

**EL  
QUE  
SE  
CANSA,  
PIERDE.**

# Criminalization of Voluntad Popular

Synopsis



**THE DICTATORSHIP  
SEEKS TO OUTLAW  
VOLUNTAD POPULAR**

1. By illegally **arresting** our National Coordinator, Leopoldo López
2. By violently **breaking** into our party's head office, without so much as a search warrant.
3. By **persecuting** and threatening party leaders.

# 1. Unlawful Arrest of Leopoldo López

He was unjustly accused of  
masterminding acts of  
violence perpetrated on Feb-  
12 by armed groups.

On February 13, 2014 an arrest warrant is issued against Leopoldo López.

**He was charged with the  
following crimes:**

- 1. PUBLIC INSTIGATION**
- 2. PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- 3. ARSON (INTELLECTUAL  
AUTHORSHIP)**
- 4. CRIMINAL ASSOCIATION**

**On Feb-18, Leopoldo placed  
himself in the hands of**

**UNJUST**  
**justice**



**"Si mi encarcelamiento sirve para el despertar del pueblo y para que la mayoría de los venezolanos que queremos cambio podamos construirlo, entonces valdrá la pena".**

**Leopoldo López**



## **#LiberenALeopoldo**

Translation from Spanish: «If my incarceration serves to awaken the people, if it serves to enable us, a majority of Venezuelans, to build the change we so desire, then it will have been worth the pain.» The hashtag reads, «ReleaseLeopoldo»

Thus far, Leopoldo López is  
kept in custody at Ramo  
Verde

2. Several violent, non-sanctioned  
**raids** against the party's head  
office.

On Monday, February 17, in the afternoon, military counter-intelligence officers broke into, and damaged, private property in search of National Political Coordinator Carlos Vecchio.

That same day, the party's head office was raided no less than three times by: 1) an unidentified armed group, 2) DGCI<sup>M</sup>\* officers, and 3) the National Guard.

All three raids were violent.

\*Spanish acronym meaning “General Directorate of Military Counter-Intelligence”

## **Violentos allanamientos en sede de:**

# **VOLUNTAD POPULAR**

### **Primer Allanamiento:**

Grupos armados sin identificación irrumpen en sede del partido, rompiendo puertas y amenazando con disparar. Activistas en el suelo son apuntados, resultan varios detenidos.

### **Segundo Allanamiento:**

DGCIM entra a la sede del partido y no reconoce la presencia de los grupos del primer allanamiento. Posteriormente se retira sin explicaciones.

### **Tercer Allanamiento:**

DGCIM irrumpió violentamente y sin orden de allanamiento, golpea y empuja activistas, hace uso desmedido de gas paralizante y hurtó las cámaras del partido... **¡Vecino contamos contigo!**

Printed handout on February 17. It reads:

“Violent raids of Voluntad Popular Head Office. First raid: armed, unidentified individuals broke into the premises. They broke doors and threatened to shoot. Activists were held at gunpoint and made to lie on the ground. Several people arrested. Second raid: DGCIM entered the premises. They denied any knowledge of the first group’s presence. They then retreated without an explanation. Third raid: DGCIM forcefully entered the office. They had no warrant. Activists were pushed around and hit. Pepper spray was released. Surveillance cameras were stolen. Neighbor, we’re counting on you!”

Watch related videos:

<http://youtu.be/TVCKdqBoq7k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZZ5NhTdi4w>

<https://u4y97shehbxt4jdvn1f.r.worldssl.net/video/lo-rescataron-a-golpes-captado-en-camara-el-momento-en-que-civiles-rescatan-a-consejal-de-manos-de-la-gnb-aqui-sobran-bolas/>

The following images depict the raid of our head office:





Aggressively, showing utter disregard for the Constitution and the Law, GNB effectives prevented National Assembly representatives from confirming what had transpired at our site.



After the news spread via social networks, the people flocked to support us.



