



# S.O.S FOR VENEZUELA

By AVENDED: Association of Venezuelans in Defense of Democracy

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Photos from various sources at the Internet

# Background: The coups of 1992

- **Chávez lead two military coups in 1992**
  - Against president Carlos Andrés Pérez
  - Hundreds were killed
  - In February 1992 Chávez surrendered on TV
    - These declarations gained him sympathy among Venezuelans tired of the corruption of traditional politicians
  - From Jail he planned and lead another coup in November 1992
  - He and his allies were sent to prison
- **In March 1994 Chávez was reprieved by President Caldera**
  - During his captivity he planned a campaign to run as candidate for presidential elections

Cruel irony: Jesse Chacon, one of the rebels responsible for the killings at Venezuela's National TV Station, during the coup of November 1992, is now Minister of Communications and Information



Rebel soldiers during February 1992 coup



Chávez surrendered in February 1992



# Background: At the top of popularity

- **Once free, Chávez ran for presidential elections**
  - He won the support of a large number of Venezuelan electors by offering:
    - To eliminate the corruption
    - A fair distribution of wealth
    - To rescue the traditional values and nationalism under the figure of Venezuela Liberator, Simón Bolívar
- **During his first two years as president**
  - He used his high popularity to call for (and win) several electoral processes to obtain:
    - A new constitution with:
      - Concentration of power on the president
      - Increased presidential period, from 5 to 6 years, allowing immediate re-election (old constitution required at least one stand-by period)
    - A new National Assembly to substitute the Congress, where he did not have majority
    - A 2-year bonus by “confirming” his power in presidential elections under the new constitution. With this he was aiming for a total of 14 years in power.



Simón Bolívar,  
Venezuelan Liberator

# Background: The Deception

- **He did not deliver what he promised**
  - More than 45% of private companies existing in 1998 went out of business
  - 25% of unemployment (+2.5 MM unemployed) and 60% in informal business. Only 15% of the population have formal jobs!
- **Concentration on the “Revolution”**
  - Ideological education at state elementary schools
  - State resources used for propaganda and ideological programs
  - He showed his authoritarian character
    - Zero tolerance for dissents. In his own words “ Who is not with me, is against me!”. Repression of peaceful demonstrations
    - Campaign against capitalism, and support to dictators and terrorists
    - Political purge in PDVSA (State Oil Company), Army, Supreme Court. Only unconditional allies would be considered for key positions.



Chávez and Hussein



Chávez and close friend Castro



Center of ideological formation for Venezuelans in Cuba (compare with the actual Venezuelan flag)

# Venezuelan people in search of a Democratic and Peaceful Solution

- **It is in the constitution:**

- Article 72: Venezuelans have the right to request a referendum to revoke the mandate of any civil employee in exercise of a position of popular election, once half of the period has passed
  - In the case of the president of the Republic, this date was reached on August 20, 2003.

- **Government strategies to prevent the referendum:**

- Demanded the need for a whole new National Electoral Council (CNE) board of directors.
- After several months of failed negotiations in the Assembly the decision was made at the Supreme Court, (dominated by Chávez). The result was a five-member board with three unconditional supporters of Chávez.
- The CNE defined very strict rules and norms to govern this process

- **The opposition followed the rules carefully and collected the signatures (Nov. 28 - Dec. 01, 2003)**

- With the presence of international observer from OAS and Carter Center. 2.4 MM signatures were required to call the referendum; 3.45MM were delivered.



Soldiers witnessed the process



Signatures were collected in an orderly and organized process which was witnessed and praised by international organizations

# A road full of tricks and pitfalls

- **The National Electoral Council (CNE) has rejected more than 1 MM signatures**
  - More than 800,000 signatures have been put aside “in revision” because of similarity in the handwriting of the signee data
    - This criteria was NOT mentioned in the official rules,
    - In order to assure neatness of the forms, many volunteers filled the forms with details of individuals who later reviewed, signed and placed fingerprints in the corresponding space.
  - The CNE is now producing new rules to artificially invalidate signatures
- **The people have been demonstrating in the streets**
  - Excessive repression
  - Violation of Human Rights
    - Killed demonstrators
    - Imprisoned with out a trial; Torture



In the CNE decisions against the norms are taken with the vote of the 3 member who support Chavez unconditionally



Millions have walked in tens of peaceful demonstrations, but the government always says they are a “small minority”

# Chávez' government violates Human Rights on a regular basis



Feb 27-2004 Elinor Montes: her only weapons were a flag and a whistle, brutally attacked under the smiling watch of the official in charge.



