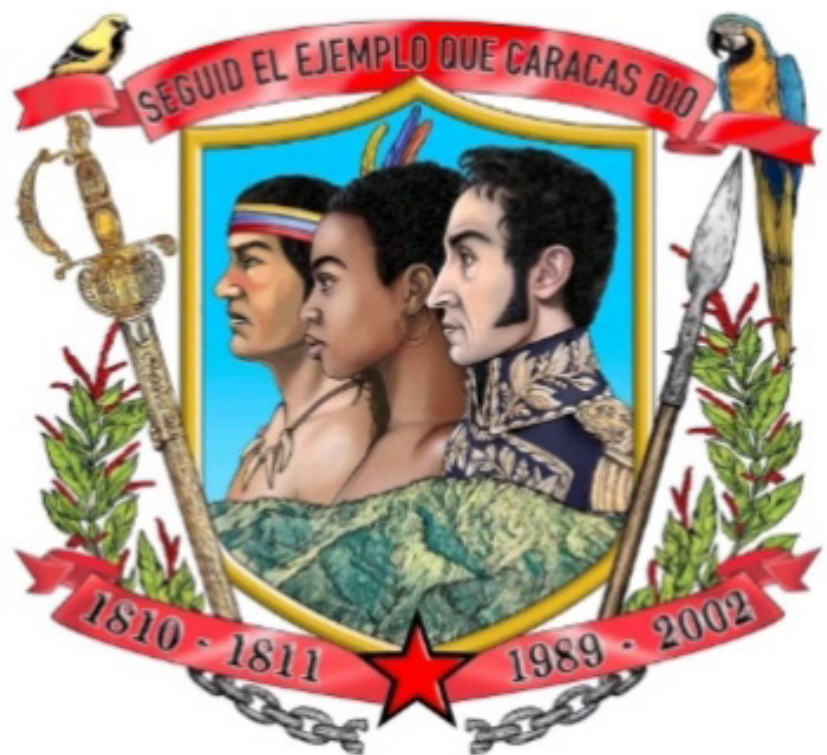
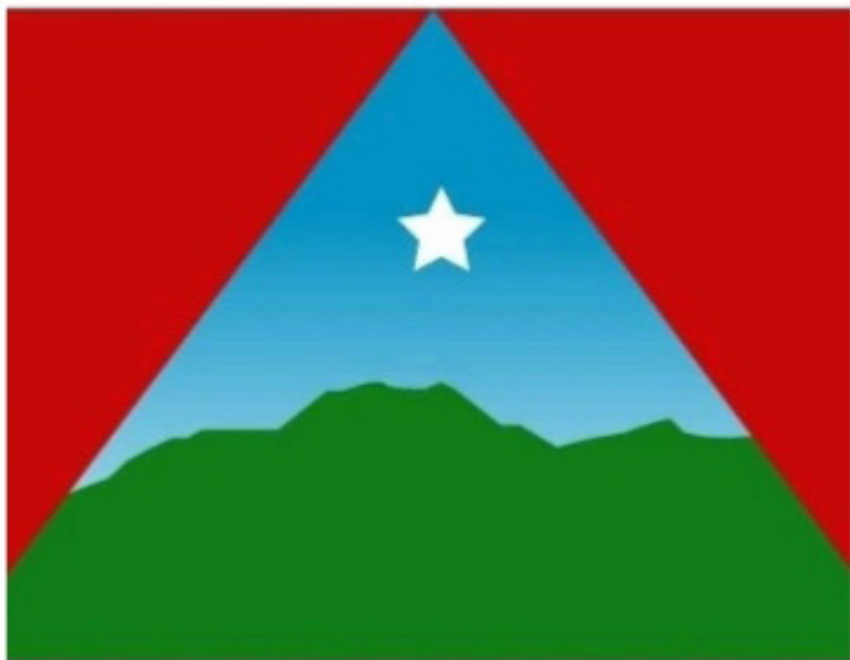




Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs  
Weekly Newsletter / April 22th 2022



## TOPIC OF THE WEEK

# New symbols of Caracas represent the resistance of our heroic people

Starting this week, Caracas has new symbols, after a process of discussion and participation of various sectors for the construction of an identity faithful to the history of the Venezuelan capital, the epicenter of impact processes in America.

