

Criminalization of Voluntad Popular

Part II

An account on the persecution of
Leopoldo López

Unjustly accused of masterminding violent acts taking place on Feb-12



Leopoldo López
National Coordinator of Voluntad Popular

The Venezuelan justice system issues an arrest warrant against Leopoldo López, a democratic opposition leader, in an attempt to hold him accountable for regrettable incidents that took place in the city of Caracas, on February 12.

February 13, 2014

**Leopoldo's attorneys
have not yet confirmed
this arrest warrant.**

**The Supreme Tribunal of
Justice keeps its doors shut.**

**They claim the distribution
system is burnt.**

**Venezuela and the
International Community
agree that the accusations
against López are false.**

Carlos Vecchio

Makes his stand against the accusations



Caracas. February 13, 2014

“Yesterday, Venezuelans peacefully expressed their desire to find a Way Out of this government that has submerged us in misery. We take responsibility for those who marched yesterday. Their activity started, and ended, peacefully. There was no violence on their part. On February 12, the people who want change manifested. But, who wants violence? These violent acts after the march are the government’s doing, their sole responsibility, as they control the weapons, the military, and the police. Most of all, they are under obligation to safeguard the life of every Venezuelan.”

Carlos Vecchio
National Political Coordinator of Voluntad Popular

Just minutes after the press conference had finished, a DGCIM (General Directorate of Military Counter-Intelligence) squad broke and entered Voluntad Popular's main office, in a display of violence, without a word, and with no warrant whatsoever.

The effectives asked "where is Carlos Vecchio?". After searching the premises and verifying that they were in a state of normalcy, the squad left the site.

**Dictatorial
Venezuelan
Government!**

Democratic Unity Roundtable



Caracas .February 14, 2014

On behalf of the democratic coalition, Democratic Unity Roundtable's executive secretary Ramón Guillermo Aveledo, called the Venezuelan Rechtsstaat into question. This he did in light of the alleged arrest warrant issued by the government against Leopoldo López. He also alerted the citizenry to a possible violation of María Corina Machado's parliamentary immunity. The Democratic Unity Roundtable released a communiqué urging the Executive branch to immediately disarm the so-called "collectives", and to release arrested protesters, in order to guarantee peace in the country.

“We demand that an end be put to imputations based on no evidence, to irresponsible accusations brought against Venezuelans, to any acts that would belittle social and political leaders. The word of the government, the State Power’s deeds, speech from a minister or another high-ranking public servant, must recoup an air of respect, which itself begins with self-respect. The State’s power cannot be a department for political propaganda. We therefore condemn all unfounded charges against Leopoldo López.”

Ramón Guillermo Avelo
Executive Secretary of the Democratic Unity Roundtable

**Irresponsible
accusations...**

**Imputations based on no
evidence...**

**Dictatorial
Venezuelan
Government!**

Youth International

An international youth organization

“Youth International fully supports Leopoldo López. We are certain that the peaceful demonstration led by him was in strict adherence to legal and democratic guidelines. Consequently, we urge the Venezuelan justice system to drop all charges against López.”

**Christian Pardo Reyes
Chairperson, Youth International**

“In view of this situation, Youth International conveys its utter disapproval of any acts of violence, regardless of the source, but especially if it comes from the State. Likewise, we mourn the passing of three young people who took part in peaceful protests for the recovery of democracy in Venezuela.”

**Christian Pardo Reyes
Chairperson, Youth International**

Venezuelan Philosophical Society

Publicly declares its utter repudiation of violence, which was unleashed on Feb-12, taking its toll in deaths and injuries.

“We wish to convey our deep concern about the Executive branch’s refusal to recognize the rights, awarded and consecrated under the Constitution, to protest and free speech.”

“The current situation in the country cannot be addressed by accusations against protesters and their leaders, by resorting to simplistic explanations, by deploying the State’s repressive forces into the streets. We categorically condemn the persecution aimed at political opposition leaders, among which Leopoldo López.”

Venezuelan Philosophical Society

**False accusations
brought against
protesters and their
leaders...**

**Persecution and
threats targeting
political leaders...**

**DICTATORIAL
VENEZUELAN
GOVERNMENT!**

Radical Civic Union

RCU

Repudiates the existence of shock groups organized by the Venezuelan government. These groups exist for the purpose of attacking protesters from the opposition. The government itself gives reason for scandal in ordering the arrest of political leaders who do not support the government, as this implies a regress in the political culture of Latin America.

RCU's National Committee has decided to instruct its parliamentary blocs to drive initiatives demanding that the Argentinian government take action to guarantee the immediate release of political and student leaders in Venezuela, as well as the defense of political and civil rights in that country.

Likewise, RCU requests the Socialist International to send a delegation, with representatives of all member parties from Latin America and the Caribbean. This delegation shall express their sympathies towards the victims of repression and their families. It will also take all relevant measures at the international level, so that the Venezuelan government will abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights.

Voluntad Popular News

<http://www.voluntadpopular.com/index.php/ver-noticia/noticias/8-noticias/1166-la-ucr-condeno-la-represion-y-persecucion-en-venezuela>

**Shock groups
organized by the
Venezuelan
government...**

**Dictatorial
Venezuelan
Government!**

**Arrest of political leaders
who do not support the
government...**

**Dictatorial
Venezuelan
Government!**

VOLUNTAD POPULAR DEMANDS

**an objective investigation, carried
out by the government, into the
events of Feb-12**

VOLUNTAD POPULAR DEMANDS

**that the people truly responsible
for the dead and injured on Feb-12
be prosecuted.**

VOLUNTAD POPULAR DEMANDS

**that unsubstantiated
accusations against
National Coordinator
Leopoldo López stop.**

VOLUNTAD POPULAR
STANDS BESIDE LEOPOLDO
LOPEZ

Strength and Faith, Venezuela