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**REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA - Supplementary report
by the NGO YOUTH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
on the situation of the rights to freedom of
expression, protest and participation of the
Venezuelan youth, regarding the submission of the
periodic report of the Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela on the implementation of the
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

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Honorable members of the Human Rights Committee:

This instrument has been elaborated by the Youth Centre for Human Rights, an NGO established on November 29, 2012, to contribute to the promotion of fundamental rights of the Venezuelan youth population, exposing the culture of peace as a necessary tool for effective Social Justice, working with a great sense of belonging and identity of Our America, guided by the purest values, principles and Bolivarian ideals.

So, we then submit additional information based on juridical foundations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter ICCPR) to describe the situation of Venezuelan Youth in accessing and exercising their rights to freedom of expression, protest and participation in recent years.

1. General Considerations

Venezuela is a peaceful country that seeks their demands through the promotion of social justice for historically vulnerable and promotes the culture of Human Rights for the development of everyone, in order to overcome decades of neoliberal policies that resulted in social exclusion and violence by the State.

Also, Venezuela is going through a demographic dividend where the youth has a central role in framing national development. Their demands for participation in all public affairs of the Republic is in hand with legitimate intentions of being a key player in the democratic exercise to decide the fate of the country, always attached to the healthy practice of peace, respect for institutions and the rejection of violence as a political method.

That is why the young people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is flying historical flags of rebellion in its permanent struggle for a better future, loudly expressing their opinions for demands and gratification, and constantly expressing his freedom of conscience. Requiring from the State the warranty of progressive use of each and every one of these rights that belong to their complete development, in search of a better society that fits the times.

Despite all attempts of radical peace groupsto destabilize the Republic, its institutions and promote unconstitutional and violent call to overthrow the government of Mr. Nicolas Maduro, advances related to the guarantee of civil and political rights are evident in national youth community, but a greater effort must be made to further strengthen all warranties regarding the most effective access to these.

2. Rights to Freedom of Expression, of protest and participation recognized in the ICCPR.

A. Right to Freedom of Expression

We exalt the Venezuelan government promotes public policies based on participatory democracy, progressively ensuring the enjoyment and exercise of the inalienable human rights enshrined in the Constitution, laws and other international instruments signed and ratified by the Republic. Regarding the right to freedom of expression of the Venezuelan youth note that access to the various technological channels, the particular activism and mass communication and community, also motivated to guarantee access to media freedom we are guaranteed and traditional journalism in its various forms and conventional methods.

The freedom of Opinion and expression is something that the youth community has managed to do in recent years. The dynamics of social networks, the various internet forums and the mass and community media have created the conditions to allow access to the constant demands of young people to make use of them.

For Venezuelan youth sectors, technology tools are for everyday use, access to digital media and the Internet are fully promoted by the State in its policies for mass access thereof, principally implemented in the popular sectors and programs directed to the entire national community. Such technological channels of information and communication are catalysts of a process in which young people through the network generate new social relations of interaction, to stimulate individual and collective interest for cultural, social, political, academic, scientific objectives.

In Venezuela, the access is not restricted to these networks, nor free will through the same youth express censored, the massive use of digital elements to promote their views, complaints, feedbacks and criticisms are of common occurrence in the national events.

National and international media are actively involved in each of the social and political events taking place in the Venezuelan dynamics, the presence of spokespersons and youth in each of these activists is remarkable. Pluralistic debates in the field of youth have been observed through signals emporiums and transnational communication, which in the outbreaks of street violence programmed (hereafter guarimbas) had in their reporting grill Venezuela as the subject exclusive priority, promoting a matrix of opinion in favor of generators of violence and pointing alleged systematic violations of human rights, such as freedom of expression, when these allegations were made many times by its correspondents from Venezuela duly accredited and awarded by the Government to carry out their work.

Venezuelan youth in their various political, social and cultural currents have as few in the world, the opportunity to have a strong presence in radio, television and digital content programs, juvenile production and direction throughout the national audiovisual program, they own their own ideas and feel responsible for what they say in media, showing practically and progressive exercise of this legitimate right, which is respected only in a democratic and pluralistic society, where young people are resourceful citizens contribute to the overall development of the nation

B. Right to Protest

Regarding the situation of the right to protest in the youth sectors of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, we count with frequent public street activities, such as demonstrations, rallies and events of various kinds, which are called by all social sectors and politicians who make life in the Republic, exercising civic manner and peacefully their democratic freedoms.

Within the set of demonstrations, most are characterized by the massive level of participation by the various forms of vindication protest, political and union struggles. What brings them within the framework of their differences are repeated calls for peace and mutual respect with other political and social actors.

Venezuelan youth in recent years has been one of the biggest players in the country's streets in all manifestations, always hand in hand with legitimate economic struggles of the organized people, this community has consistently raised its voice on various demands, claims and support for the management of government.

