

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT

Lawyers for the Movement

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Venezuela DOS Human Rights Report Comparison

2023 Report	2024 Report	Notes
Executive Summary		
"There were no significant changes in the human rights situation in Venezuela during the year" (1)	"The human rights situation in Venezuela significantly worsened. Throughout the year, and particularly after the July 28 presidential election, Nicolás Maduro and his representatives engaged in serious human rights abuses, reaching 'a new milestone in the degradation of the rule of law' after the election, according to the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the country in September" (1)	The 2023 report was 76 pages long, and 2024 report was 28 pages long
"There were no significant changes in the human rights situation in Venezuela during the year" (1)	"Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: arbitrary or unlawful killings; disappearances; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest or detention; transnational repression against individuals in another country; unlawful recruitment or use of children by Maduro-supported groups in armed conflict; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including violence or threats of violence against journalists, unjustified arrests or prosecutions of journalists, and censorship; trafficking in persons, including forced labor; prohibiting independent trade unions or significant or systematic restrictions on workers' freedom of association; violence or threats against labor activists or union members; and significant presence of any of the worst forms of child labor"	2024 report removes language on abuses against LGBTQ+ persons, lack of independence surrounding the judiciary, gender-based violence, barriers to sexual and reproductive health services, etc.
"Representatives of Nicolás Maduro Moros did not take credible steps or action to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses"	"No credible steps or actions were taken to identify and punish officials who committed human rights abuses"	2023 report mentions "representatives of Nicolas Maduro Moros" while 2024 report seemingly accepts Nicolas Maduro as president of Venezuela.
"There were reports nonstate armed groups and criminal gangs engaged in violence, human trafficking, child recruitment, exploitation of Indigenous communities, and sexual abuse"	"There were reports non state armed groups and criminal gangs engaged in violence, human trafficking, exploitation of Indigenous communities, sexual violence, and recruitment or use of children in illicit activities using force, fraud, or coercion. No action was taken to investigate or prosecute the abuses"	2024 report uses stronger language on abuses of children and indicates no action being taken as another human rights violation.
Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person	Section 1. Life	2024 report updates section titles.
a. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life and Other Unlawful or Politically Motivated Killings	a. Extrajudicial Killings	
Describes wider variety of killings.	Mostly describes killings that occurred around the July 28 election, of which state and state-associated security forces are mostly responsible.	Use of NGO sources is roughly comparable, each report citing multiple.

No Similar Language in this report	b. Coercion in Population Control	2023 report does not mention Coercion in Population Control
No Similar Language in this report	There were no reports of coerced abortion or involuntary sterilization on the part of Maduro representatives.	
	Section 2. Liberty	
b. Disappearance	c. Disappearance and Abduction	2024 report has been reorganized.
"Domestic human rights NGO FundaRedes documented 63 disappearances or kidnappings between January and March in the border states of Amazonas, Apure, Bolívar, Falcón, Táchira, and Zulia and 27 disappearances or kidnappings in these and six additional states between April and June. Most victims were men. In many cases, FundaRedes reported the perpetrators were criminal organizations engaged in extortion. In 2022, FundaRedes recorded 80 women disappeared along the border with Colombia. FundaRedes noted disappearances were likely underreported due to fear of reprisals or to mistrust in Maduro-controlled institutions. According to FundaRedes' investigations, security agents were complicit with irregular armed groups and criminal gangs in committing human rights abuses, including disappearances"	"There were reports of enforced disappearances by or on behalf of Maduro representatives. In April, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances denounced an 'alarming increase' since December 2023 in enforced disappearances of citizens exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and participating in matters of public interest"	2024 report focuses on government-facilitated disappearances, where 2023 report focuses more on gang-facilitated disappearances. 2023 report also highlights collusion between government security forces and criminal gangs, where the 2024 report remains mute.
In August, the National Committee of Victims of Forced Disappearances on the Coasts of Venezuela protested the lack of progress in investigations into the disappearance at sea of 150 migrants since 2015. Maduro representatives continued to deny requests by the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to visit the country to conduct investigations. In 2022, the Working Group reported 29 outstanding cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2023 report gives us numerical value of the dissapearances while the 2024 report just mentions an 'alarming increase'.
c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and Other Related Abuses	a. Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	
The FFM documented 28 cases of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of detainees from January 2020 to August 2023.	In June, the OHCHR reported 10 individuals detained by SEBIN and DGCIM agents were tortured or mistreated. In August, the Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy reported Juan Hidalgo Rodríguez, arrested on July 30 in Carabobo State, was in poor health after being tortured and as a result needed urgent medical attention.	The 2023 report mentions FFM, while the 2024 report mentions the Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy. FFM specifically is for finding missing people while the Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy is a more broader organization.
The FFM reported that at times judges ordered pretrial detention in national intelligence service (SEBIN) or military counterintelligence agency (DGCIM) facilities even when detainees alleged in court that they had been tortured or displayed signs consistent with torture. Media and NGOs reported Maduro-aligned law enforcement agencies and the military regularly beat and humiliated suspects during arrests. Cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners were also reported. Maduro-aligned individuals subjected detainees to asphyxiation, electric shock, broken bones, and hanging by their limbs. Detainees were also subjected to cold temperatures, sensory deprivation, and sleep deprivation; forced to spend hours on their knees; and handcuffed for extended periods of time. Some detainees and their relatives reported receiving death threats. Detainees reported Maduro-aligned security forces moved them from detention centers to houses and other clandestine locations where abuse took place. Cruel treatment frequently involved denying prisoners medical care and holding them for long periods in solitary confinement. NGOs reported some detainees were victims of sexual and gender-based violence by security units.	Some detainees and their relatives reported receiving death threats. Detainees reported Maduro-controlled security forces moved them from detention centers to houses and other clandestine locations where abuse took place. Cruel treatment frequently involved denying prisoners medical care and holding them for long periods in solitary confinement. NGOs reported security forces subjected some detainees to sexual violence.	The 2023 report goes into details of the specific acts of torture that were inflicted on detainees, while the 2024 report is broader.

