**Balance on the situation of freedom of expression and information in Venezuela (April 2013)**

**Instituto Prensa y Sociedad de Venezuela**[[1]](#footnote-1)**:**

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In the course of April 2013, coinciding with the presidential elections which took place in Venezuela, the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad de Venezuela (IPYS Venezuela), an NGO the purpose of which is the promotion and defense of the freedom press in this country, was witness to the disproportionate use of the state´s power against the work of a plural and independent press. In this framework of conflictivity and social polarization, there has also been hostility by players in various political party sectors against journalists and the media.

From the start of the elections campaign up until the week after the elections, there have been 48 cases of attacks against freedom of expression and information, for a total of 84 breaches, predominantly obstructions against the work of the journalists due to the abusive use of the state´s power, principally by the state´s security forces, officials of the National Elections Council (*in Spanish, Consejo Nacional Electoral or* CNE for its acronyms) and executive authorities. Limitations were also evidenced on the coverage of public affairs, arbitrary arrests, physical aggressions/assaults, attacks against media headquarters, cyber-attacks, intimidation and persecution, administrative and judiciary procedures and censorship. These incidents run counter to the warranties of freedom of expression and information as set forth in articles 57 and 58 of the constitution of the Bolivarian republic of Venezuela and other international human rights protection instruments.

During this time period, IPYS Venezuela reported 77 victims, most of which were reporter crews from private, state-owned and community media. Also affected were 15 private media, 3 public and community media, 2 NGOs and 3 state institutions.

The city with the most events was Caracas, the nation´s capital, where 11 cases were reported, followed by Lara state (6); Barinas (4); Zulia (4); Táchira (4); Aragua (3); Mérida (2); Bolívar (2); Monagas (2); Carabobo (2); Cojedes (2); Falcón (1); Portuguesa (1); Miranda (1) and Anzoátegui (1), plus three Internet attacks. The majority of incidents recorded coincided with activities and conflicts reported in the streets of several of the nation´s cities during the elections watershed.

IPYS Venezuela expresses its concern over the increase in attacks against the press all over the nation, since the persons who do journalistic work in Venezuela are in a situation of high vulnerability. The 48 cases reported during the elections represent 43% of total incidents registered during 2013, there being 115 additional cases from January to April according to the permanent monitoring in the field of freedom of press conducted by IPYS Venezuela. In turn, we have witnessed an excessive increase in hostility against the press when comparing the aforementioned figure to the 200 cases reported in 2012.

**Government pressures**

This situation has been fostered by a sustained discourse of confrontation and aggressiveness by the Venezuelan authorities, which does not contribute to national conciliation or the peaceful sustainability of actions by public institutions and civil society, as demonstrated by repeated public statements by national government authorities, who have reinforced messages of hatred and de criminalization towards the labor of a free, plural and independent press. There has also been a disproportionate use of the state-owned media´s resources to keep up this climate of conflictivity against the press.

Nicolás Maduro, proclaimed the president of the republic by the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE)[[2]](#footnote-2) on April 18, 2013, asked the media to define their political party affinities, and told them: “Either you are with the homeland or you are with the coup. I am not going to be a weak president. Either you are with the constitution or you are with the coup organizers”. As a warning to the rest of the private TV stations, he criticized the information line of the open-signal private channel Televen: “you made a single joint broadcast (*called ¨cadena¨* *in Spanish, loosely translated as ¨chain¨*) when you called to an attack, which resulted in eight deaths and now those eight dead patriots do not exist for the news broadcast on television, radio and press, they do not exist”.

This situation took place after the TV station broadcast the allocution on April 15, 2013 of Henrique Capriles Radonski, who was the presidential candidate for the opposing coalition, Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (or MUD for its acronyms in Spanish), which had called its supporters to demand a review of the election results, due to the tight margin of difference in the election results between Maduro and Capriles Radonski[[3]](#footnote-3).

Meanwhile, on April 19, 2013, Ernesto Villegas, the minister of communications and information, issued disparaging statements “instigating hatred” against the Venezuelan Human Rights Action Education Program (*in Spanish*, Programa Venezolano de Educación Acción en Derechos Humanos - Provea *for its acronyms*)[[4]](#footnote-4), a national organization that defends and promotes citizen´s rights and guarantees, after it published in its web page [www.derechos.org.ve](http://www.derechos.org.ve), an investigation demonstrating as fake and bogus the claims filed by official authorities on the fires at integral diagnostics centers (public healthcare facilities located in poor areas and run by Cuban doctors),caused by political parties in the context of political manifestations nationwide after the elections. In his **Twitter account (**[@VillegasPoljakE](http://www.twitter.com/VillegasPoljakE)**), minister Villegas st**ated: “what a pity that Provea acts as the rearguard of fascism, certifying that there is no proof of the unruliness of bands that attacked the people”[[5]](#footnote-5) and added: “Provea places its anti-Chávez feelings before its obligation to defend the human rights of the victims of intolerance”[[6]](#footnote-6).

The minister added: “The media and NGOs united as accomplices of the harassment against doctors and patients pestered by pot-bangers, gun-wielding persons and hit-and-run drivers”[[7]](#footnote-7).

