

Escenarios

Biweekly bulletin of strategic analysis addressed to the Venezuelan civil society



NUMBER 19 • SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2024

WHAT'S NEW?

The intense repression and persecution of the democratic leadership has meant that the most important events of the last 15 days have taken place on the international stage. Juan Diego Quesada, correspondent for the Andean region for the Spanish daily El País, [interpreted the current situation](#): “Venezuela, given the current situation, seems to be entering a stage of Madurista anaesthesia. Edmundo’s exile was a peak and now it is entering a valley. The international community is hitting a wall, the opposition is trying everything but nothing moves an inch. Hibernation”.

On 09.17.24, the [National Assembly approved](#) a document in which it encourages “the national executive to evaluate, within a peremptory period of time, the rupture of diplomatic and commercial relations with the Kingdom of Spain, as a reciprocal action for the rude and interfering proposal» of the Spanish Congress against «Venezuelan constitutionality”. On the other hand, in a non-binding resolution, the [European Parliament approved](#) (with a vote of 309 in favour, 201 against and 12 abstentions), the recognition of Edmundo González as the legitimate president of Venezuela. On 09.26.24 [Maduro asked the military high command](#) to reinforce anti-terrorist plans, assuring that “there is full proof of the plans of the CIA and the Spanish CNI against peace and security”.

On 09.23.24 the [Federal Chamber of Buenos Aires ordered](#) the “immediate arrest” of Nicolás Maduro and Diosdado Cabello “for serious human rights violations”. They were found responsible for organising a systematic plan to detain, kidnap and torture citizens. The unanimous decision was made by the judges of Chamber 1 of the Buenos Aires Federal Court, Mariano Llorens, Pablo Bertuzzi and Leopoldo Bruglia, a week after the request made by prosecutors José Agüero Iturbe and Carlos Stornelli. The measure also covers more than thirty Venezuelan hierarchs and military officials, including members of the Armed Forces, the Security Forces, the Bolivarian National Guard and intelligence agents in the service of the regime.

In response, that same day, the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice [issued an “arrest warrant”](#) against the president of Argentina, Javier Milei. The measure would be based on an open investigation for the crimes of Money Laundering, Simulation of Punishable Acts, Illegitimate Deprivation of Liberty, Illegal Interference in the Operational Security of Civil Aviation, Disabling of Aircraft and Association. The case dates back to 2022, when an airplane of the Venezuelan company Emtrasur landed in Argentina, where its occupants were arrested. The aircraft was subsequently delivered to the United States. In addition to Milei, the Venezuelan court ordered the arrest of Karina Elizabeth Milei, Secretary of the Presidency, and Patricia Bullrich, Minister of Security.

On 09.24.24 [Gustavo Petro stated](#) that Maduro “will surely take office on January 10” and also confirmed that on Wednesday, September 25th, he would meet with his Brazilian counterpart, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, to address the situation in Venezuela. A day later, the [Colombian Senate](#), with 48 votes in favor and 6 against, approved a proposal for the country’s presidency to recognize EGU. There was no further information on whether the bilateral meeting could take place. On 09.27.24 [it was known](#) that the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Yván Gil, and the Brazilian Foreign Minister, Mauro Vieira, met this Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, although no further details of the content of the dialogue were known.



The Venezuelan crisis was present at the 79th General Assembly of the United Nations, held from September 23 to 27 in New York. During the debates, [Joe Biden](#) (USA), [Javier Milei](#) (Argentina), [Gabriel Boric](#) (Chile), [Arnoldo André-Tinoco](#) (Costa Rica), [Pedro Sánchez](#) (Spain), [Giorgia Meloni](#) (Italy), [Laurentino Cortizo](#) (Panama), [Santiago Peña](#) (Paraguay), [Luis Lacalle Pou](#) (Uruguay) and [Luis Abinader](#) (Dominican Republic) referred to the situation with its epicenter in Caracas. On the sidelines of the debates, [31 countries signed a document](#) requesting Venezuelan authorities to put an end to arbitrary detentions and human rights violations. In response to Gabriel Boric's speech, [Venezuela suspended air flights](#) between Caracas and Santiago de Chile.

The International Independent Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela [released its most recent report](#). In the document they conclude that, after the elections, *“the State reactivated and intensified the harshest and most violent form of its repressive machinery”*. They added that: *“the authorities carried out, in a conscious and planned manner, actions aimed at dismantling and demobilizing the organized political opposition; at inhibiting the dissemination of independent information and opinions critical of the Government, and at impeding peaceful citizen protest. The brutality of the repression continues to generate a climate of generalized fear in the population”*.

On the other hand, on 09.30.24 Margaret Satterthwaite, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, expressed her deep concern about the abduction, detention and proceedings against lawyer Perkins Rocha. *“I am seriously concerned that Mr. Rocha may have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment while his whereabouts were unknown and now that he is being held in the Helicoide, and that communication with his private defense lawyer and family has not been allowed,”* she stated.

Among the new political prisoners are Spanish tourists [Martínez Adasme and José María Basoa Valdovinos](#), [Milciades Ávila and Edwin Moya](#), members of María Corina Machado's security team and [Julio Itriago](#), from Vente Venezuela.

HOW CAN IT AFFECT THE POSSIBILITY OF RESOLVING THE CONFLICT THROUGH POLITICAL MECHANISMS?

The next political milestone in the situation of the country will occur on January 10th, 2025, when a new president will be sworn in for the next 6-year term. All the current decisions of the Venezuelan authorities must be interpreted in function of that date, when Nicolás Maduro will materialize the disregard of the popular will expressed on July 28th. The ruling party will not make any approach with other actors to question them on their supposed victory. Evidence suggests that the spaces for political dialogue will be closed until after January 10th.

The risk is that the international community *“normalizes”* the Venezuelan situation and qualifies it as an unsolvable crisis. As part of the effort to keep the conversation alive is the [awarding of the Václav Havel 2024 Prize to María Corina Machado](#).

WHAT CAN CIVIL SOCIETY DO TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS?

- Take all measures **to protect the freedom and integrity of the members of civil society** in the face of the political milestone of January 10th, 2025, in which the authorities will take all necessary “security” measures to guarantee the swearing in of Nicolás Maduro.
- Civil society must stimulate **the formation of a large and inclusive front in the struggle for democracy**, a political mechanism to redirect the strategy of promoting the transition from now on, with a human rights perspective.
- Human rights organizations should maintain their documentation work, safeguarding the security of their sources, and **generating mechanisms to continue publicly denouncing** without putting activists and defenders on the ground at risk.



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