats:** in at least 5 incidents, the victims were threatened with death if they did not say what they wanted to hear, in the midst of the torture of which they were being victims to.
- **Russian Roulette or simulation of execution:** in 3 incidents, the victims were subjected to Russian roulette, under the enjoyment of those who executed it. In one incident, they put the gun to the victim's skull and in a submissive position as if to be executed, and they pulled the trigger to pretend that they were shooting.
- **Sippenhaft:** Detention of family members, threats to arrest them and persecution: in 2 incidents several family members were arrested. They took grandparents, fathers and mothers, nephews, girlfriends, among others, regardless of sex, age or physical condition, releasing them a few hours later or at the moment the person surrendered. In at least 3 incidents, the victims were told that they were going after their families if they did not speak or say what they wanted. In one of them, they even showed them photos of the movements of relatives in their daily lives, demonstrating the explicit monitoring that they did even to the children. This Psychological Torture is increasingly used by intelligence agencies. Pressure against fathers, mothers, wives, uncles, grandparents, to obtain information about the persecuted person, or even seek to involve them in any way in the frame-ups, arresting or threatening relatives with arrest, terrorizing them so that they do not declare or report the abuses committed. against his family member, is one of the practices developed in this period by security agencies.
- **Lack of Livelihoods:** in at least 13 incidents, the victims went entire days without receiving food or water, generally in the first days of detention. They denounced the little food they were given, even spoiled or with worms. In at least 5 incidents, the little food they were given was thrown on the floor, and the victims had to eat it off the floor, sometimes with their hands handcuffed, which caused them to have to eat like animals. Lack of hydration caused one victim to drink water from the toilet for days when he was allowed to go to the bathroom. In at least 8 incidents, the victims lost considerable weight, some even between 15 and 25 kilos in 3 or 4 months.

- **Suicide Attempts:** In at least 2 incidents, the victims attempted to take their lives after being tortured, due to depression and lack of hope, having lost their desire to live and regain their freedom.

F. Incidents where Cuban officials participated in this period:

In at least 4 incidents, the victims described how Cuban agents were present during their torture, giving orders on how to do it, or said officers taking the reins to torture them personally.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Below is the list of those officials who were repeatedly identified by victims and witnesses in the incidents and testimonies reported in the period of this Annual Report, as the immediate heads and/or executors of Crimes Against Humanity.

- Nicolás Maduro Moros. President, Commander-in-Chief of the FANB and Chief of the DGCIM-
- Delcy Eloina Rodríguez. Vicepresident of the Republic.
- Diosdado Cabello. Deputy of the ruling party in the National Assembly.
- Tarek William Saab. Attorney General of the Republic.
- M/G Vladimir Padrino López. Secretary of Defence.
- M/G Iván Hernández Dala. Director of the DGCIM.
- M/G Elio Estrada Paredes. Former Director of the PNB, Commander of the National Guard.
- Gustavo González López. Director of the SEBIN.
- Cnel. Alexander Granko Arteaga. Director of the Special Affairs DAE, DGCIM.
- G/D (Ej.) Carlos Terán Hurtado, former director of the DGCIM Boleíta.
- Carlos Alberto Calderón Chirinos, Chief Commissar SEBIN, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Strategic and Tactical Actions (DAET).
- Gral./Div. (Ej.) Rafael Franco Quintero. (Ej.) Former Head of Investigations at the DGCIM until February 2020.
- Gral./B (Ej.) Manuel Christopher Figuera, former subdirector of the DGCIM and former director of the SEBIN.
- General José Ramón Maita González. Commander of the Los Andes Air Defense Brigade.
- Gral./B. Hannover Esteban Guerrero Mijares, Former Head of Investigations of the DGCIM, 2nd. Commander and Chief of Staff of the 35th Bga. Military police.
- T/Navío Abel Angola, Chief Inspector of the DGCIM.
- T/Cnel. (GNB) Néstor Nepalí Blanco Hurtado, Former Head of Investigations at the DGCIM.
- Cap. Jonathan Becerra, oficial of the DGCIM
- Cap. Jesús Cárdenas. DGCIM.
- Cap. Edwin Chávez.
- Ptte. Moisés Saúl Méndez Calderón, oficial of the DGCIM.
- Sargento Olmer Pérez Contreras.
- Mauro Alexis Bracho. Head of Penitentiary Affairs at the DGCIM
- Prosecutor Farik Mora.