The NGO stated that in the report in question “it confirmed the claims on assaults and harassment against public healthcare facilities, but not at the level of vandalism stated by different spokespersons of the National Executive and which were amplified by the National Public Media System”[[8]](#footnote-8). The threats, intimidation actions and pressures against the organization were also aired through state-owned media and social networks. On April 23, an allocution by the public defender (representing an organ of citizen power) was aired on a nationwide radio and TV compulsory broadcast reiterating the claims against Provea´s findings. This nationwide compulsory broadcast also aired a micro on violent events registered between April 15 and 18 in various cities throughout Venezuela protesting the election´s results.

These official messages against Provea jeopardize the integrity of the members of this organization, for exercising their right to information and social comptrollership.

On the other hand, state-owned media and social networks have been used as a platform to issue messages of a violent and intimidatory nature. On April 15, Pedro Carvajalino, talk show host at Venezolana de Televisión (VTV), the state´s principal TV station, wrote on his Twitter account ([@PedroCarvajalino](http://www.twitter.com/pedrocarvajalino)): “ALL OUR MOTORCYCLED SUPPORTERS TO THE ATTACK,TAKE ALTAMIRA NOOOOOW.IT IS TIME TO LAUNCH THE COUNTER-ATTACK” (SIC)[[9]](#footnote-9). This message was aimed at supporters of the official political party, and was intended to create confrontations in an area of Caracas (Altamira) where citizens were concentrated in protest, to demand that the CNE audit the votes.

Along the same lines Andrés Izarra, a member of the campaign commando of Nicolás Maduro and former minister of communications and information, expressed himself in his account [@Izarradeverdad](http://www.twitter.com/izarradeverdad): “These fascist hordes led by [#CaprilesFascista](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23CaprilesFascista&src=hash) fear nothing more than the motorbiked supporters of the people. We will have to organize something tomorrow”[[10]](#footnote-10).

In turn, Elías Jaua, Venezuela´s minister of foreign affairs, questioned the media´s freedom of information and challenged several private newspapers to cover information on events that were relevant for the government. He referred to the death of several persons who, based on the official information, had been victims of violence as a result of political conflicts which sprung up all over the nation. On April 18, on his official Twitter account ([JauaMiranda](http://www.twitter.com/jauamiranda)), he wrote: “I challenge El Nacional, UN, Universal, 2001, La Voz, VV, TLV to cover firsthand the funeral of these compatriots today. Do not Keep Silent” (SIC)[[11]](#footnote-11).

In this current watershed there has been an excessive amount of compulsory official radio and TV broadcasts attempting against the plurality, diversity and freedom of the media to inform, as well as the right of the citizens to choose the content they wish to view through public TV. Proof of this was the tally by the civil organization Monitoreo Ciudadano, determining that Venezolana de Televisión (VTV) devoted 70 hours of its programming to airing allocutions and information by Nicolás Maduro[[12]](#footnote-12) from April 2 to 12, 2013 (the formal elections campaign period). From April 15 to 18, there have been multiple, reiterated compulsory official broadcasts.

IPYS Venezuela observes with concern that during the election process of April 14, 2013, restrictions on journalistic coverage persisted in election centers all over the nation, mainly enforced by officials of the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE) and the Plan República, the state military unit in charge of security during the elections process[[13]](#footnote-13). This situation, besides limiting the work of the press, jeopardizes the transparency of the elections process and hinders the possibility of citizens receiving timely information on the election process. These incidents are also framed within a situation of opacity and difficulties to consult, know and disseminate information by official sources present during the elections campaign.

**Arbitrary arrests**

In these current circumstances it is worrisome to note the actions indicative of an abusive use of the state´s power against the journalists, as evidenced through arbitrary arrests against reporters doing their job in the streets, during the post-elections context, marked by high levels of social conflict.

One of the cases reported by IPYS Venezuela was the arbitrary arrest of Juan José Farías, reporter; Eduardo Méndez, graphic reporter and Yolman Bejarano, driver, a reporter crew of La Verdad, a private regional newspaper based in Maracaibo, Zulia state[[14]](#footnote-14). This took place on April 15, 2013, and they were deprived of their freedom for 12 hours at the Police headquarters of San Francisco municipality (Polisur) in Maracaibo, Zulia state. They spent the night in a jail cell and their reporter notebooks, photographic cameras, cell phones and car were impounded. The officials alleged that the press crew had to be arrested since they were “destabilizing forces”, a figure that is not a crime in Venezuela´s legal instruments.

The situation was generated when the press crew was covering peaceful protests by neighbors of San Francisco municipality in that state, who were denouncing that they had been attacked by military officials, after answering the nationwide call for a ¨cacerolazo¨ (a means of peaceful protest consisting in generating noise by banging kitchen pots and pans) rejecting the CNE´s proclamation of Nicolás Maduro as the president of the republic and in protest of the election entity´s refusal to attend to the citizens´ request to audit the boxes containing the voting ballots in light of the very tight margin of difference between the two principal political options during the elections.

Faría, Méndez and Bejarano were kept in a cell at the police headquarters during the early hours of the morning until they were taken on April 16 to a criminal court where a preliminary hearing took place and they were set free.

Another of the cases recorded was the arbitrary arrest of Ana María Paz, reporter of community radio channel Azul FM, in Zulia state. Military officials arbitrarily arrested her for more than an hour after she denounced irregularities during the voting process at an election center in Concepción, La Cañada de Urdaneta municipality, Zulia state[[15]](#footnote-15).

