

Escenarios

Biweekly bulletin of strategic analysis addressed to the Venezuelan civil society



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WHAT'S NEW?

From a human rights perspective, one of the relevant events was the [declaration of “inadmissible”](#) of the appeal for annulment filed by constitutional lawyer María Alejandra Díaz Marin, on behalf of the Popular Democratic Front (FDP). The initiative had [filed a constitutional appeal](#) “*due to the abstention, omission or lack*” in which the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), had incurred by not having published the detailed results after the J-28 elections. In addition, sentence 0603 temporarily suspends Díaz Marin from her professional practice and obliges her to pay a fine “*equivalent to 100 times the amount of the highest daily rate published by the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV)*”, which in this case is the Euro, approximately 5,000 Euros.

Díaz Marin, who is a well-known revolutionary activist and has been a spokesperson for the so-called “*dissident Chavismo*”, [described the decision](#) as “an abuse. It is an overreach and a clear warning to the free exercise of politics”. For its part, the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), expressed [in a communiqué](#): “*We reject the criminalization and judicialization of the struggles of our people in the political, economic, social and cultural fields*”. The decision of the TSJ becomes a worrisome jurisprudence, which will inhibit the legal petitions of lawyers of victims of human rights violations to the system of administration of justice.

According to the [analysis](#) of the NGO Acceso a la Justicia, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice has closed the judicial possibilities of challenging the J-28 results, after sentences [211](#) and [212](#) declared inadmissible the review appeals filed by former presidential candidates Enrique Marquez and Antonio Ecarri.

[Diosdado Cabello warned](#) opponents that if they do not recognize the triumph of Nicolas Maduro in the presidential elections, they will not be able to run as candidates for the next regional elections: “*Whoever does not get on that train will be left without a ticket*”. Regarding the murder of Edwin Santos, [Cabello assured](#) that the human rights organizations, among which he named Provea, which had affirmed that he had been arrested, must present the witnesses. “*There will be justice so that there will be peace*”, threatened the current Minister of Interior and Justice. For his part, [Maduro proposed to separate](#) elections for mayors, governors and Parliament in 2025. He stated that municipal elections should be held first, then the regional ones and finally the parliamentary ones.

On 10.31.24 the [National Assembly ratified](#) as Attorney General and Ombudsman Tarek William Saab and Alfredo Ruiz, appointing Gustavo Vizcaino as Comptroller General of the Republic. [The Human Rights Initiative of Venezuela in Movement qualified](#) these decisions as a “bad signal” both for the victims and for the whole society.

As part of the propaganda and legitimization campaign, the government initiated on 11.04.24 the “[Anti-Fascist World Parliamentary Forum](#)” in Caracas. The parent company of the Movistar operator in Venezuela, Telefónica, [will have to pay 85.2 million dollars](#) to the US Department of Justice to settle an investigation in which it was determined that 10 years ago, in 2014, the company bribed Venezuelan government officials in order to obtain preferential dollars. [The bribes included](#) luxury travel and watches.



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

The authorities are preparing to govern, without legitimacy of origin, for six more years. [The National Assembly approved in second discussion](#) the reform of the Organic Law of Communes, which stipulates the removal of communal spokespersons if they incur in “*fascist and neo-fascist behaviors*”. Diosdado Cabello, who represents the hard wing of the ruling party, has gained influence after the electoral defeat of Nicolás Maduro and his campaign chief, Jorge Rodríguez.

Diplomatic tensions with Colombia and Brazil, traditional allies of the ruling party, continue. As a sign of the current lack of communication between the Palace of Nariño and the Palace of Miraflores, President Petro made public a missive, [through the social network X](#), in which he asked Nicolás Maduro to reconsider the sale of the company Monomeros: “*The privatization of the company (...) will imply the increase in the price of agricultural primary products in our countries (...) this decision could condemn to poverty and hunger millions of people who represent the basis of food sovereignty in our region*”. This opinion is made in the midst of growing tensions in the diplomacy between both countries.

In the context of Venezuela’s participation in the COP16, the most important world event on biodiversity, Foreign Minister Yvan Gil [responded to the Colombian government’s position](#): “*the only one who can recognize the elections is the people of Venezuela*”, pointing out that the demand for the publication of results is “water under the bridge”. Gil subsequently [qualified the statements](#) of his Colombian counterpart as an “*attack from behind*” and, subsequently, of practicing “*microphone diplomacy*”.

In the case of Brazil, statements made on 11.10.24 seem to suggest that [Lula da Silva wants to de-escalate](#) frictions between the two countries. In an interview he stated “*We have to be very careful when dealing with other countries and other presidents. I believe that Maduro is a Venezuelan problem, he is not a Brazilian problem (...) I cannot continue worrying. One day fighting with Nicaragua, another with Venezuela, another fighting with I don’t know who*”. [Maduro had pointed](#) out that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry was working for the United States. A similar accusation was made, [in a communiqué](#), by Jorge Rodríguez. On 10.30.24, the Venezuelan government [recalled for consultations](#), its ambassador Manuel Vadell to Brazil. On 11.02.24, in a communiqué, the Venezuelan government [asked Brazil](#) to “desist from interfering in matters that only concern Venezuelans”.

Edmundo Gonzalez met with [Giorgia Meloni](#), Prime Minister of Italy; and the Vatican Cardinal of State [Pietro Parolin](#). In media statements he ratified his intention to return to Venezuela and be sworn in as President on January 10th, 25. The Public Prosecutor’s Office [ratified](#) Interpol’s red alert request against Gonzalez Urrutia. [Asdrubal Santana](#), detained on 09.18.24, died in police custody. Among the new arrests for political reasons were [Miguel Granados](#), militant of Vente Venezuela and [Marcos Castillo](#), lawyer and member of Comando ConVenezuela of Apure state. Vente Venezuela [denounced the raid](#) of its headquarters in Apure state.

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

- **Prepare for a new repressive spike:** It is foreseeable that the Maduro regime will intensify repression to silence dissenting 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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