CONCLUSION

The government of Nicolás Maduro does not want to compete in “moderately competitive” elections with the conditions “moderately suitable” to be accepted by the International Community. He has more than demonstrated this, removing the leader of the Venezuelan opposition who won the primaries, María Corina Machado, from the path, and preventing the person designated by her, Corina Yoris, from being registered either. Nicolás Maduro needs to ensure his victory, between rigged elections and candidates tailored to his needs, without the regional organization that has all the technical level to carry out credible electoral observation, such as the OAS, with politicians, NGO directors, journalists, lawyers defending Human Rights, union leaders, young activists, soldiers, influencers, and so on, persecuted and threatened or imprisoned.

To silence the complaints against him, he persecutes and/or imprisons those who dare to confront him. To silence social unrest and within the Armed Forces, he spies, intimidates, persecutes and imprisons. To silence Social Networks, he dictates a new Law that will accompany the Law of Hate, which he has called the Law Against Fascism Neofascism and Similar Expressions, which he will use against those who dare to criticize the imposed system. He has also accused the Vente Venezuela party of being a “terrorist organization”, which gives him the opportunity to persecute all its members if necessary.

The Venezuelan State faces international justice, with different criminal proceedings opened in different countries and the investigation that is being carried out in the International Criminal Court. He has used everything that the Rome Statute allows him to try to paralyze this process and he has not been able to, because his arguments are not credible, because he has not been able to demonstrate that he does intend to investigate and prosecute those responsible for Crimes Against Humanity and he does not intend to do so because from the President and in descending order in the chain of command, Ministers, Military Chiefs and Directors of Security and Intelligence Organizations, Prosecutors, Judges, and Public Defenders, are guilty by induction, action or omission, of the execution of said crimes.

Several of his most loyal officers continue in their positions and do not skimp on showing their power, they are people who have collected their war loot and have companies and businesses inside and outside the country. These same people have been named by their victims as the cruelest torturers and executors of other crimes, but loyalty is paid with impunity and access to illicit businesses.

The crime of Lt. Ronald Ojeda in Chile, a former military political prisoner and convinced dissident of the regime asylum in that country, who was kidnapped by members of the paramilitary criminal group called “Tren de Aragua” and whose investigations by the Chilean Prosecutor point to a political crime commissioned from Venezuela, raise alarm bells of all those exiles threatened and persecuted, publicly pointed out by the government of Nicolás Maduro and its executing structure, warning that they know where they live.

The incarceration patterns of the new detainees demonstrate that there is not even an iota of impartiality or submission to due process and the current legal system on the part of the competent bodies to administer justice, but on the contrary, they demonstrate total commitment to continue the orders that come from “above” as some judges have stated and violate the basic principles of the right to defense, exemplifying the punishment of the opponent and dissident to frighten and corner the citizen.

The Crimes Against Humanity for which the Venezuelan State is being investigated in the ICC continue to be committed in a systematic and widespread manner with the purpose of cornering citizens, of taking away their hopes for their civic struggles, whether for better salaries, for expressing their opinion, for reporting irregularities in the management of public funds, or for their right to choose and be elected freely.

The involvement of the Cuban State in the induction and execution of Crimes Against Humanity in Venezuela cannot continue to be silenced. Their complicity and perversity, their domination of Venezuelan institutions and intelligence bodies to turn them into repressive apparatuses, must continue to be denounced so that the democratic world faces what it knows openly, but without decisive actions to stop the Cuban government's interference in the politics of other countries to subject their democracies to their project of power and ideological domination.

Our recommendation is directed to the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court so that they can advance in the investigation process and identify those Senior Responsible for the planning and execution of the Crimes Against Humanity committed by the Venezuelan government and the Cuban government, so that take the actions that are necessary to ensure their prosecution and the victims, and their families can obtain justice and reparation.