**Physical aggressions/assaults**

Since April 14, 2013[[16]](#footnote-16), 8 journalists and photographers of private, state-owned and community have been injured in street actions and the coverage of citizen protests rejecting the election verdict, and have also received insults and slanderous slurs by state-owned security forces and official political party supporters.

On the day of the presidential elections, Emir Fernández, cameraman of the network of communal TV channels Barrio TV and employee of community radio station Alí Primera, of El Valle, in Caracas, was injured in his chest and one arm by two bullet impacts while interviewing members of a communal council (a community organization with executing and comptrollership power the decisions of which are binding), in street 16 of the sector, during the elections process[[17]](#footnote-17).

Also on the elections day, José Barrios Díaz, graphic reporter of newspaper El Tiempo, was assaulted by a military officer while covering an alleged irregularity at a voting center in the city of Puerto La Cruz, Anzoátegui state. The graphic reporter, together with journalist Lizardo Aguilar, went to the Andrés Eloy Blanco School in the Chuparín sector, at around 9 pm. The crew was attending to a call by neighbors and witnesses of the opposition who had denounced that an alleged militant of the official Partido Socialista Unidos de Venezuela (PSUV) had entered furtively into the center and had taken with him a set of acts with election results from the voting machine[[18]](#footnote-18).

During the post-elections period, 6 press employees in Barquisimeto, Lara state were injured when covering a manifestation at the regional office of the CNE. This happened on April 15, while covering street manifestations. The graphic reporters of the private media told IPYS Venezuela that they were impacted with stones, presumably thrown by military officials of the National Bolivarian Guard (*in Spanish, Guardia Nacional Bolivariana or GNB for its acronyms*), which confronted the citizens who were protesting rejecting the election results. The persons affected were Ricardo Marapacuto, Juan Carlos Leal and Richard Lameda, of the El Impulso newspaper, Héctor Andrés Segura, a freelancer, Héctor Azuaje, of a newspaper from Lara state and Marla Prato of the El Universal newspaper.

That same day, 2 graphic reporters of private printed media in Maturín, Monagas state were also assaulted: Carlos Barrios, of the El Periódico de Monagas newspaper and Alberto González of the El Sol newspaper, while they covered a concentration of citizens at the regional offices of the CNE, with the same demands. The photographers were impacted with stones and were shoved and pushed, supposedly by protesters[[19]](#footnote-19).

On April 16, also in Barquisimeto, Mariha Morales and Moisés Vargas, reporters of community TV station LaraTvec, were subjected to physical assault by persons participating in a concentration near the headquarters of the election power[[20]](#footnote-20). That same day, officials of the Guardia Nacional Bolivariana, on board a small tanker, shot pointblank at Eduard Martínez, a graphic reporter who has been working for two years for private local newspaper la Prensa de Lara. Martínez assured IPYS Venezuela that he was alone at the time when he received several bullets to his back, three to his left leg and two to his right leg[[21]](#footnote-21).

**Attacks to the media**

Since Monday April 15, several public protests have taken place nationwide by supporters of the opposition political party endorsing the request to audit the totality of voting minutes and ballots requested by presidential opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, which have been countered by followers of the deceased president Hugo Chávez, who reject the request made by Capriles and endorse the election of Nicolás Maduro as the President of the republic.

In this situation of street manifestations reported in diverse locations nationwide, the headquarters of public and private media have also been affected, further fostering a context of risk for the development of the work of informing and jeopardizing the physical integrity of press employees.

Some of these public manifestations have derived in confrontations or threats to the followers of the contrary band. An example of this has been protests around the offices of private and state-owned media and other public organisms linked to telecommunications.

One of the cases that generated great vulnerability happened on April 16, when groups on motorcycles identified with the official party threw fire bombs, stones and bottles containing gasoline and shot at the home office of the Avance and La Región newspapers, private dailies of Los Teques, the capital of Miranda state, in the outskirts of Caracas[[22]](#footnote-22). They also threw bottles filled with gasoline at the home office of the Avance newspaper. They also sent death threats to the heads of editing and information of La Región for publishing images of vandalism registered in that area through the social networks.

On the other hand, representatives of the community radio station Guachirongo Dial 98.5 FM, of Barquisimeto, Lara state, denounced that on April 17 these same bands tried to set the infrastructure of the radio station on fire. Based on the information contributed to IPYS Venezuela, during the nighttime a fire erupted in the plot of land behind the radio station´s offices which was expeditely attended to and avoided the headquarters of the community station to be affected. This radio station has maintained an editorial stance that supports the official party. Its directors stated that days before this incident, members of the community, identified as supporters of the opposition, had openly threatened to set the radio station on fire[[23]](#footnote-23).

On April 15, 2013, around 10:00 p.m., protests erupted at the headquarters of TV stations Venezolana de Televisión (VTV), the state´s principal TV station and la Televisora del Sur (Telesur), a channel that is viewed all over Latin America, and which receives the backing of the Venezuelan state; as well as at the headquarters of the National Telecommunications Commission (in Spanish, Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones or Conatel for its acronyms), an organ of the vice-presidency of the republic, by persons with banners, voicing pro-Capriles mottos and hitting pots and pans (casseroles) as a sign of protest.

