

THE ROAD TO THE DECLARATION OF USURPATION IN VENEZUELA

Chronology of Nicolás Maduro's usurpation of the Venezuelan Presidency, which led to the interim presidency of Deputy Juan Guaidó, current President of the National Assembly

2015 | **December 15** | **Illegal designations in the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ)**

After the landslide victory of the opposition parties in the parliamentary elections, the outgoing National Assembly (AN) illegally designated extra TSJ members, breaking all constitutional lapses and procedures. Almost none of the new magistrates fitted the statutory profile or requirements, furthermore some Deputies even voted for themselves.

2016 | **January** | **Suspension of Amazonas State elected Deputies.**

In order to break the 2/3 majority attained in the election by the opposition in the new AN, the Supreme Court suspended on unsubstantiated grounds four Deputies from Amazonas State that had already been proclaimed by the National Electoral Council (CNE).

After the TSJ's delaying a decision on these Deputies, the AN took the step of reinstating them, which resulted in the TSJ declaring the AN in «contempt», a completely illegal measure only applicable to individuals and never to a whole Government branch.

As of January 2019, the TSJ has rejected all 35 law projects and decisions promoted by the new Assembly.

Since January | **Illegal home searches and exile of Deputies**

Abusively using police and military force, the government has incurred in many violations of the constitutional principle of parliamentary immunity.

Until today | **The AN attributions are continuously taken over using «emergency» economic decrees**

The illegitimate TSJ has repeatedly used the AN's attributions, bypassing the AN on all major decisions –which constitutionally should be discussed and approved by the AN– regarding the National Budget and public finances, and illegally assigning this delicate job to the Executive Branch.

August-October | **Illegal suspension of the Constitutional Impeachment Referendum (Referendum Revocatorio)**

After long tactical delays and many surprise new «legal» requirements, the CNE, in collusion with some regional courts with no competence whatsoever in electoral matters, negated the public collection of signatures that would have allowed, according to the Constitution, the process of impeachment of the President via a National Referendum.

December | **Illegal designation of the CNE Principals**

The TSJ Constitutional Committee, in a clear violation of the AN legal attribution, designated two new CNE Principals, repeating a similar illegal designation of three others in 2014.

2017 | **February** | **Banning of opposition political parties**

The TSJ and the Government controlled CNE imposed new arbitrary conditions to the majority of opposition parties, this rules blocked them from presenting candidates to the governor's elections, which in addition, had been deferred with no justification from 2016 to 2017.

March | **The TSJ continues to assume AN functions**

The repeated TSJ's unconstitutional rulings, triggered a series of popular protests that shocked the country for four months and resulted in more than 140 killings, many of them young students, and hundreds of illegal incarcerations.

April to July | **Political incapacitation of opposition leaders**

Issuing unsubstantiated administrative rulings, lacking even the most basic judicial processes, the National Comptroller's Office and the TSJ had incapacitated elected Governors, Deputies, Majors, and several notable political leaders, forbidding them to participate as candidates on national elections.

July | **Unconstitutional election of a National Constitutional Assembly (ANC)**

The CNE called an illegal election (the results of which have not been published) for a Constitutional Assembly imposed by Maduro, with the mandate of writing a new Constitution, that hasn't been done yet. This ANC has acted only as a de facto parallel legislative branch, illegally assuming all the AN functions.

2018 | **May 20** | **Illegal Presidential election**

Without any legal power, in January 2018 the irregular ANC decreed an advanced presidential election in May, that should have been celebrated in December.

Less than 50% of the electorate participated in this spurious election. The whole process had been qualified as fraudulent and flatly rejected by the vast majority of the world's democracies.

2019 | **January 10** | **Nicolás Maduro is sworn for a second term, effectively usurping the Presidency**

Arguing that the constitutional designated power, the AN, is in contempt, Maduro is sworn by the TSJ.

Due to all these flagrant violations of the Constitution, the National Assembly as the only legitimate elected government branch active in Venezuela, assumes the functions of the Executive Branch of Government in the person of its acting President, Deputy Juan Guaidó, based on articles 233, 333 and 350 of the National Constitution. These articles establish that the President of the AN should undertake, without any proclamation, the interim Presidency of the Republic and call for new elections.