



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / November 12th 2021



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Audits shield Venezuelan electoral system

Venezuela's electoral system is one of the most audited in the world. Data, software, equipment and technological infrastructure are reviewed on each election day; and the voting on November 21 is no exception. The Venezuelan people, as well as political forces, observers and companions have the possibility of observing, in 16 meticulous audits, the entire electoral infrastructure.

With a little over a week to go before the regional and municipal elections, the National Electoral Council (CNE) has already held 15 sessions to audit the production of voting machines. On Tuesday, November 9, members of the European Union Observer Mission participated in a verification work day in the logistics and operational spaces of the CNE in the Capital District, where they learned about various aspects of the automated system. The schedule is progressing according to plan. The Electoral Registry, the voter data, the voting

notebooks and the software for the totalization of the results have already been reviewed. The telecommunications infrastructure and the total data cleaning of the National Totalization Centre have yet to be audited before the voting day. All these processes are streamed on the CNETV channel.

Citizens Verification

On the day of the elections after the closing of the voting centres, half of the polling stations are audited. The process is carried out by the members of the polling station, who were selected from the electoral roll, and can be witnessed by the voters, with no limitation other than physical space. During that process the number of ballots (printed proof of the electronic vote that each voter receives and verifies before placing it in the ballot box) is certified and validated making sure that it matches with the number stated in the minute sheet issued

Of interest

On November 9 at the headquarters of the Electoral Power, CNE authorities held the first meeting with the Panel of Experts of the United Nations that will accompany the elections on November 21. This delegation, made up of 7 experts and advisers, will meet with various political sectors and electoral authorities in the coming days.

by the voting machine.

"No political interest interferes in this selection. Additionally, each political party has the right to have a representative present, what we call a witness," explained the president of the CNE, Pedro Calzadilla.

He also highlighted that the Electoral Power monitors the campaign, which began on October 28 and ends on November 18, in which more than 70,000 candidates participate, who are contending for 3,082 positions: 23 for governors, 335 for mayors, 253 regional legislators and 2,471 councillors.

PHOTO: COURTESY

70% of the population is protected against Covid-19

Venezuela has reached 70% of the population protected against Covid-19, and on November 8 the vaccination plan started for children over 2 years of age, prioritizing those with special health conditions. "We are creating the optimal conditions to have a happy end of the year and Christmas," said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, who recalled that the goal is to reach 80% of vaccinated

Venezuelans by the end of November and 90% at the end of December.

In order to achieve this goal, Cuba sent 1.6 million doses of the Abdala vaccine to our country, which has 92.28% protection against the respiratory virus, one of the highest percentages of the antigens that have been created in the world.

PHOTO: COURTESY



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DIPLOMACY

Venezuela and Russia reaffirm cooperation for multilateralism and the end of the blockade

The Foreign Ministers of Venezuela, Félix Plasencia, and Russia, Sergey Lavrov, agreed to deepen strategic cooperation in multilateral spaces, to strengthen the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations and the fight against Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM).

Venezuela is "Russia's best partner in Latin America and the Caribbean, in all aspects," Plasencia said after meeting with his counterpart in Moscow, where the next meeting of Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations will be held. In addition, work is being carried out in a front of countries in rejection of the UCM.

Venezuela is the target of these illegal measures, however, it has the support of countries such as Russia. The Eurasian nation continues to bet on the strategic partnership with our country, in areas such as health, especially in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic; transportation, oil, among others.

"We have demonstrated that our relations are

based on mutual trust and benefits," said Lavrov, who confirmed the sending of observers for the November 21st regional and municipal elections. Both ministers rejected the interference plans of the United States (U.S.) against Nicaragua, after the victory of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the elections of November 7th.

For peace

Minister Félix Plasencia reiterated that the kidnapping and illegal process against Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab by the U.S. was "once again a violation of international law."

The Foreign Minister also rejected the intention of the Government of Iván Duque to interfere with the creation of a bi-national commission, proposed by the Colombian Congress and accepted by the Venezuelan National Assembly, in order to reestablish relations between both countries.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the planet

The Minister for Ecosocialism, Josué Lorca, reaffirmed Venezuela's commitment against global warming. It is a "decisive stage for multilateralism and a period of testing the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement to reach the collective goal of stabilizing global temperature, we cannot fail," he stated.

At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, he emphasized that the country faces this challenge from the perspective of ecosocialism.

He denounced the impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM): "They are contrary to the basic fundamentals of international and environmental law and restrict the right to sustainable development."