That same day some 200 persons on board motorcycles, holding posters of Capriles appeared at the headquarters of Conatel, in Las Mercedes, Caracas. They yelled intimidating phrases and threatened to come back and ravish the women working in that entity. One of the protesters threw a cutting object at the entity´s headquarters[[24]](#footnote-24).

Likewise, a group of citizens -members of community media- publicly rejected a series of attacks and threats received by radio stations, newspapers and community TV stations in several states, in the midst of conflicts as a result of the elections watershed[[25]](#footnote-25). IPYS Venezuela has documented some cases and is conducting the corresponding investigations to corroborate and document other incidents.

**Censorship and cyber-assaults**

During these complex socio-political days there have been reports of cyber-assaults as evidenced by hacks and censorship. Thus, on Sunday April 14, 2013, the broad band Access (ABA) Internet service, provided by the nation´s main telecommunications company, the state-owned Compañía Anónima Nacional de Teléfonos del Venezuela (CANTV), was momentarily interrupted throughout the nation. Access was also blocked from abroad to the CNE´s web page [www.cne.gob.ve](http://www.cne.gob.ve).

Jorge Arreaza, the vice-president of the republic, pointed out that it was due to a decision made in coordination with the National Elections Council to protect the entity´s portal from receiving some 45 thousand threats by hackers from abroad[[26]](#footnote-26). This situation was of concern since it was a censorship measure which was established through blocking access to the CNE´s web page from abroad, which violates the right of all the members of the international community to information on the presidential election process which was being held in Venezuela.

That same day, several Twitter accountsof top government officials were hacked: Nicolás Maduro Moros (@NicolasMaduro), who at the time was the President in charge and official candidate; Diosdado Cabello (@decabellor), the president of the National Assembly (Parliament); Elías Jaua (@JauaMiranda), the minister of foreign affairs; Teresa Maniglia (@tmaniglia), the director general of presidential communications and the official account of the official political party Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PartidoPSUV). The official web page of Nicolás Maduro, <http://www.nicolasmaduro.org.ve/> was also subject to a cyber attack which kept it inactive[[27]](#footnote-27).

In Carabobo state, to the center-north of the nation, the web page of newspaper El Carabobeño, [www.el-carabobeno.com](http://www.el-carabobeno.com) was hacked and stayed inactive for 16 hours[[28]](#footnote-28).

**Investigations and censorship**

During the month of April, various state institutions and independent organizations issued the threat of legal actions and commenced investigations against the media for airing certain political party content.

On April 24, 2013, Luisa Ortega Díaz, the attorney general of the republic, an entity of the judiciary power, informed that her office was starting investigations on messages which supposedly called to violence, issued by users of social networks on April 14, 2013, after the CNE gave the result of the presidential elections.

"After the regulating entity disclosed the results (of the presidential elections) calls were made through some media and networks such as Twitter and others, through direct and subliminal messages inciting the citizens to pour into the streets", the attorney general of the republic stated during a press conference. The purpose of this public pronunciation was to inform from the legal organism on violence which sprung up nationwide from April 15 to 18 in the post-elections scenario. She informed on the death of 9 persons and 78 injured[[29]](#footnote-29).

Also on April 16, 2013, Pedro Carreño, National Assembly congressman for the official Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV), announced that he would request that the Justice department freeze the accounts and seize the personal possessions of journalist Nelson Bocaranda, columnist of newspaper El Universal, talk show host at radio program La cola feliz on Éxitos 99.9 and director of info portal Runrun.es, after the communicator published in his Twitter account a message on the alleged presence of boxes with presidential voting ballots from past elections in a public healthcare facility or CDI.

The message published by Bocaranda said: “I got information that in the CDI located in La Paz in Gallo Verde, Maracaibo, there are hidden election boxes and the Cubans over there are not allowing them to be removed from the premises”.

The claim published by Bocaranda is of great concern since all the election material derived from past presidential elections is supposed to remain in the safeguard of the Plan República, the military unit responsible for the custody of the voting centers and the election material[[30]](#footnote-30).

Also on April 16, 2013, the governor of Barinas state, Adán Chávez, threatened a lawsuit against La Prensa de Barinas, a private newspaper of that entity, and lashed out criticisms against the reporter of that media Tarquino González on the info coverage of the finding of two boxes, allegedly containing votes of the elections process of April 14. He criticized and questioned the fact that the newspaper was in the exact place at the right time when this transpired and is one of the witnesses of the election material found[[31]](#footnote-31).

Meanwhile, on April 18, a committee of social media users (an instance of citizens set forth in the Law on Social Responsibility in Radio, Television and Electronic Media) of Táchira state requested that Conatel start an investigation against some private regional media (including la Televisora del Táchira and the La Nación and Diario de Los Andes newspapers) for the journalistic coverage during the presidential elections of April 14 and the violent acts in the aftermath thereof.

Likewise, during the days prior to the presidential elections, the National Elections Council censored content and started inquiries against public and private printed and audiovisual media, as well as against civil associations for airing political propaganda[[32]](#footnote-32). In turn, the National Telecommunications Commission opened the tenth administrative proceedings against Globovisión, a private TV plant, due to technical flaws in the transmission of an official allocution[[33]](#footnote-33).

