

Introduction

In the last year, hundreds of Venezuelan citizens have requested protection (asylum) from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, due to the political, social and humanitarian situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Many of them have come directly from their country of origin (Venezuela) or from other countries in the Americas. This information has been collected in the report prepared by the Ministry of Justice and Security of the Kingdom, entitled "General Report on Venezuela.

In May 2018, Nicolás Maduro prevailed in presidential elections against an opposition severely weakened by years of government repression, against a backdrop of widespread accusations that the elections had not met international standards for free and fair elections.

There are currently no permanent independent government institutions in Venezuela that can rein in the executive branch. Both during the Maduro government and earlier during that of Hugo Chávez, the authorities brought judges to court without the slightest claim to independence. The government has lashed out at critics through a brutal crackdown on the streets, the jailing of opponents and the prosecution of civilians in military courts. It has also stripped the opposition-majority National Assembly of its powers.

Due to severe shortages of medicine, medical supplies and food, many Venezuelans are unable to adequately feed their families or access the most basic medical care. The mass exodus of Venezuelan citizens fleeing repression and scarcity represents the largest migration crisis of its kind in recent Latin American history.

Other concerns that persist are the precarious conditions of detention, impunity for human rights violations, and the harassment of human rights defenders and independent media outlets by public officials. These reasons were exposed in a report prepared by our Platform in February 2020 with the title "**Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the Republic of Venezuela.**" This report was sent to the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of General Affairs.

Since 2019, our Platform has been working with Venezuelan asylum seekers who are located in different AZCs throughout the country. We have organized activities with them, from accompaniment for their processes, to supporting public demonstrations against the Maduro regime. Our Platform has a Department for Venezuelan Issues which was assigned the task of contacting this community and preparing the aforementioned report, as well as being responsible for compiling the stories of Venezuelan asylum seekers to include it in this "Black Book"

Objective

This "Black Book" aims to help the immigration authorities of the Netherlands understand the difficult situation that Venezuelans have experienced as a result of the political and social instability in that country. Likewise, this document complies with the final requests made in our report delivered to the Ministry of Justice and Security that proper attention be given to the situation of Venezuelans in the Netherlands. For this we are also guided by the different calls and reports made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International and the European Union that have alerted the international community of the terrible situation in Venezuela.

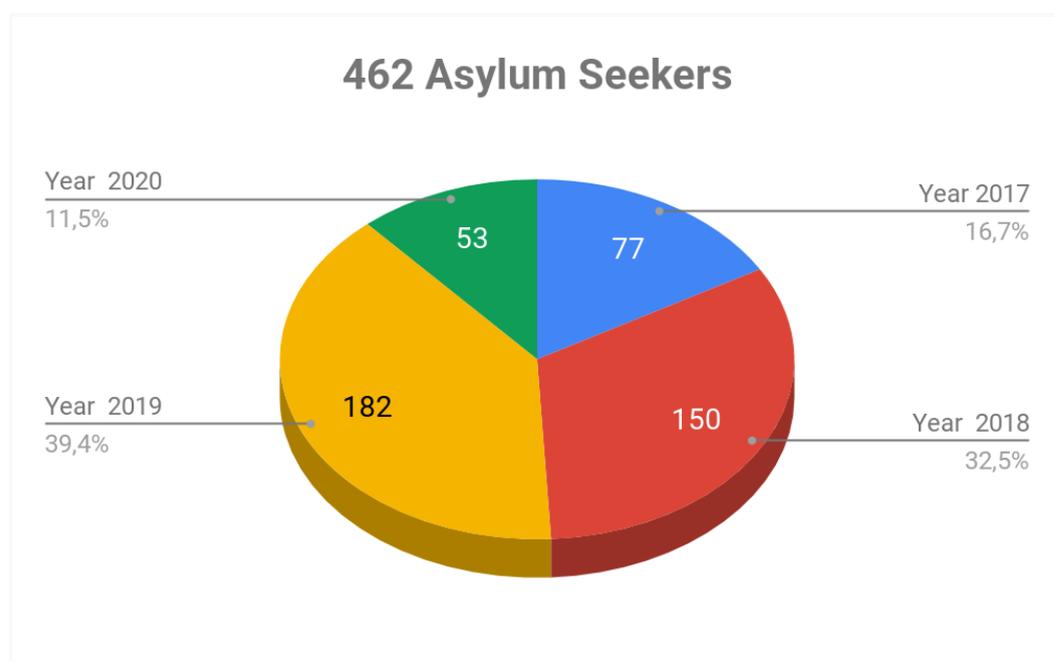
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According to the most recent information (July 2020) from the Dutch Council for Refugees, on the first monthly asylum applications in the Netherlands, no data is known regarding the permits granted that have been issued in the extended procedure.

From this report it can be said that return without persecution, discrimination, threat and deprivation of liberty is no longer possible.

Asylum applications of Venezuelans in the Netherlands from 2017 to 2020

Year 2017	77
Year 2018	150
Year 2019	182
January 2020	12
February 2020	22
March 2020	13
April 2020	0
May 2020	0
June 2020	0
July 2020	6
Total	462



- **ZMCH**

of 54 Venezuelan women years asylum seeker in Nederland. Former employee of BANAVIH (National Bank of Housing and Habitat) recounts that at her job she was coerced to force her to attend rallies, marches, imposition of shirts alluding to Chávez and by exposing her disagreement to comply with these demands outside her work triggered abuse of power towards me.

In 2019 I was attacked in the subway by a woman and a man in the Caracas subway for simply saying that this oppressive regime treated us like animals and that they had no respect for the citizen; which is why I was attacked by these chavista people. I went to the National Bolivarian militia and police who were nearby, to denounce the aggression to which I was subjected, but since I did not carry the national identity card, I was denied my right to make the complaint.