December 2002, Father Dorindo defends from an armed guard who tries to take away his flag from his hands. On February 27, 2004 he was arrested during a peaceful demonstration. He was beaten and threatened before the pressure of the church and friends got him free.



Wounds caused by military forces will not prevent brave Elinor from protesting for her rights



The government authorized the use of war weapons to repress peaceful demonstrations



In march 1st, 2004, José Manuel Vilas, one of the 18,000 employees fired unlawfully from the State Oil Company by the government, was murdered by the National Armed Forces, who used long-barrel weapons against completely unarmed residents and neighbors.

José Manuel Vilas was a victim of two FAL (self-loading rifle) shots that hit him on the back, causing him severe injuries in the spine and abdominal region.

The government is now trying to create evidence that supports that these injuries, which trespass his body completely, were caused by “marbles” shot from a home made weapon (!!!)





# Pedro Alejandro Martin, Caracas February 27, 2004



**Notice that Pedro Martin was not wounded when he surrounded to the soldiers. Seconds later he was shot with a shotgun at point-blank range. Then he was maintained prisoner without medical attention for several hours.**



# Chávez' government violates Human Rights on a regular basis

Anyone who disagrees with the regime's ideas is an enemy, and needs to be repressed or eliminated..



A Senior citizen with ideals, too dangerous for a authoritarian regime

**March 04, 2004.- Milos Alcalay, Venezuela's ambassador to the United Nations resigned in protest over the violations of Human Rights in Venezuela.**

**He said that the actions of the National Electoral Council, which has ordered the reconfirmation of more than 1 million disputed pro-referendum signatures, "rob Venezuelans of the right to affect change through the democratic process"...**





**Carlos Eduardo Izcaray Pinto, Master in Music, conductor, soloist of the Symphonic Band of Venezuela, was tortured, beaten in the head, the neck and the back; electricity was applied to his body, in the neck and other parts. The national guard threaten him to dead if he dared denounce these aggressions.**

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**These faces and names belong to real people. They are just a few examples of the victims of Chávez' regime. Thousands of Venezuelans have been threatened to lose their jobs or to be prosecuted if they reveal information against the government. They are the majority of the victims, the ones who are not captured in video or photography, but whose lives have been tragically changed for ever by Chávez's "Revolution" .**

