



## **COFAVIC's intervention in the UPR.**

**Subjects: extrajudicial executions, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in arbitrary deprivation of liberty, disproportionate use of force; fight against impunity.**

Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors.

I am Liliana Ortega, I represent COFAVIC. A human rights NGO that was born 32 years ago denouncing the Caracazo massacre.

COFAVIC wishes to inform that the serious human rights crisis in Venezuela has as a transversal axis state violence and a structural and systematic impunity.

The Public Prosecutor's Office in September 2021 informed the Human Rights Committee that in 3 years 4,890 investigations on Extrajudicial Executions have been initiated, accusing 731 officials and in 118 convictions were obtained, that is to say only in 16% of the cases. And with respect to allegations of torture, in 3 years 325 officials were charged and 26 were convicted, which corresponds to 8% of the cases.

There are still deficiencies in the criminalization of torture in the domestic legal system and the State has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture or the Convention against Enforced Disappearance.

Since 2015, citizen security mechanisms have been used as a method of social control. COFAVIC recorded a total of 9,211 cases of alleged extrajudicial executions between 2016 to March 2021.

Eighty percent are under 25 years of age, 99% of the victims of executions are young men from vulnerable sectors and in 80%, threats against complainants were recorded. This state violence has a differentiated impact on women.

The Office of the High Commissioner requested in 2019 the dissolution of the Special Action Forces (FAES) and the establishment of a mechanism to investigate extrajudicial executions. To date this has not been fulfilled. The

FAES remain operational and according to the State out of 4890 cases only in 118 there are convictions.

In the last UPR of Venezuela, several countries recommended an in-depth evaluation of the allegations of extrajudicial executions. However, the figures show that no relevant or effective measures have been taken to reduce these crimes.

For all of the above reasons, we request that the State be recommended to carry out independent investigations and determine comprehensive reparation measures for the victims.

Extend invitations for the UN special procedures to visit the country and adapt its domestic law to international law, ratifying the pending covenants and treaties on the matter.

Thank you very much.