**The work of the press at risk**

This panorama is framed within a crossroads of socio-political conflictivity which has been exacerbated during 2013, and has worsened during April, due to the elections. IPYS Venezuela has also registered a substantial increase in cases so far this year, compared to 2012. From January to April 2013, IPYS Venezuela has counted 115 cases of breaches to freedom of expression nationwide, or 57% of the total of incidents recorded during 2012 (a record year of aggressions against the press, based on historical data from 2002 to 2012).

During the 10 election processes which have taken place in Venezuela from 2004 to 2012, the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad de Venezuela has reported 824 incidents on breaches to this right. From the revoking presidential referendum (2004) to the presidential elections (2012), obstructions against the press doing their job have radicalized and come mostly from state entities, the reporter crews receiving the brunt of these actions.

There has been more than 400% increase in cases from 2004 -when 44 incidents of breaches to journalistic activities were reported- to 2012 -when the number increased to 200 incidents-[[34]](#footnote-34).

**The State´s obligation**

IPYS Venezuela urges the Venezuelan state to implement the necessary measures to guarantee the full enjoyment of freedom of expression and information in the nation, without there being threats or attacks or censorship. We also exhort the public authorities to protect the physical integrity and personal safety of the people working in the press, human rights activists and citizens who issue information and opinions through the media. Likewise, the necessary investigations must be carried out to sanction the incidents registered during the elections.

Next is a matrix of cases reported in April 2013, during the elections.