By a contest, where popular culturists and artists participated, the new coat of arms of the city was chosen, it was designed by the artist Omar Cruz; the new flag, was drawn by María Jiménez and Víctor Rodríguez, and the new anthem, was made with lyrics by Noel Márquez and music by

Manuel Barrios.

In these pieces, elements of the identity of Caracas stand out, such as the Liberator, Simón Bolívar, son of this city; natural icons such as the Warairarepano park, and dates such as April 19, 1810, when the first step towards independence was taken in Venezuela. All these elements reaffirm the rebellious spirit of our people and break with the colonial narrative handled for centuries.

This change also pays off a debt assumed since 2013, when the discussion began to build

new symbols. Despite the attempts, finally last February a commission was formed with municipal authorities and historians, which in 54 days promoted this transformation.

The promulgation of the ordinance with the new symbols was made on April 18, in an act that celebrates and reaffirms "our independence, the re-birth of the city and the vindication of the spirit of rebellion of the people of Caracas," the mayor of the city, Carmen Meléndez affirmed.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Positive figures confirm economic growth in Venezuela

In the first quarter of 2022, there were 147 million dollars in exports made from Venezuela. The figure represents an increase of 181.17% compared to the same period in 2021, when 52 million dollars were reported for sales in international markets.

Between January and March, 1,249 million dollars in imports were also added, 84% more than in the first quarter of 2021, when 679 million dollars were recorded for that concept, the Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez, reported this week.

When presenting economic indicators of our country, she explained that tax collection was located at 5,458 million bolívares in the first three months of the year, a figure that contrasts with

the 1,203 million bolívares of the same period of the previous year. In addition, 28,000 new legal taxpayers were registered and an increase of 86% in new businesses.

"When the extremists called for the blockade and called for sanctions, the strength of the Venezuelan people was imposed," said Rodríguez, who also highlighted the high mobilization during the Easter holiday, two years after the pandemic.

In total, more than 8.9 million seasonal workers were mobilized compared to 7.6 million in 2019, an increase of 17%. Likewise, hotel occupancy reached 90% in several with tourist activity.

"All of Venezuela, together with the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, in national unity and



with that invincible spirit, continues to pave the way for a future of great hope," she added.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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## DIPLOMACY



### 273 Venezuelans return from Peru with Plan Vuelta a la Patria

A group of 273 Venezuelans returned to the country this week with the Plan Vuelta a la Patria, a voluntary repatriation program for citizens who emigrated due to the impact of the US blockade. Many moved under false expectations generated by a media campaign for political purposes. Once abroad, several of them were victims of discrimination and xenophobia.

"It didn't go as well as I expected," Jesús Losada stated, he arrived on the third flight that took off from Lima in 2022. Already in Venezuela, his goal is to join the productive development of the country: "I'm going to work, if we can do it outside and be productive, you can also do it in the country and with your family,

which is the most important thing."

Vuelta a la Patria is an "opportunity for those of us who do not have the possibility of returning safely to our country (...) It is nice to return with the family and resume new dreams with those we love," said Wendy Córdoba, another of the Venezuelans who returned.

Since August 2018, the Plan Vuelta a la Patria has brought 28,795 Venezuelans from 21 countries on 166 flights and one sea trip.

They "return to the country, to join a new phase of growth with their families," said Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Rejection of the vandalization of consular headquarters in Bogota

Venezuela denounces the systematic vandalization of its consular headquarters in Bogota, Colombia, a facility that suffered a fire as a result of the lack of vigilance and protection on the part of the receiving country, a responsibility that it must assume as established by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that, since 2019, this office "has been the object of illegal acts on a permanent basis," for which it demands from the Colombian government, led by Iván Duque, "due respect

and protection for the Venezuelan diplomatic and consular office in Colombia, where it is not operative, as some media outlets have simulated its abandonment."

Along these lines, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America- Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), "reiterates its condemnation of these events and calls for compliance with international law and international conventions that regulate diplomatic and consular relations," the statement says.

## CAPSULES OF IDEAS

*"Companions of songs and work  
Let's march down the path of union  
Let's raise our flags high  
Caracas, revolutionary force!"*

"Caracas will be victorious", anthem of the capital of Venezuela. April 2022

## NEWS BRIEF



### Youth, the key to the 2030 Agenda goals

At the Youth 2022 Forum of the UN Economic and Social Council, Venezuela calls for the lifting of sanctions affecting young people, a key sector for the goals of the 2030 Agenda. "We reaffirm our willingness (...) to promote young people as agents for excellence of social transformation," expressed the Minister for Youth and Sports, Mervin Maldonado.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Educational links with Guinea Bissau

The Minister of Foreign Relations, Félix Plasencia, held a meeting with the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Guinea Bissau, Timóteo Saba M'bunde. Both parties ratified the "interest to continue with the implementation of the international scholarship program for African students offered by Venezuela", expressed Plasencia.