As if going to war, they raided both the party's main office and the shopping mall where the office is located. May we remind viewers that we are a lawfully constituted party. Our only weapons are our ideas.

3. Party leaders are persecuted  
and threatened.

After unjustly incriminating  
Leopoldo López, these leaders  
of VP are next in line for  
government-led political  
persecution!



# Carlos Vecchio

The Public Prosecutor's office issues an arrest order for Voluntad Popular's National Political Coordinator. The same charges pressed against Leopoldo López are now pressed against him.



# Antonio Rivero

Some judge ordered the arrest of General (R) and VP member, Antonio Rivero. This was confirmed by VP's attorneys.



# Daniel Ceballos

VP activist. Mayor of San Cristóbal. He is yet another victim of the attempt to incriminate Voluntad Popular's leaders.



# David Smolansky

Mayor of El Hatillo. Leader of VP's Youth Movement. He reported that “there is an unofficial arrest order, which has yet to be made known to our attorneys. We are waiting.”

Venezuela and International community:

# WARNING

A wave of incriminations and  
threats led by the government  
against Voluntad Popular.

Arrest warrants, unlawful  
detentions, censure  
motions, threats, forceful  
entries...

Today, we denounce to the country and the world that the worst kind of political repression in recent Venezuelan history has been unleashed against Voluntad Popular.

**WE AT VOLUNTAD  
POPULAR ARE NOT  
AFRAID. WE DEMAND:**

1. The immediate **release** of Leopoldo López, Iván Simonovis, and all political prisoners. Also, an end must be put to repression and criminalization of protests.



2. That the people responsible for murders, disappearances, and torture be made to stand **trial**. The true criminals are not the students and other Venezuelans who took to the streets, all over the country, to exercise their constitutional right to peacefully protest.



**#HeroesDeLa  
Libertad**

3. The immediate **resignation** of the Minister for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace. He is chiefly responsible for the deaths and torture of students, and for criminal acts of repression against protesters.

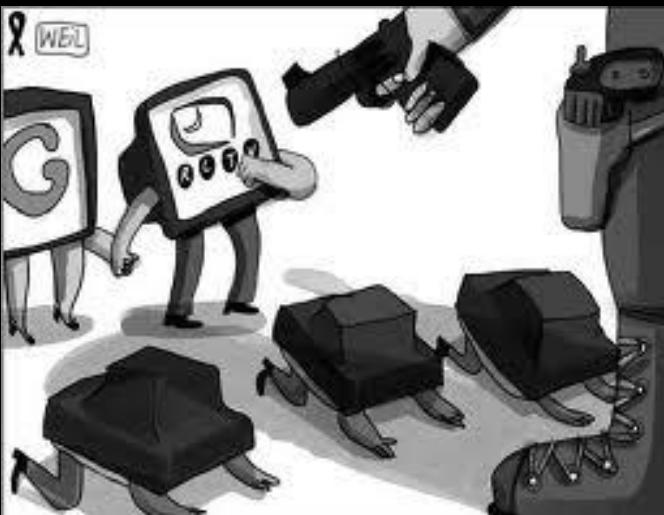


4. The **renewal** of all expired public authorities (National Electoral Council, Office of the Comptroller General, Supreme Tribunal of Justice); election of independent, honest civil servants, to be elected from a shortlist which is to be agreed upon by the government and the democratic alternative, with a set deadline of 30 days. We also call for a new Public Prosecutor to be designated, as the person currently in said office is chiefly responsible for an atmosphere of ruling impunity in Venezuela.



5. The immediate **disarmament** of paramilitary groups, who are bringing terror and death to the populace. Moreover, we demand an investigation in order to determine which organizations have contributed in any way to these acts of human rights violations. May swift and harsh Justice fall upon them.

## 6. The end of restrictions on **free speech** and the right to be informed. We call for public media independence.



**«Strength and Faith.»**  
**--Leopoldo López**