- **Ivan Wilfredo Madera**

I was a businessman with no political inclination, for which I was manipulated, extorted, physically, verbally and psychologically mistreated and threatened with death by armed civilian groups for more than a decade. These armed civilian groups work under the protection of the police forces, armed forces and the government, many of these being active officials of these institutions.

I have had to flee my country, abandoning relatives, assets, and company in order to protect my life. Right now, I am experiencing emotional instability and serious health problems. The Venezuelan regime is in charge of sowing terror through these armed civilian groups, with its motto socialism or death, and a person who does not agree with the regime is considered a traitor to the country.



- **Ana Josmaira Viera Quintana**

In September 2018 I fled my country with my minor daughter. I came to the Netherlands to ask for protection because our lives are in danger in Venezuela, I am a political activist against the regime of my country and for this reason I was attacked on **06-22-2018 in my house** by Police and National Guards, with their weapons my daughter and I were threatened.

The officials threatened to kill my daughter and then me if I continued to attend opposition political activities and protest against their Revolution. After raiding, destroying and robbing my home they left, although I reported the incident the same day and the situation worsened, it was harassment and persecution of me and even my family. I received constant death threats so I made the decision to flee Venezuela, as a mother I have to protect the life and well-being of my daughter. This is a clear violation of Human Rights in Venezuela, to which thousands of Venezuelans are subjected every day.

- **LD**

I am Venezuelan, I am 29 years old, I am currently in the Netherlands requesting political asylum. In 2016 I was imprisoned, assaulted and tortured for going out on the streets to protest and claim my rights. There were 4 long days of torture and mistreatment just for having a different political ideology, I was treated with hatred, my rights were not respected, I managed to flee the country and protect my life, now more than ever I will not be silent, I will continue to raise my voice against the narco government of Maduro that not only seeks to imprison those who dare to take to the streets, but also seeks to silence by vilely murdering all those who are not in favor.

- **Zulima Quiñones**

I have been in the asylum process in the Netherlands since March 8, 2019. It is such a sad short story when you do not have Freedom, just protesting for being against a Dictatorial and Criminal regime that has taken away all the benefits from hitting me, persecuting me, there is no freedom of expression, there is only aggression. Being persecuted by police agencies, groups and the Armed Forces is one of the main reasons why I fled my country. It is so cruel that I separated from my daughter, who also fled, I left everything to start over and face new challenges from cultures, languages. A totally new country for me. To live under the yoke of a criminal regime is to seek death because I am and remain an activist here in the Netherlands and will be until I die.

- **Eduar Oscar Pérez Nadales My**

residence was raided by military personnel from the Bolivarian Intelligence Services (SEBIN). During its execution, I was subjected to abuse of authority, run over, harassment and robbery. I filed complaints with the prosecutor's office and other media trying to seek help. In a summons they handcuffed me and beat me, given the seriousness of the political persecution exercised against me under the modality of State terrorism and the imminent danger I was running, I decided to leave the country.

I am a politically persecuted victim of "JUDICIAL TERRORISM", they have wanted to link me with subversive activities against the stability of the national government, my residence was raided on different occasions for no reason, only alleging that I was

guilty of terrorism without evidence that linked to this crime, all the complaints I made to the Attorney General of the Republic did not receive any response, only more corruption, lack of attention to my case, this led me to flee Venezuela and the fear of those death threats that they made to me still prevails while they beat me just to admit something I didn't do they only look for guilty and innocent people who can disappear and blame without consequence.



- **Sergio Lugo**

My name is Sergio Lugo ID number: 21531645 I am from the city of Puerto Cabello Edo. Carabobo right now I am in the Netherlands as a political asylum seeker who was persecuted on several occasions by the groups I suffered a raid by the sebin looking for me only because I did not agree with their government and being a person against the political regime that reigns in Venezuela which is a narco-dictatorship, for that reason I am very afraid to return to my country for fear of being arrested, tortured or even killed just for not agreeing with their government.

- **DS**

The situation of lack of services, the loss of relatives due to not finding medicine, forced me to go out to the streets to protest demanding my rights, for a long time they threatened me but I never paid attention to them and was always against them, seeing them suffer It hurt many people close to me and I went out to the street to vent all those feelings, I kept telling people to go out and protest to demand our rights, unfortunately in December 2019 they did me a lot of physical and

psychological damage, they forced me to go out from my country to leave everything, it hurts me because right now I would like to be there but when I return I would be exposed to losing my life.

- **LECS**

I have experienced political persecution by the Nicolas Maduro regime through the Bolivarian National Guard and the collective irregular armed groups TUPAMARO. I am persecuted for being an opponent of the Government of Nicolas Maduro and his entire criminal structure, I was physically and psychologically attacked for asserting my rights as a citizen. I was a victim of sexual abuse by members of the national guard and TUPAMARO groups, I was stripped of my home for being a political opponent in Venezuela, currently in the Netherlands with my activism I remain firm in my fight against this #NarcoState of Maduro that violates systematically human rights in Venezuela fighting from the Netherlands for the freedom of Venezuela.

- **GRAYS ESCORCIA**

I am 30 years old, I am from Maracaibo Venezuela, at the moment I am waiting for the decision of the European Court of Human Rights. Due to my political ideals against the Nicolas Maduro regime, my political activism, organization of marches and guarimbas in 2017, I was the victim of political persecution by armed groups (collectives) supported by the Maduro regime, by the groups I received telephone threats, harassment in my house and on two occasions they made attempts on my life.

He continued with my right to express myself freely and I continue my struggle from the Netherlands to achieve the liberation and peace that my country needs right now.