### Venezuela condemns human rights deception

Venezuela categorically rejects the accusations made against in a report by the United States Department of State on Human Rights, which, without any credibility and rigor, insists on overshadowing the achievements of the Bolivarian Government in this matter, even under the most severe assaults, states a communiqué from the Foreign Ministry.

### 2.5 million Russian vaccines arrive in Venezuela

A total of 2.5 million Russian vaccines against measles, yellow fever and hepatitis arrived to the country from Nicaragua, as part of the Russia-Venezuela Agreement. The ties of solidarity between Caracas and Moscow have made it possible, in the midst of the blockade, to acquire millions of doses of the anti-COVID vaccines and shipments of insulin, among other vital supplies.





UNBLOCK



Academic alliances against the blockade

The Vice Minister of Anti-Blockade Policies and Director of the National Observatory of Unilateral Coercive Measures (Onamcu), William Castillo, discussed with representatives of the International University of Communications (Uicom), which operates in Caracas, and with the University of Holguín “Óscar Lucero Moya,” of Cuba, strategies that make it possible to publicize the serious impact of the so-bad called sanctions. In a meeting at the beginning of April, the professors of the University of Holguín learned how the 502 UCMs imposed by the United States and its allies reduced 99% of the foreign currency income to the Venezuelan State in 6 years. They also obtained details on the progress in the progressive economic recovery of Venezuela. Regarding Cuba, the professors considered that, although the blockade against their country dates back 60 years and has caused losses of more than U\$144,000 million, the attacks of the North American nation go back two centuries. “Now we must be more united than ever, the UCMs are not only against us, they are against all Latin American countries,” said Cuban professor Lidia María Romero Pupo. That same perspective is shared by William Castillo: the purpose is that “we can strengthen academic and research relationships (...) to face these policies together and defeat them.”

Anti-lockdown narrative

In another meeting, Castillo agreed with the rectors of Uicom, Tania Díaz and Fernando Buen Abad, to promote an anti-blockade narrative, which would destroy the media veil imposed by imperialism. To this end, Rector Díaz proposed that the detailed information on the observatory be study material for Uicom students.

PHOTO: COURTESY

REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



Popular innovation contributes to the health of Venezuelan new-borns

It is proven that the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) imposed by the United States directly affect the people of Venezuela, especially the most vulnerable, such as new-born children. Due to this blockade, the State is hindered in importing raw materials and medical supplies, such as the filters used by the incubators of our country's hospitals. Given this, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, together with organized People's Power, created the Cayapa Heroica Plan in 2018, aimed at rehabilitating machinery with the technical knowledge of Venezuelans, honouring the indigenous word that gives its name to the program: work cooperative. In the case of the incubators, the solution came from the hands of a worker from the National Centre for Development and Research in Telecommunications (Cendit), the governing institution of the Cayapa Heroica Plan. Ramona Alvarado made four different models of filters compatible with the 18

Of interest

For four years, Cayapa Heroica has rehabilitated more than 1,400 medical equipment from 70 hospitals in the country, including 422 incubators that serve 4,000 new-borns a year.

models of incubators in the country's hospitals. Thanks to this initiative, 12 machines from the Ana Teresa de Jesús Ponce Maternal and Children's Hospital in La Guaira, in the northern coastal area of our country, were reactivated. This is the result of “taking risks to do things, and doing them with love,” Alvarado said. The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Gabriela Jiménez, celebrated this initiative that safeguards the lives of thousands of Venezuelan children. “Extraordinary! Women of science in Venezuela do not stop in the face of adversity,” she said.

PHOTO: COURTESY



VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

Venezuela is home to the largest chocolate line of the world

Due to its flavor and texture, chocolate from Caripito, Monagas State, eastern Venezuela, is widely known. Now, its fame will cross borders since locals and members of the Nueva Tierra Foundation created the largest chocolate line

in the world, by joining together 4,289 bars, some 854 meters long. This feat granted our nation a new Guinness Record, the second in five months.