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| **Cases reported by IPYS Venezuela in the context of the elections (April 2013)** |
| **Case** | **Date** | **Entity/city** | **Information** | **Victims** | **Media/organizations** | Categories |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | **Limitations on covering public affairs** | **Abusive use of state´s power** | **Arbitrary arrest** | **Physical assault** | **Intimidation** | **Persecution** | **Attack on work tools** | **Cyber-assault** | **Administrative action** | **Legal threat or action** | **Censorship** | Link |
| 1 | 01/04/2013 | Caracas | Access denied to state-owned media to press call of opposition candidate | Luis Araujo (RNV);Jordán Rodríguez (VTV) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3410&y=2013&m=04> |
| 2 | 01/04/2013 | Caracas |  Election power forbids airing of propaganda by civil organizations in the media  |   | Tal Cual; 2001 |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   | Administrative action |   | Censorship | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3359&y=2013&m=04> |
| 3 | 02/04/2013 | Caracas | Tenth administrative investigation started against private TV station |   | Globovisión |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Administrative action |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3375&y=2013&m=04> |
| 4 | 02/04/2013 | Lara | Lara: Official party group assaulted reporters covering march during elections campaign | David Puertas (diario El Informador); Ángel López (Promar TV); Rafael Riera (Promar TV) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   | Physical assault |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3364&y=2013&m=04> |
| 5 | 03/04/2013 | Caracas | State media reporter crew assaulted in elections campaign act | Orlando Rangel, Zurimar Campos (AVN) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs |   |   | Physical assault |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3361&y=2013&m=04> |
| 6 | 06/04/2013 | Caracas | Election power censored videos of a political organization |   | Ciudadanía Activa; Globovisión |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   | Administrative action |   | Censorship | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3376&y=2013&m=04> |
| 7 | 10/04/2013 | Cojedes |  Official of the Plan República assaulted a journalist in Cojedes | José Gerardo Lozada Rojas (diario La Opinión) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3380&y=2013&m=04> |
| 8 | 10/04/2013 | Caracas | Minister threatened to start investigation against caricaturist and Venezuelan journalists | Rayma Suprani (diario El Universal); Nelson Bocaranda (Uniòn Radio) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Threat of legal action  |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3379&y=2013&m=04> |
| 9 | 14/04/2013 | Táchira | Táchira: Audiovisual media correspondent banned access to voting center | Maryné Glod (Televen and FM Center) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3423&y=2013&m=04> |
| 10 | 14/04/2013 | Táchira | Táchira: Group of men on motorbikes assaulted radio show host during election coverage | Daniel Cáceres (La Mega 102.1 FM) |   |   |   |   |   | Intimidation | Persecution |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3417&y=2013&m=04> |
| 11 | 14/04/2013 | Cojedes | Cojedes: Press banned from accessing two voting centers  | Astrid Carolina Rivas (Class 98.7 F.M); Brigitte Gerdel (diario La Noticia); César Hurtado (diario La Noticia);  |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3416&y=2013&m=04> |
| 12 | 14/04/2013 | Web | Accounts and web pages of top government officials hacked  | Nicolás Maduro Moros (@NicolasMaduro), Diosdado Cabello (@decabellor), Elías Jaua (@JauaMiranda), Teresa Maniglia (@tmaniglia)  | Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PartidoPSUV) |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Cyber-assault |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3408&y=2013&m=04> |
| 13 | 14/04/2013 | Web | Web site of newspaper in Carabobo hacked |   | El Carabobeño |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Cyber-assault |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3406&y=2013&m=04> |
| 14 | 14/04/2013 | Caracas | Caracas: cameraman of community TV network injured with shots  | Emir Fernández (Barrio TV de El Valle, radio comunitaria Alí Primera) |   |   |   |   | Physical assault |   |   | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3404&y=2013&m=04> |
| 15 | 14/04/2013 | Aragua | Aragua: Military men hinder the work of journalist during presidential elections | Ganifer Rivera (diario El Siglo); Yordan Hernández,(diario El Siglo); Gabriela Lucena (Universitaria 104.5 FM) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3401&y=2013&m=04> |
| 16 | 14/04/2013 | Zulia | Zulia: journalists of various media robbed and their work restricted during coverage of the elections | Madelin Palmar (Globovisión); Bianca Almarza (emisora Fe y Alegrìa), Mariel Ruiz(emisora Fe y Alegrìa), Emilio González (emisora Fe y Alegrìa) y Gustavo Vásquez (emisora Fe y Alegrìa); José Andará (Sabor 106 FM, portal Notitin) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3397&y=2013&m=04> |
| 17 | 14/04/2013 | Web | National government temporarily interrupted Internet service and blocked access from abroad of the National Elections Council web page |   | Consejo Nacional Electoral (web) | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   | Cyber-assault |   |   | Censorship | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3395&y=2013&m=04> |
| 18 | 14/04/2013 | Zulia | Zulia: Access denied into voting centers to journalists of La Verdad newspaper | Ana Carolina Mendoza and Sheyla Urdaneta (diario La Verdad) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3393&y=2013&m=04> |
| 19 | 14/04/2013 | Anzoátegui | Anzoátegui: Military man assaulted and tried to snatch away the equipment of a graphic reporter  | José Barrios, Lizardo Aguilar (diario El Tiempo) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   | Physical assault |   |   | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3392&y=2013&m=04> |
| 20 | 14/04/2013 | Zulia | Zulia: journalist who denounced assisted voting was arrested | Ana María Paz (emisora Azul FM) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power | Arbitrary arrest |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3391&y=2013&m=04> |
| 21 | 14/04/2013 | Portuguesa | Portuguesa: Coordinator of election center denied information to the press | María José Aguilar (diario Última Hora) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3389&y=2013&m=04> |
| 22 | 14/04/2013 | Falcón | Falcón: Access limitations to the press from entering election centers prevailed | Cintia González (diario Nuevo Día); Gladyscar Guzmán (diario Nuevo Día); Joanne López (radio Coro; diario El Nacional); Clorinda Núñez (emisora Súper Stéreo 94.5 FM); Elier Galicia (diario Nuevo Día); Anahilys Vargas (diario Nuevo Día) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3385&y=2013&m=04> |
| 23 | 14/04/2013 | Bolívar | Bolívar: Official of the election power ordered reporter to abandon an election center | Eunice Gamero (Correo del Caroní) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3384&y=2013&m=04> |
| 24 | 14/04/2013 | Bolívar | Bolívar: Plan República evicted journalist from voting center | Natalia Urdaneta (diario Diario Primicia) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3383&y=2013&m=04> |
| 25 | 14/04/2013 | Lara | Lara: Press work hindered in election centers | Keren Torres diario El Impulso; Reinaldo Díaz (Diario de Lara); José Luis Leal (Telecentro) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3382&y=2013&m=04> |
| 26 | 14/04/2013 | Carabobo | Carabobo: Military man snatched camera away from graphic reporter | Raúl Galindo (diario Notitarde) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3381&y=2013&m=04> |
| 27 | 15/04/2013 | Barinas | Barinas: attorney of a higher court opposed the presence of journalists in citizen-based audit | Dimas Medina (diario La Prensa de Barinas)  |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3421&y=2013&m=04> |
| 28 | 15/04/2013 | Mérida | Mérida: journalists assaulted during post-election riots | Adalberto Fernández (Agencia Venezolanade Noticias); Said Rivas (emisora YVKE Mundial); Johana Briceño (emisora YVKE Mundial) Andes AM 1040; FM 106.3 |   |   |   |   | Physical assault | Intimidation |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3412&y=2013&m=04> |
| 29 | 15/04/2013 | Aragua | Aragua: Vehicle hits cameraman while doing his job of informing  |  Alejandro Ledo (Globovisión) |   |   |   |   | Physical assault |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3405&y=2013&m=04> |
| 30 | 15/04/2013 | Barinas | Barinas: Military official prevents producer of Globovisión from doing his job of informing | Joel Páez (Globovisión) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3398&y=2013&m=04> |
| 31 | 15/04/2013 | Caracas | Supporters of the opposition political party protested at the headquarters of the telecommunications entity and official party TV stations  |   | Venezolana de Televisión (VTV); Televisora del Sur (Telesur); Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (Conatel) |   |   |   |   |   |   | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3396&y=2013&m=04> |
| 32 | 15/04/2013 | Mónagas | Graphic reporters assaulted at election entity in Monagas | Carlos Barrios (diario El Periódico de Monagas); Alberto González (Diario El Sol de Mónagas) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   | Physical assault | Intimidation |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3390&y=2013&m=04> |
| 33 | 15/04/2013 | Lara | Graphic reporters injured during manifestation in front of the CNE in Lara | Ricardo Marapacuto (diario El Impulso); Héctor Andrés Segura (freelance); Juan Carlos Leal (diario El Impulso); Héctor Azuaje ( Diario de Lara) Richard Lameda(diario El Impulso) and Marla Prat (diario El Universal) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   | Physical assault |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3388&y=2013&m=04> |
| 34 | 15/04/2013 | Mérida | Reporter heckled in Mérida | Rosana Villa (Diario Los Andes) |   |   |   |   |   | Intimidation |   | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3387&y=2013&m=04> |
| 35 | 15/04/2013 | Zulia | Journalists arrested in Zulia while covering protest due to the results of the elections | Juan José Faría, Eduardo Méndez, Yolman Bejarano (diario La Verdad) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power | Arbitrary arrest |   |   | Persecution | Attack on work tools |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3386&y=2013&m=04> |
| 36 | 16/04/2013 | Lara | Lara: Military man shot graphic reporter pointblank | Eduard Martínez (diario La Prensa de Lara) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   | Physical assault |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3427&y=2013&m=04> |
| 37 | 16/04/2013 | Lara | Lara: Reporter crew of community TV station assaulted during postelection protest | Mariha Morales, Moisés Vargas (LaraTvec) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs |   |   | Physical assault | Intimidation |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3418&y=2013&m=04> |
| 38 | 16/04/2013 | Barinas | Barinas: Governor requests investigation on local newspaper and criticized journalist for denouncing election irregularities |  Tarquino González (La Prensa de Barinas) | La Prensa de Barinas |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | threat of legal action  |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3415&y=2013&m=04> |
| 39 | 16/04/2013 | Barinas | Shops in shopping malls prohibit airing channel critical to the government |   | Globovisión |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Censorship | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3414&y=2013&m=04> |
| 40 | 16/04/2013 | Mónagas | Monagas: Military men tried to prevent reporter from doing her job during manifestation at the election entity | Ana Isabel Rodríguez (diario El Sol de Monagas) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3411&y=2013&m=04> |
| 41 | 16/04/2013 | Carabobo | Carabobo: Two graphic reporters in Valencia threatened | Fernando Aguirre y Andrews Abreu (diario El Carabobeño) |   |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   | Intimidation |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3407&y=2013&m=04> |
| 42 | 16/04/2013 | Aragua | Aragua: Private media prevented from covering official event |   | El Siglo de Aragua | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3402&y=2013&m=04> |
| 43 | 16/04/2013 | Miranda | Fire bombs thrown at newspaper headquarters in Miranda |   | Diario La Región; Diario Avance |   |   |   |   | Intimidation |   | Attacks against the media |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3399&y=2013&m=04> |
| 44 | 17/06/2013 | Táchira | Táchira: Regional congressmen insulted Journalist | Mariana Duque (Diario Los Andes) |   | Limitations on covering public affairs | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3422&y=2013&m=04> |
| 45 | 17/06/2013 | Lara | Lara: Frustrated attempt to burn down community radio station  |   | Guachirongo en Dial 98.5 FM |   |   |   |   |   |   | Attacks against the media |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3419&y=2013&m=04> |
| 46 | 18/04/2013 | Caracas | President of the republic accused TV station of calling to violence and exhorted to moderate its content |   | Televen; Globovisión |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3425&y=2013&m=04> |
| 47 | 18/04/2013 | Táchira | Táchira: Telecommunications entity requested to investigate media |   | Televisora del Táchira, diario La Nación; Diario los Andes |   |   |   |   | Intimidation |   |   |   | Administrative action |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3420&y=2013&m=04> |
| 48 | 19/04/2013 | Caracas | Caracas: Minister qualified Human Rights NGO of being the “rearguard of fascism” |   | Programa Venezolano de Educación Acción en Derechos Humanos (Provea), a Venezuelan NGO |   | Abusive use of state´s power |   |   | Intimidation |   |   |   |   |   |   | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3424&y=2013&m=04> |
| 49 | 16/04/2013 | Caracas | congressman threatened journalist with criminal actions for message published in Twitter | Nelson Bocaranda (Runrun.es; Éxitos 99.1FM) |  |  | Abusive use of state´s power |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Threats of legal actions |  | <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3430&y=2013&m=04>  |
| 50 | 24/04/2013 | Caracas | Attorney General´s office investigates “violent” messages aired in social networks after election results posted | Users of Twitter |  |  | Abusive use of state´s power |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Acción legal |  |  <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3429&y=2013&m=04>  |

