

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY

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Electoral political monitoring bulletin carried out jointly by civil society organizations on issues related to democracy, human rights, political participation and electoral processes in Venezuela in 2020



ASOSABER
Asociación Civil Saber es Poder



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The third electoral political monitoring report "Unid@s Por La Democracia" (United for Democracy) compiles the most important publications and actions registered in August 2020, on the topic of the parliamentary elections scheduled for December 6. Several organizations continue to join this effort.



OBSERVATION VS. ACCOMPANIMENT

According to the Electoral Observation Network (ROAE), in electoral observation nonpartisan and impartial organizations implement a methodology to analyze the integrity of the elections and incorporate the analysis of the technical and political conditions of the entire process. Observers collect evidence to support the conclusions and suggestions they present in their public reports. In electoral accompaniment, organizations and personalities are invited by the National Electoral Council (CNE) and act as witnesses to the electoral process. Their assessments, remarks, or recommendations are exclusively handled by the electoral authority and require its authorization to go public.



THE REGIME VS. POLITICAL PARTIES

The regime, making unconstitutional use of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice (TSJ) and the CNE, continues to exhibit a pattern of persecution that undermines the political rights of Venezuelans. Today, we draw attention to the end of political pluralism through the formation of an ecosystem of parties created to suit the regime; an old tactic that strengthens in times of elections to create a perfect scenario for perpetuating in power. CEPAZ condemns and raises the alarm on the development of very serious irregularities in the 2020 parliamentary elections



THE IDEAL VS. THE POSSIBLE

The guarantees and electoral conditions in Venezuela: the reconstruction of the electoral path, were the reason for two virtual forums, organized by the Red Electoral Ciudadana (Cepaz, Voto Joven and the OGCD). The first one had to be suspended and both were held on October 2. Forum I: Eugenio Martínez, Current Situation; Jesús Castellanos, Pandemic and elections; Beatriz Borges (Cepaz), International Role in Non-Democratic Contexts. Forum II: Humberto Rojas, (ROAE), Observation; Juan Manuel Trak, Electoral Integrity; Luis Lander (OEV) Challenges of Observing in Venezuela, and Griselda Colina (OGCD), International Observation in the Venezuelan Context. Both moderated by Wanda Cedeño (Voto Joven).

The selection of a series of bamboos as a background image is not accidental. Bamboo is flexible and strong at the same time. "The bamboo is ready to triumph and on its way to the top it becomes powerful. If misfortune falls upon it and someone cuts it indiscriminately, this tree is reborn and reaches the top again; even after 'starting from scratch' "

Taken from Vanguardia.com



PROMOTING DIALOGUE TO CREATE IDEAS

Voto Joven started a campaign to reconnect Venezuelan citizens with dialogue as a tool for change. Through a series of videos and graphics, the youth organization seeks to assert the value of true understanding to promote the construction of ideas.

[Video](#)

THE ELECTORAL CHAMBER INTERVENES ONE MORE POLITICAL PARTY



After being idle for almost four months, the Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Tribunal reappeared and issued an administrative intervention against Movimiento Republicano, bringing to 10 the number of political parties who have seen their directive boards imposed by the Highest Court since 2012, including organizations from both the opposition and former allies of the ruling faction. According to Acceso a la Justicia, the ruling drafted by the president of the Electoral Chamber, magistrate Malaquías Gil, seems to be aimed at ensuring the participation of one more party in the upcoming parliamentary elections, rather than protecting the allegedly violated rights of the party's supporters. [See more here](#)



SECONDARY ELECTORAL BODIES

The CNE designs, organizes, and celebrates the electoral process, but it is the Secondary Electoral Bodies that allow the elections to take place. Carmen González, president of the NGO Asosaber, spoke about this in a virtual forum held on September 16. These bodies are the Regional, Municipal, and Parish Electoral Boards and the electoral personnel at the polling stations. The CNE chooses the members of these secondary bodies, and their boards assume, in each locality, the execution and monitoring of the electoral event. They work in the respective state, municipality, or parish. [See more here](#)

MODIFICATIONS TO THE ELECTORAL SCHEDULE



In its 50th bulletin, the Venezuelan Observatory on Electoral Processes (OEV) lists the modifications made by the CNE to the schedule of the 2020 parliamentary elections, emphasizing that the electoral body subsequently adjusted the date for activities that had already been completed ahead of the initial plan. The OEV newsletter notes the importance of having precise and timely information on the biosafety protocols that are going to be implemented during each of the 44 activities of the electoral schedule that involve big gatherings of people. [See more here](#)



THE UE VISITED CARACAS

A diplomatic mission of the European Union arrived in Caracas the third week of September to promote minimum democratic conditions before the parliamentary elections scheduled for December 6. The visit allowed the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, to meet with personalities from Venezuelan civil society, political parties, and the Catholic Church. Borrell said that "for now, the conditions are not met, but we still believe that there is a window of opportunity." According to the representative, preparing and sending an electoral observation mission takes a minimum of "five to six months".