PHOTO: COURTESY





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## BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

### The tenacity of the Venezuelan arrives at the Venice Biennale

With artistic creations based on the human environment as a space for resistance and rebirth in the contemporary world, Venezuela will exhibit the proposal "Earth, Country, House, Body" at the 59th Venice Biennale, which will take place between April 23rd and November 27th.

The exhibition is made up of works by four artists. One is the painter Palmira Correa, a popular creator who, regardless of the disability of her hands and feet, built a theme marked by colour that combines history, religion, sports and women. She will thus demonstrate it with "La casa de Palmira."

Another testimony of outstanding talent over adversity is offered by the photographer Jorge Recio. With the exhibition "Events of April" he portrays events of the coup d'état perpetrated against Commander Hugo Chávez 20 years ago,

an event that marked him as a photographer: he was shot in the middle of the massacre that occurred on April 11th, 2002. Although he lost the 80% of his body's mobility, he continued to capture the world with his lens.

The proposal "Earth, Country, House, Body" also includes "Dyslexia," a Net Art work created by Mila Quast and César Vásquez, winner of the IV Biennial of the South, held in Venezuela last year.

The four artists hope to convey with their art their philosophy of life in the face of adversity, as they expressed in statements released by the Minister for Culture, Ernesto Villegas. The purpose, as Mila Quast said, is to raise awareness "about the dignity, resistance and resilience that the Venezuelan people have had."

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

### Letter to Biden fuels contradictions of the right in the face of the blockade

In seven years, the pro-blockade discourse in Venezuela has weakened in the face of the evident effects of this policy on the population, by fuelling differences and contradictions between sectors of the right. These divergences were fuelled by the recent letter sent to the president of the United States, Joe Biden, by actors linked to the economic area.

The signatories, mostly economists and businessmen who have opposed the policies of the Venezuelan government, acknowledge that the effects of these actions, conceived as a tool to overthrow President Nicolás Maduro, "did not achieve their objectives."

On the contrary, they add, the so-called sanctions had an impact on the living conditions of Venezuelans: 75% of the population rejects them and considers that they do not provide them with

any benefit. Faced with this scenario, they call on the opposition to avoid "being hostage to extremist voices that only perpetuate the painful status quo."

The letter, however, brought about discussions and differences between moderate and radical sectors, those who insist on maintaining measures that cost the country the seizure of 30,000 million dollars, the loss of 99% of foreign currency earnings and deep difficulties for the social care of Venezuelans.

These extremist voices not only activated the confrontation on social networks, with direct accusations against the signatories of the letter. They also took their radicalism to the White House itself, by sending a letter in which they ask to further exacerbate the blockade against Venezuela, which began a cycle of economic recovery in 2021 despite the action of external factors.

## HEROIC ROOTS



### 212 years ago the path to national freedom became irreversible

Within the libertarian history of Venezuela, April 19th, 1810 definitely marked the meaning of our country: for the first time, our people gave themselves an autonomous government with the Supreme Junta of Caracas, a key step for the events that led to the national independence and the liberation of South America.

That day the spirit of the Venezuelans was confirmed, by forcing in Caracas the resignation of the Spaniard Vicente Emparan, who exercised the highest authority of the Captainty General. With this action, "the first firm act of independence" is produced in the midst of an insurgent America, said historian Omar Hurtado, order speaker of the solemn session held by the Municipal Council of the Venezuelan capital.

Analyzing the scope of this historical event, he indicated that key steps were taken with the Caracas Supreme Board, such as the creation of the Patriotic Society, a figure that would set the tone for the events surrounding the Declaration of Independence in 1811, and the promotion of the libertarian cause in the continent.

The blaze of that day is "an example for all of America," as it is a milestone in the history of resistance and the permanent struggle of our heroes. "We decided to be free, and 212 years later here we are, the same people, in a beautiful Bolivarian Revolution, without bowing to any empire," said the mayor of Caracas, Carmen Meléndez, in commemoration of the date.

### Defense of Liberty

More than two centuries have passed since April 19th, 1810, but the commitment is the same: the defence of the Republic against imperial factors. "It is the only way: to protect the freedom and sovereignty of our country. Together we will win!" said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro.

IMAGE: THE TUMULT OF APRIL 19, 1810. JUAN LOVERA