1. IPYS Venezuela is a non-governmental human rights organization that monitors the freedom of press situation in the nation and works in pro of the defense of access to public information and investigative journalism. For more information, please visit [www.ipys.org.ve](http://www.ipys.org.ve) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. On April 15, 2013, the CNE proclaimed Nicolás Maduro as the president of the republic, after disclosing the official presidential election results as follows: Nicolás Maduro 7,575,704 votes (50.78%); Henrique Capriles Radonski 7,302,648 votes (48.95%). Information available at: <http://www.cne.gob.ve/resultado_presidencial_2013/r/1/reg_000000.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ministry of Communications and Information: Maduro: Televen is responsible for a compulsory broadcast calling to violence <http://www.minci.gob.ve/2013/04/maduro-le-cabe-responsabilidad-a-televen-por-encadenarse-con-llamados-a-violencia/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See: [www.derechos.org.ve](http://www.derechos.org.ve) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See: <https://twitter.com/VillegasPoljakE/status/325357707899064320> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. See:<https://twitter.com/VillegasPoljakE/status/325362626085408768> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. See: <https://twitter.com/VillegasPoljakE/status/325363431052021760> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. See: Provea holds minister of communications and information, Ernesto Villegas, responsible for any breach to the life and integrity of our work crew (<http://www.derechos.org.ve/2013/04/19/provea-responsabiliza-a-ministro-de-comunicacion-e-informacion-ernesto-villegas-de-cualquier-violacion-a-la-vida-e-integridad-de-nuestro-equipo-de-trabajo/> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Go to: <https://twitter.com/search?q=TODOS%20NUESTROS%20MOTORIZADOS%2CAL%20ATQUE%2CA%20TOMAR%20ALTAMIRA%20YAAAAAAAAAA.ES%20HORA%20DE%20LA%20CONTRAOFENSIVA&src=typd> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Read: <https://twitter.com/IzarraDeVerdad/status/323997664456876033> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Read: <https://twitter.com/JauaMiranda/status/324908325688987648> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Monitoreo Ciudadano: <http://monitoreociudadano.org/yomonitoreo/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Read alerts by IPYS Venezuela: Aragua: Military men hinder the work of journalist during the presidential elections (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3401&y=2013&m=04> );

