

# Escenarios

Biweekly bulletin of strategic analysis addressed to the Venezuelan civil society



**NUMBER 21 • OCTOBER 29TH, 2024**

## WHAT'S NEW?

The government of Nicolás Maduro is preparing to be sworn in next January 10th, for an additional term of 6 years, despite not having been favored by the popular vote on J-28.

On 10.14.24, it was announced [that Nicolás Maduro had ratified](#) Vladimir Padrino López as Minister of Defense, Domingo Hernández Lárez as Strategic Operational Commander of the National Bolivarian Armed Forces (FANB) and Elio Estrada Paredes as General Commander of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB). Likewise, the appointment of Johan Hernández Lárez as General Commander of the Army; Ashraf Abdel Hadi Suleiman Gutiérrez as Chief of the Navy and Lenín Ramírez as Commander of the Military Aviation was also announced. On the other hand, the [nominating committee for the renewal of the Citizen Power](#) published, on 10.15.24, the calls for the selection of the Attorney General of the Republic, Comptroller General and Ombudsman. According to this, the process would have four phases: call, evaluation of credentials, challenges and list of eligible candidates. On 10.27.24 the [list of nominees](#) was published, highlighting that Tarek William Saab and Alfredo Ruiz had been nominated for reelection to the positions of Attorney General and Ombudsman. Finally, on 10.17.24 the [National Assembly dismissed](#) CNE Rector Juan Carlos Delpino, replacing him with Conrado Perez. With this change, the National Electoral Center (CNE), is formed by Elvis Amoroso (president), Carlos Quintero (vice-president), Rosalba Gil (main rector), Conrado Pérez (main rector) and Aimé Nogal (main rector).

After being replaced by Alex Saab, in the direction of the Industry and National Production portfolio, [Pedro Tellechea published a communiqué](#) in which he stated that he had left his position due to health reasons. However, days later, on 10.20.24, he [was arrested after being accused](#) of “handing over the automated control and command system of *Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA)* to the intelligence services of the United States”. The statement of the [Public Prosecutor's Office](#) assured that “his most immediate collaborators” had also been arrested, without detailing the names of those apprehended. It would seem that this arrest is part of the internal rearrangements of the ruling party in view of 6 more years of government.

## THE POSSIBILITY OF RESOLVING THE CONFLICT THROUGH POLITICAL MECHANISMS IS MAINTAINED?

[Jorge Rodríguez](#) commented on the communication that the National Assembly had sent to Nicolás Maduro for his swearing in as president-elect on January 10th. [Maduro reacted](#) by declaring “I will formally attend the fulfillment of the constitutional oath”. Edmundo Gonzalez [ruled out the possibility](#) of being sworn in exile. On the other hand, [Rodríguez himself announced](#) that the electoral laws would be reformed by December 15th. If the proposed reform to the Organic Law of Electoral Processes increases the obstacles to participation, the democratic alternative would have to decide on its eventual participation in the next regional elections, in a context of the greatest known restriction to the civic space.

In contrast, the Episcopal Conference [issued a communiqué](#), after its 45th Extraordinary Plenary Assembly, in which it ratified the demand for the publication, in detail” of the results of the July 28th elections, rejected the repression and requested the release of political prisoners.



On 10.14.24 [Enrique Marquez rejected](#) the decision of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) to declare inadmissible the appeal for review of the decision of the Electoral Chamber regarding the July 28th results. Marquez announced new legal actions, as well as the promotion of an Amnesty Law. The TSJ also declared inadmissible a similar appeal filed by [Antonio Ecarri](#).

After the report of his disappearance, on 10.25.24 it was disclosed that the body of [Edwin Santos](#), activist of Voluntad Popular, had been found lifeless. According to a VP communiqué, witnesses reported the arrest, while the government maintains that he died due to a car accident.

On 10.17.24 Diosdado Cabello, Minister of Interior and Justice, announced that the total number of foreigners detained in Venezuela reached 19 persons. [The European Union requested](#) that “full and unimpeded” consular access be allowed to the detained Europeans. In the period covered by this bulletin the new political prisoners are [Eduardo Labrador](#), Zulia regional deputy and Leidi Diana Angulo de Hernandez. As of 10.14.24 the [Penal Forum reported](#) 1,936 political prisoners. In the cases of Roland Carreño, Freddy Superlano and Ricardo Estevez, on 10.11.24, they [were charged](#) with the crimes of Terrorism, Treason and Association to commit a crime.

The diplomatic steps taken by Brazil and Colombia have not produced additional news. On 10.24.24 María Corina Machado [expressed before a plenary session](#) of the Colombian Senate: “To President Petro: It is time for definitions. Silence is no longer an option in the face of what is happening in Venezuela”. At the same time, at the summit of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, considered emerging economies), it was known that [Brazil vetoed Venezuela’s entry](#), due to the fact that the promise made by Miraflores’ officials to Lula to publish the results of the elections was not fulfilled. The Venezuelan government [qualified the action](#) as “aggression” and “hostile gesture”. The [Venezuelan prosecutor Saab](#) requested that Da Silva “be investigated” for allegedly lying about the accident that made it impossible for him to travel to the meeting. If with this gesture Brazil is modifying its diplomatic action on Venezuela, it is too early to know the results. One hypothesis is that Miraflores may try to recompose its relations with its regional allies after the swearing in on January 10th, 2025. After the Brics Summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin affirmed that Maduro had “[cleanly won](#)” the elections.

On 10.24.24 it was announced that María Corina Machado and Edmundo González Urrutia had been awarded the [Sakharov Prize 2024](#) for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament. [15 UN Special Rapporteurs](#) published a joint communication of allegations on human rights violations in Venezuela in the electoral context.

## WHAT CAN CIVIL SOCIETY DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RE-DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE COUNTRY?

- **Seek the unity of the opposition:** It is essential for civil society to pressure opposition political actors to overcome their differences and unite in a common front to confront the Maduro regime. Their fragmentation only benefits the regime and weakens the chances of a democratic transition
- **Prepare for a new repressive spike:** It is foreseeable that the Maduro regime will intensify repression to silence dissident voices after his swearing-in. Civil society must be prepared to rigorously document any human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, torture, forced disappearances and assassinations.
- **Strengthen internal organization:** In the face of an adverse scenario, it is essential that civil society organizations strengthen their security mechanisms, internal communication and protection of their members. Security protocols for protests, strategies for the protection of sensitive information and contingency plans to respond to repression should be implemented.



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