He said that Venezuela is facing climate change with actions in the areas of legislation, planning, environmental protection and energy development. He also updated the National Determined Contribution, a set of commitments of the country to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

CAPSULES OF IDEAS

"Definitely true justice is not mounted on hatred, but on the vindication of memory and the rescue of love (...) and that concept is what distinguishes us from them: the appreciation that human dignity deserves."

José Vicente Rangel, tribute to Jorge Rodríguez Snr, 31st of July, 2002

NEWS BRIEF



Jubilation for Nicaragua

Venezuela congratulated the people of Nicaragua on the elections of November 7th, when Daniel Ortega was re-elected as President. "We are united in Bolívar and Sandino and we will always win, period!" said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, who warned about the intervention of the United States against the Central American country. For its part, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP) stressed that Nicaraguans gave "a new lesson in democracy and civility."

PHOTO: COURTESY

First Venezuela-Peru Consular Round

In the first Venezuela-Peru Consular Round, both countries evaluated mechanisms to improve comprehensive care for their migrants, the protection of children and adolescents and the promotion of programs such as the Back to the Homeland Plan. They are efforts "to guarantee each of our compatriots a better situation," said Deputy Minister for Latin America Rander Peña.

Expo Dubai in honour of Venezuela

This November 7, the National Day of Venezuela was held at Expo 2020 Dubai, an opportunity to showcase the megadiversity of our country, which has tepuyes, plains, beaches, jungle and snowy mountains, among other attractions; and promote our culture, patent in the work "Chromatic Modules 2020-2021", by the artist Juvenal Ravelo, exponent of kinetic art together with other masters such as Carlos Cruz Diez.

Agricultural potential displayed in China

Venezuela displays its potential in the cultivation of cocoa, coffee and fruits at the World Agricultural Exhibition in Guangzhou, China, an event that gathers together more than 20 countries to promote exchange on production methods and use of agricultural technology. In addition, it stimulates the establishment of links for the construction of food supply chains.



UNBLOCK



Unilateral Coercive Measures: obstacle to the development of Venezuela

The effects of the imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) on the Venezuelan economy by the northern hegemony are undeniable, whether it is measured in macroeconomic terms or in its impact on the pockets of millions of Venezuelans.

The economic and financial blockade derived from the practice of these extortion measures has reduced the country's foreign exchange income by 99% in six years and caused a 2/3 decrease in oil production, generating losses of 102,000 million dollars to the state-owned PDVSA, only due to the drop in production.

In this context, the human right to development, as the right of the peoples, is affected when, through the application of UCM and by interference and imperialist practices, sovereignty over their wealth and natural resources is attacked.

The human right to development can be asserted by invoking the principle of self-determination, sovereignty over our wealth, multilateralism and the right to live in peace. These are pillars of the political, economic and social model implemented in the last 20 years in Venezuela; and it is precisely to attack those rights as the reason for the blockade.

Keys:

Since December 2014, the United States has applied legislative and administrative measures against Venezuela. PDVSA, the Central Bank, the Venezuelan cryptocurrency Petro and the Local Supply and Production Committees. These are just some of the entities to which coercive measures have been applied.

PHOTO: COURTESY

REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



Venezuela defends and promotes reading as a liberating act

Every year, there is an appointment at the International Book Fair of Venezuela (Filven), which democratizes access to editorial products and makes communities, promoters, publishers and writers visible as protagonists of reading.

"Men and women are able to wake up thanks to conscience (...) and it is acquired through reading, fundamentally," Commander Hugo Chávez affirmed, a passionate reader and great promoter of Filven.

In the 17th edition of Filven, held from November 4 to 14 with the slogan "Read Independence", there are more than 800 activities, both in the historic Federal Legislative Palace, the seat of Parliament in the center of Caracas, and online platforms; it brings together more than 500 publishers and presents 100 books, a reflection of the efforts of the publishing sector in the midst of the economic blockade.

"The Venezuela that resists the blockade is publishing books," said President Nicolás Maduro at the inauguration of the event, which has Vietnam as the guest of honor and pays tribute to José Vicente Rangel, a reference in our political life, and

More culture

President Nicolás Maduro presented the 2020 Rómulo Gallegos International Novel Prize to Argentina's Perla Suez, for her book "The devil's country"; the Mariano Picón Salas International Essay Prize to the Venezuelan Miguel Guevara, for his book "It's a selfie World", and the Carlos Noguera International Novel Prize to the Colombian Carlos Gómez Gómez, for "Francisco Martín, the Castilian cannibal in the conquest of Guata."

The fair also coincided with the closing of the XV World Poetry Festival, with 107 national and international poets, and the face-to-face chapter of the IV South Biennial, which brings together 125 national and international artists.

Vladimir Acosta, philosopher and historian.

The head of state stressed that the Bolivarian Revolution understands culture "as a human right."