Lara: The press´ work in election centers was hindered (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3382&y=2013&m=04>); Cojedes: The press was prevented from accessing two voting centers(<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3416&y=2013&m=04>); [Falcón: Limitations to access by the press to election centers prevailed](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Cewoycik%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CX3UE8S5O%5CFalc%C3%B3n%3A%20Limitations%20to%20access%20by%20the%20press%20to%20election%20centers%20prevailed) (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3385&y=2013&m=04>); Portuguesa: Coordinator of election center denied information to the press (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3389&y=2013&m=04> ); Zulia: Access to voting centers denied to journalists of daily La Verdad (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3393&y=2013&m=04> ; [Bolívar: Plan República evicted journalist from voting center](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Cewoycik%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CX3UE8S5O%5CBol%C3%ADvar%3A%20Plan%20Rep%C3%BAblica%20evicted%20journalist%20from%20voting%20center%20n)  (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3383&y=2013&m=04>);[Bolívar: Election power official order reporter to abandon an election center](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Cewoycik%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CX3UE8S5O%5CBol%C3%ADvar%3A%20Election%20power%20official%20order%20reporter%20to%20abandon%20an%20election%20center%20l) (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3384&y=2013&m=04> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Read: Zulia: Journalists detained by police officers were set free <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3400&y=2013&m=04> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Read: Zulia: Journalist arrested for denouncing assisted voting <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3391&y=2013&m=04> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. After the election results were announced by the CNE several public protests were registered in the nation by supporters of the opposition endorsing a request for the audit of all the voting minutes and ballots as requested by the opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, countered by actions by the followers of the deceased president Hugo Chávez, who reject the petition made by Capriles and endorse the election of Nicolás Maduro as the President of the republic. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Caracas: Cameraman of community TV network injured with shots (<http://www.ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3404&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Anzoátegui: Military man assaulted and tried to snatch away equipment from graphic reporter  (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3392&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Read: Graphic reporters assaulted in front of elections entity in Monagas (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3390&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Read: Graphic reporters injured during manifestation in front of the CNE in Lara (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3388&y=2013&m=04>);
Lara: Communal TV reporter crew assaulted during post-election protest (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3418&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Read: Lara: Military man shot a graphic reporter pointblank (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3427&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Read: Fire bombs thrown against two newspapers in Miranda (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3399&y=2013&m=04> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Lara: Community radio station close to being set on fire <http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3419&y=2013&m=04> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Supporters of the opposition political party protested at the home office of the telecommunications entity and official party channels  (<http://www.ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3396&y=2013&m=04>). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Read: Communicators give their opinion on attacks against community and alternative media. +Video (<http://www.poderenlared.com/2013/04/24/comunicadores-se-pronuncian-ante-ataques-contra-medios-comunitarios-y-alternativos-video/>) [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. National government temporarily interrupted internet service and blocked access from abroad to web page of the National Elections Council (<http://www.ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3395&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Internet accounts and web page of top government officials hacked <http://www.ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3408&y=2013&m=04> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Web site of newspaper in Carabobo hacked <http://www.ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3406&y=2013&m=04> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Read: Attorney General investigates “violent” messages sent on social networks after the election results (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3429&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Read: Congressman threatens journalist with lawsuit for message published in Twitter (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3429&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Read: Barinas: Governor requested an investigation on a local newspaper and criticized journalist for denouncing election irregularities (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3415&y=2013&m=04>) [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Read: Election power censored videos of a political organization (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3376&y=2013&m=04>); [Forbids airing of propaganda in the media by civil organizations](http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3359&y=2013&m=04) (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3359&y=2013&m=04> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Tenth administrative investigation started against private TV station (<http://ipys.org.ve/alerta?id=3375&y=2013&m=04> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Elections in Venezuela: Reporter crews at risk (<http://www.conflictove.org.ve/analisis-y-opinion/elecciones-en-venezuela-equipos-reporteriles-en-riesgo-articulo-de-mariengracia-chirinos-de-ipys-venezuela.html> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-34)