# Victims, February 2004

## Political Prisoners

1. In Caracas: Luis Guillermo Perez Amoros\* and Pedro Vasquez\*, Juan Francisco Conde, Jorge Enrique Lopez, Adan Lozano Duarte, Alfredo Ramos, Macario Gonzalez, Cesar Bello, Ismely Torrenz de Pulido, Santiago Monteverde\*, Carlos Melo, Rodrigo Alegrett, Jose Ricardo Di Guida De Sola, Justo Mendoza, Felix Clavijo, John Segovia, Francisco Otazo, Pedro Sequera, Jesús López, Nelly Torres, Oscar Giménez, Orlando Duque, Freddy Pineda, Roger Padilla, José Dorante, Adelino García, José Gabriel Revilla, Eliécer Patiño, Jesús Campos Rauseau, Juan Carlos Asuaje, Marcos Julio Vivas, Humberto Agudo, Ángel Muñoz, Richard Alvarez, Luis Navas, Yalibeth Trejo, María Vargas, César Chacón, Miguel Plá, Ronald Rojas, Jesús Rodríguez, José Valenzuela, Tomás Lozada, José Manuel Mora, Alejandro Colmenares Ochoa [ID.13694427], Andres Ignacio Machado Nuñez [ID.12544155], Carlos Roberto Chacon Lanz [ID.16971602], Onofrio Anesse, Ricardo Sanabria, Maria Gabriela Ventosilla, Juan Cristobal Mendoza, Alejandro Helmeier Tinoco, Italo Ferrara (14 years old), Daniel Blanco, Esposito Miranda, Jose la Rosa Angola, Carlos Barrios Freites, Bautista Jose Torres, Jose Ramon Merlo, David Amundarain, Jose Rafael Peralta Medina, Heber Gustavo Prado, Angel Kemp Daviot, Leonardo Ronei, Wilmer Gonzalez [ID.10547982], Gonzalo Ayala Paez Pumar [ID.16007775], Gerardo Ayala Paez Pumar (15 years old), Domingo Bottome, Luis Alfredo Caceres, Richard Barros, Lorenzo Carrieri, Antonio Marquez Olmer, Orlando Batista Torres, Jorge Esposito Miranda, Asdrubal Rojas [ID.17019426], Angel Cacique, Andrés Ignacio Machado Nuñez [ID.12544155] and Oliver Marquez
2. In Vargas: Rosines Garcia [ID.12461797], Albimar Escalona [ID.6494690], Carmen Gonzalez [ID.13223517], Mauricio Ceballos [ID.15266318], Reinaldo Hernandez [ID.15544127], Edgar Acosta [ID.5577032], Wendy Gonzalez [ID.7993388], Nelson Estarada, Ayari Molina, Belsis Martinez, Otto Villalta, Eduardo Paiva, Ilson Carrero, Poco Gonzalez, Bruno Dales, Estela Romero, Marcos Vargas, Lisette Gutierrez, Miguel Gutierrez and Bruno Gallo
3. In Carabobo: Cesar Hernandez and Ronny Flores
4. In Lara: Maria Eugenia Vargas Betancourt [ID.5250642], Jesus Ramon Campos Rausseo [ID.2458032], Jose Gabriel Revilla [ID.11434591], Jesus Enrique Rodriguez Tortorella [ID.17506681], Jose Eliezer Valenzuela Partidas [ID.17814084], Orlando Duque Rivera [ID.8994158], Nelson, Fernando y Francisca De la Rosa, Jose Caravallo and Ysmely Josefina Torrens Pulido [ID.3969659]
5. In Nueva Esparta: Alexis Pereira [ID.4166449], Luis Perez [ID.17387465], Ramon Narvaes and William Lopez [ID.8380327] and Jose Da Silva
6. In Falcon: Crispulo Chavez, Isaac Zabala, Jorge Luis Ruiz, Wilfredo Prieto, Jaime González, Jesús Barón, Felipe Ramirez, Karelis Chirinos, Douglas Vargas, Edgar Rodriguez, Edgar Castro, Julio Graterol, Ronny Diaz, Renny Gonzalez, Leonardo Nelo, Alexis Sanchez, Abraham Moreno, David Mosquera and Cesar Reyes
7. In Tachira: Lenin Mora [ID.5667779], Antonio Noguera [ID.4095585], Armando Useche [ID.13147420], Elsy de Peña, William Forero, Wilfrido Tovar, Jacobo Supelano, Orlando Pantaleon, Saul Lozano, Jorge Hinojosa, Omar Guillen, Jose Neira Celis, David Rubio.
8. In Zulia: Linden Gonzalez [ID. 7842392], Lilia Ranger [ID.14018511], Romer Barrios [ID.4704267], Jorge Rote [ID.13209255], Daniny Beitia [ID.14090092], Willians Garcia [ID.5845291], Lexiss Hernandez [ID.11455935], Yovanny Milano [ID.13131345], Juan Garcia [ID.8446739] and Yovanny Gomez [ID.14659521].
9. In Bolivar: Percy Guzman.
10. In Guarico: Juvenal Mendoza, Jose Diaz, Jhonny Seguak
11. In Trujillo: Hermes Valera, Fernando Lama, Oswel Torres, Jose Rivas Damiani and Javier Milla
12. In Merida: Jesus Marcano, Tulio Febres, Ronald Molina and Jesus Vera
13. In Monagas: Oscar Garcia, Luis Rincones, Ronny Rincones, Oscar Gamboa, Enrique Narvaes, Yuber Espinoza and Luis Garcia

\* These two were taken yesterday morning to Fuerte Tiuna base in Caracas, after spending the night arrested in CORE 5 [El Paraiso] . It appears that they will be processed in a martial court, which contravenes constitutional rights for they are civilians.

## Assassinated or missing

1. Alberto Umatre (assassinated)
2. Juan Carlos Sojo (assassinated)
3. Jose Vilas (assassinated picture)
4. Omar Arturo Morales
5. Juan Jose Perez
6. Juan Ernesto Sanchez
7. Andres Bastidas Guedes
8. Jose Luis Rodriguez
9. Eduardo Jose Miranda
10. Julio Cesar Gomez
11. Rafael Tomas Pulido Marcano
12. Pedro Jose Sanchez Robles (assassinated)
13. Wilmer Jesus Alvarez (assassinated)
14. Yorby Suarez (assassinated)
15. Eva Carrizo (assassinated)

Many people have been intoxicated by tear gas whilst some others have been wounded by buckshot. The National Guard has been utilising live ammunition. It has to be borne in mind that the constitution explicitly prohibits the usage of tear gas and rubber bullets to control public demonstrations (Art. 68), let alone war firearms.

\*It seems that all the alleged weapons carried by these three were planted by the military and they have also fabricated forensic evidence, such as paraffin tests, in order to frame Luis Perez Guillermo Amoros, Santiago Monteverde and Pedro Vasquez. The strong psychological torture they have been subject to is evident and it is obvious that the judge in charge of the case -Deyanira Nieves- has specific instructions from the government on how to act.



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