PHOTO: COURTESY

VENEZUELA IN IMAGES



A colossal bridge crosses Venezuela's major river

The Orinoquia bridge, the second one to cross the Orinoco river, after the Angostura bridge, expanded mobilization facilities through the Bolívar state at the South of the country and to connect with the Brazilian frontier. The cable stayed structure which is 3.156 meters long, 120

meters high, with 4 vehicle lanes and one for trains, was inaugurated on November 13, 2006, by Commander Hugo Chávez, along with Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, also as a symbol of regional integration.

PHOTO: COURTESY



HEROIC ROOTS



Final blow to the Spanish empire in Venezuela

Although the heroic Battle of Carabobo, fought by the Patriotic Army on June 24th, 1821, sealed the independence of Venezuela from the Spanish yoke, this combat did not end up expelling all the royalist forces from our territory. After the sudden defeat of the Spanish army in Carabobo and then, on July 24th, 1823, in the Naval Battle of Maracaibo Lake, the royalists entrenched themselves in the garrison of the San Felipe Castle in Puerto Cabello, in the north-central part of the country, a strategic square located in front of the sea that became the last monarchical stronghold in liberated lands.

Days before, General José Antonio Páez, sent by the Liberator Simón Bolívar, besieged the garrison by land and sea and tried to make it surrender, with capitulations, the royalist commanders Manuel Carrera de Colina and Sebastián de la Calzada, who were cornered with 2,000 soldiers, with no chance of success. After several attempts at dialogue, the assault - led by Páez, José Francisco Bermúdez and Santiago Mariño - began during the early morning hours of November 8th, 1823, when 500 patriots (400 riflemen and 100 spearmen) secretly infiltrated the mangroves of the fort and took the Spaniards by surprise. Only one hour was enough for the royalists to surrender: at six in the morning of the same day, De la Calzada surrendered, and on November 10th Colina did. This 2021, the Venezuelan people commemorate 198 years of the Taking of Puerto Cabello and claim it as the necessary final blow to the Spanish empire, which plundered and trampled our homeland for centuries, which today remains firm in its ideals of freedom and defends its sovereignty and independence from any imperialist claim.

IMAGE: COURTESY

BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE



99 Venezuelans are reunited with their homeland

"My experience in Ecuador at the beginning was quite strong, then it improved, but finally, with the situation so difficult, I had to return, I did not have a job and it is very difficult to survive like this," said Liliber Olivera, mother of two children, who returned on November 6th along with 98 other Venezuelans in the most recent flight of the Back to the Homeland Plan (Plan Vuelta a la Patria).

This is the second trip of this social program that departs from Ecuador to our country in less than 15 days. On October 30th, another 94 Venezuelans arrived, that had migrated in search of a better quality of life, after the impact of the economic blockade imposed by the United States and its European allies.

Outside their country, many Venezuelans have been victims of persecution, mistreatment and xenophobia, reasons for which at the beginning of October the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, ordered the reinforcement of Back to the

Homeland, a program devised by the leader to facilitate the voluntary return of nationals.

"We were victims of fraud, scams, but we come strengthened and believing that in our country we will be able to move forward and make it immensely great," said Yuliana Peña, another Venezuelan who returned from Ecuador.

Since 2018, when it was created, the Back to the Homeland Plan has made 154 flights and one transfer by sea, to allow 26,947 people to reconnect with the receptivity and kindness of their brothers and sisters, which puts an end to the xenophobia promoted by small groups allies of the international right.

Venezuela "has leadership in cooperation, solidarity and development in our region; it is a land of opportunities for our people and millions of immigrants," said Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia.

PHOTO: COURTESY

UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

Venezuela and the ICC: Concealment as a Media Weapon

If something characterizes the Venezuelan State, it is its willingness to dialogue with all national and international bodies, including the International Criminal Court (ICC). Recently, the prosecutor of this body, Karim Khan, visited our country, after accepting an invitation from the Attorney General's Office.

After several meetings with the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, they signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly advance the investigations of the "Venezuela I" file, which addresses alleged excesses during the violent demonstrations of 2017.

However, the major international media took it upon themselves to portray it as a "defeat" and ignored

the permanent willingness of the Government to collaborate with the ICC. The Attorney General of the Republic, Tarek William Saab, reported that more than 3,000 pages of information collected by prosecutors since 2017 have been sent in order to process any violation of human rights.

These same media that hide this reality also obviated the silence of the former ICC chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, during the preliminary examination of the "Venezuela I" file, which violated the principle of reciprocity. Likewise, the corporations avoid spreading that the file "Venezuela II" rests in the ICC, which denounces the criminal nature of the United States Unilateral Coercive Measures.