For example, the field of high school students recently said to require the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, operate for the allocation of quotas in the autonomous universities are respected, that the basis for the democratization of access young people from popular sectors in these houses of study, most of whom domes of privileged sectors who see education as a right but as a business are conducted.

The sector of university students is characterized by demonstrations of various types of which three could be described. The first is young people who peacefully demand the Venezuelan State to improve the quality of university education, also resize and implement new policies regarding this sector and the budget adjustment to different houses of study. They do so with a clear democratic message through various meetings and peaceful demonstrations, where the state itself guarantees their safety and care for their spokesmen to raise their legitimate demands.

The second is very small and it was the democratic environment and constitutional starred in the stage of <<guarimbas>>, which without a student flag claim led to outbreaks of violence and vandalism that affected several cities, public goods, physical integrity and life of citizens, hiding behind the pretext of legitimate use of the right to protest when the ICCPR itself in Article 21 states that the exercise of this right may only be subject to the restrictions prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or public order, or to protect public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others. All its violent street actions had to overthrow the government of Mr. Nicolas Maduro and brought only result a set of emotional and material damages to the Republic, to the families of the victims and individuals losses, however we condemn some specific cases where a disproportionate use of force applied by some state security agents generating individual responsibilities and all under national law.

And finally there are young people who show every September on the day of college student to student support policies and educational mass claims that the Venezuelan government has taken in recent years, supplemented by various scholarship programs, food, homes and free students transportation of which the beneficiaries are hundreds of thousands of students and that led to Venezuela to hold the fifth in the world college tuition and the second in Latin America, this recognized by the specialized rapporteur of the United Nations System UNESCO.

Finally we note that the various trends of youth political parties generate a busy schedule of public demonstrations in the country, which are permanent and high levels of call and contribute healthily in the democratic process that allows the effective use of their civil rights and politicians.

C. Right to Participation

The democratic foundations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are based on the active participation of all citizens in the various public affairs, training, execution

and direct control on state management so that organized people can achieve such prominence and ensure their complete development.

The right to participation of the Venezuelan youth is significant and has consolidated this sector of the population as one of the leading elements of national democracy. This is supported by national legislation and generated a great number of opportunities that all members of society jointly provide opportunities for youth participation in decision-making in areas of common interest and to promote their mainstreaming and integration in different social and community processes, strengthening their capacities and supporting them in different forms of youth associations, as they are considered strategic actors of development of the nation.

They have also generated mass youth participation of great significance as the Presidential Council for Youth, which facilitates the interaction of the Head of State representatives and spokesmen of the various guilds, trends and youth events that make life in the Republic, showing a commitment in the first approach and linking youth in the formulation of national public policies for this sector.

It has also created a space for interesting participation, mission Homeland Youth Robert Serra, which aims to serve the Venezuelan youth community holistically, prioritizing vulnerable core of extreme poverty, social program that characterizes active involvement of promoters and a large youth volunteerism, which means that much of the Venezuelan youth has assumed a role of social awareness and promotes through its proclamation is necessary to overcome the structural problems facing society.

Student participation has been frequent and has generated unprecedented historical facts as the creation of the Venezuelan Federation of Students in Intermediate Education, student organization that works its way into the decision-making and formulation of projects for all matters of interest this complex area.

Installing popular student councils are also encouraged at different stages of formal education, this essay as new direct method of participatory democracy in

educational communities that allow the implementation of plans, programs and projects whose aim is to service to society, peace, solidarity, tolerance, gender equity, social welfare, justice and participation in the strengthening of citizenship

Concerning the political sphere we very much welcome that sectors such as the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) are encouraging the participation of youth as protagonists of an electoral process, pledging to society to ensure that 50% of its candidates for the upcoming elections Parliamentary are young people under 30 years, another unprecedented event in Venezuela's political history.

Finally we highlight the activism of Human Rights is not known for being led by young people, however we NGO YOUTH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS also show that the Venezuelan youth participation in various outbreaks of national events reaches this area and where with great sense of responsibility we fulfill each of the missions that are necessary to build the country we want.

3. Recommendations to the Venezuelan State

A. As for the Right to Freedom of Expression: diversify and create new plural information and entertainment channels, specializing in youth issues, in order to promote more effectively the right to express their ideas responsibly young Venezuelans.

B. Regarding the Right to Protest: Ensuring professionalism and effectiveness in the progressive and differentiated use of force by the control bodies of demonstrations and public order.

C. Regarding the Right to Participation: Consolidate all promotion policies and encouragement of youth participation that have been generated in recent years, in order to link further in all public affairs as a strategic player for the development of the nation.

4. Request the Committee

For all these reasons, we ask this honorable Committee:

A. Consider all elements and information outlined in this report when examining the Venezuelan State on its implementation of the ICCPR.

B. Encourage the Venezuelan State to consolidate all your policies to respect and guarantee human rights for national youth community