



**Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean  
Network for Democracy (Redlad):  
aggression against journalists and arbitrary detention against  
students outside the Embassy of Cuba in Venezuela**

**February 2013.**

**\*Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad) platform to promote full democracy comprising more than 480 organizations, as an Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD), alert about young violent repression against peaceful demonstrators and attacks on journalists by military forces in Venezuela.

Youth activists organizing the *Operación Soberanía* chained themselves outside the Embassy of Cuba in Caracas to seek restitution of the constitutional order on presidential term in Venezuela. However, were arrested by members of the National Guard and allegedly transferred to Detachment 52nd of Altamira (Chacao, Caracas).

It accounts for the assault and deprivation of liberty of young students of Universidad del Táchira, Universidad de Los Andes, Universidad de Carabobo and Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. The police also attacked reporters and even their news teams.

Also, it was learned that troops attacked two photojournalists at times covering the facts. The photographers Edsaú Gonzalez (El Universal) and Juan Camacho (from News Report), were attacked as they prepared to take information.

The university held by the names of José Vicente Garcia, a student at Universidad de Táchira; Villca Fernandez, Universidad de Los Andes, Daniel Coronel, of



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Universidad de Carabobo, Ulises Rojas, of University de Carabobo, Vanessa Eisig, student at Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, and Alexander Tirado, of UPEL. It is customary for the police and military forces of Venezuela use torture and ill-treatment of detainees. There is no news of their whereabouts after they were illegally arrested by military forces. It is presumed that the activists are in Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN).

The Permanent Secretariat RedLad:

- Is concerned by the detention of young people, the violation of their rights to freedom of expression and acts of violence and repression that is doing the National Guard.
- Requires that the National Guard indicates the site of the activists are in detention and that they fully respect their rights.
- Reject the attack on journalists and the destruction of their photographic equipment.
- Urge the Civil Society Organizations of Venezuela and the region to rejects on military violence in Venezuela, the repression against peaceful demonstrators, the intimidation of citizens and constitutional manipulation that serve undemocratic interests and antipluralistas
- Encourages the media to provide coverage of the events and report on the seriousness of what happened.
- It calls to democratic governments of the world, international organizations and personalities to reject and condemn these practices that violate human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Permanent Secretariat**  
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