GCI: THERE ARE NO CONDITIONS TO HOLD ELECTIONS

The International Contact Group (ICG) on Venezuela met on September 17 and concluded that "there are no conditions for a transparent, inclusive, free, and fair electoral process." The members of the group said there is no time to deploy an electoral observation mission to ensure the credibility of the elections. On September 21, The European Union Foreign Affairs Council supported the efforts of the International Contact Group to find a solution that allows the presence of an EU mission during the elections.

THE REPORT ON COVID-19 BY THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Academy of Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (Acifman) updated its projections on the progress of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country based on the number of cases officially reported each day, statistical adjustments, and an epidemiological model that incorporates the flow of people returning to the country. One of the key findings detected by news site Efecto Cocuyo is the estimate of 14 thousand cases a day by December, the month when parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place. [See the full report in Spanish here](#)

ELECTORAL TRANSPARENCY AT THE OAS



Leandro Querido, Executive Director at Transparencia Electoral (Electoral Transparency), participated in the follow-up meeting on Venezuela of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on behalf of the delegations of Colombia, Brazil, and the United States. He joined Marta Valiña, Francisco Cox, and Paul Seils, members of the UN Independent International Fact Finding Mission on Venezuela, and Eugenio Martínez, journalist and electoral expert in representation of Venezuelan electoral monitoring organizations. Mr. Querido considered that at least 12 conditions are needed for fair and free elections in the country, including the election of the CNE board of directors by the National Assembly; the restitution of the boards of the political parties placed under administrative intervention; the reversion of the ban to run for office, and the updating of the Electoral Registry to include Venezuelans living abroad. All these elements are necessary to comply with the standards established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Declaration for International Election Observation. [See more here](#)

THE GOVERNMENT INVITED THE EU AND THE UN

On September 2, the Venezuelan Government reiterated its invitation to the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) to participate as observers in the legislative elections scheduled for December 6. In a letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, the Venezuelan Government offered "broad electoral guarantees for the upcoming parliamentary elections..."

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Venezuela, October 2020

THE UN FACT-FINDING MISSION REPORTED SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In mid-September, the world was surprised by the news: the [United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission](#) on Venezuela reported that both the government and state agents have committed flagrant human rights violations in the country. The report of the group of experts indicates that President Maduro and the ministers of the Interior and Defense were aware of the crimes. 223 cases were investigated for the report. The study identifies "highly coordinated patterns of violations and crimes that respond to State policies" and adds that it is "part of a widespread and systematic course of conduct, thus amounting to crimes against humanity."

[Read the report here](#)



ELECTORAL NEWS IN THE MEDIA

GUACHIMÁN ELECTORAL

THE GHOST OF 2005 COMES TO LIVE IN 2020



The Secretary-General of political party Acción Democrática denounced that

"the parliamentary elections have become a treacherous and fraudulent process." Additionally, the head of Copei asked to suspend the elections to reestablish a trust mechanism and open spaces for discussion. These statements date back to 15 years ago, but the current situation is very similar. Today, there are two abstention scenarios. In the first of them, most opposition parties continue to call not to vote, allowing the ruling party to obtain a qualified majority, as happened in 2005. In the second case, most opposition parties participate in the elections and significantly limit the electoral gain of the ruling party. [You can read the full analysis in Spanish at](#)

CRÓNICA.UNO

THE OPACITY OF THE AUTOMATED SYSTEM

CRÓNICA·UNO

With less than three months left before the parliamentary elections, the CNE has not offered information on the new voting machines. The CNE has said that it will have "advanced technology", but the information is not advancing. We only know there will be no ballot paper, the audits will be carried out remotely, and the 20,000 electoral machines have not arrived yet due to the blockade. Even less is known about the electoral software. [You can read the full article in Spanish here:](#)

EFFECTO COCUYO

RUSHED ELECTORAL GUARANTEES



Some people demand the postponement of the parliamentary elections. Others believe that suspending them is a violation of the Constitution. Meanwhile, the electoral guarantees that would ensure transparent elections are not being met, even though the Government offers them to try to garner international support. [Efecto Cocuyo lets you find out which guarantees are still missing.](#)

TAL CUAL

OFFICIAL ENTAXISM TAKES HOLD

TalCualDigital.com

Expert organizations in electoral matters, and even two of the substitute directors of the CNE, warn that, although the campaign will last 15 days, Maduro's management makes his activity a permanent campaign, so there is no equity. The government's advantage is gaining ground under the eyes of the CNE, which has not yet approved the regulations. Between November 19 and December 3, the candidates will be in the official campaign, but in party events, the PSUV is already playing ahead. The complete article in [#GuachimanElectoral](#) in Tal Cual Digital.