

Venezuela

Venezuela is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Venezuela is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Venezuela has denounced its ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights and [withdrawn](#) its acceptance of the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Venezuela to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Court found Venezuela responsible for numerous rights violations related to the extrajudicial executions of two brothers, which took place within a larger context of killings by police. See I/A Court H.R., [Landaeta Mejías Brothers et al. v. Venezuela](#), Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of August 27, 2014. Series C No. 281. The Court found Venezuela responsible for violating the rights of Leopoldo López, including the right to be elected, by banning him from holding office. See I/A Court H.R., [López Mendoza v. Venezuela](#), Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of Sept. 1, 2011. Series C No. 233.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Venezuela.

Venezuela has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights ([denounced](#))
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Venezuela is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Venezuela's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of five treaty bodies.

Venezuela has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)

Venezuela has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#), [CRPD](#), [CRC](#), and [CEDAW](#).

Venezuela has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Venezuela has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties Venezuela has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Venezuela has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Venezuela has also ratified [optional protocols](#) and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT, CRPD and CERD. Additionally, Venezuela has accepted the **inquiry procedures** of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD, allowing those treaty bodies to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations.

Venezuela has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they must seek specific invitations from Venezuela to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on torture visited Venezuela in June 1996 and published a [report](#) in December 1996.

For more information on Venezuela's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/VEIndex.aspx>.

Last updated: February 15, 2018