No Similar Language in this report	Media reported Maduro promoted military officers involved in human rights abuses. In June, media reported Maduro's minister of defense, Vladimir Padrino López, authorized the promotion of Alexander Enrique Granko Arteaga and Nairobi O'Connor Jackson, two officers whom dozens of victims accused of participating in torture, cruel treatment, and other human rights abuses at the DGCIM. The OHCHR and FFM collectively recorded hundreds of complaints from victims and relatives detailing human rights violations and abuses, cruel treatment, and torture against political prisoners in SEBIN and DGCIM facilities.	The 2023 report does not mention how the media was used in abuse and torture cases.
No Similar Language in this report	In prisons, women were targeted for sexual violence, abuse, and torture and were frequently coerced into sexual acts in exchange for food or water. NGOs reported guards knew of and tolerated these abuses and sometimes facilitated them or committed these abuses themselves. NGOs reported instances of inmates and family members being threatened if they reported abuses.	The 2023 report does not mention how women were abused in prisons.
Prison and Detention Center Conditions	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Conditions at most prisons were harsh and life threatening due to gross overcrowding, food shortages, inadequate sanitary conditions, inadequate medical care, systemic violence, and poor infrastructure.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Abusive Physical Conditions</u> : conditions placed prisoners and detainees at increased risk of contracting diseases such as COVID-19, pneumonia, skin infections, malaria, and tuberculosis. Lack of water and cleaning supplies, inadequate access to recreation and sunlight, and insufficient food also increased the risk of contracting diseases. UVL recorded 240 suspected cases of tuberculosis among prisoners in 161 pretrial detention centers between October 2022 and July. Overcrowding was identified as the main cause of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases that spread easily. UVL also registered 45 detainees with HIV or AIDS, seven with COVID-19, and 411 with apparent malnutrition.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
OVP recorded many detainees showed symptoms of severe malnutrition, and malnutrition was one of the main causes of deaths in prisons and detention facilities.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
OVP reported a general lack of medical care, drugs, equipment, and medical personnel for prisoners. OVP also reported transfers to medical centers were frequently denied, except in the most extreme cases. None of the detainment facilities had proper infrastructure for persons with disabilities. There were no adequate restroom facilities.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Administration</u> : The Maduro-aligned Ministry of Penitentiary Services did not respond to requests from OVP, UVL, other human rights organizations, inmates, or families regarding credible allegations of mistreatment or investigations of harsh conditions that led to hunger strikes and violent uprisings.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Independent Monitoring</u> : Some human rights observers faced restrictions in gaining access to prisons and detention centers. The Ministry of Penitentiary Services prohibited NGOs from conducting prison visits. The Roman Catholic Church was also banned from conducting visits. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) conducted visits to detention centers and interviewed persons in detention. OHCHR was also able to visit two military detention centers.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
d.Arbitrary Arrest or Detention	Prolonged Detention without Charges	

The constitution prohibited the arrest or detention of an individual without a judicial order and provided for the accused to remain free while being tried, but judges and prosecutors often disregarded these provisions. Maduro representatives rarely granted detainees the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detentions in court, even though the right to do so was stipulated by law. Maduro representatives arbitrarily detained individuals, including foreign citizens, for extended periods without criminal charges.	The constitution prohibited the arrest or detention of an individual without a judicial order and provided for the accused to remain free during trial, but judges and prosecutors often disregarded these provisions. Detainees were rarely granted the ability to challenge the lawfulness of their detentions in court, even though the right to do so was stipulated by law.	The 2024 report does not mention the Maduro representatives and how they treated citizens.
Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Detainees		
While a warrant was required for an arrest, detention was permitted without an arrest warrant when an individual was apprehended in the act of committing a crime or to secure a suspect or witness during an investigation. Nonetheless, police often detained individuals and raided their homes without a warrant.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention police and how they treated citizens.
Arbitrary Arrest: Foro Penal reported 14 cases of politically motivated arbitrary detentions between January 1 and June 30. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions issued five opinions, finding 14 persons were arbitrarily detained.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Arbitrary Arrest.
Pretrial Detention: Prolonged pretrial detention remained a significant problem. The law stated a person accused of a crime could not be detained for longer than the possible minimum sentence for that crime or for longer than two years, whichever was shorter, except in certain circumstances, such as when the defendant was responsible for the delay in the proceedings. Maduro representatives routinely ignored these requirements.	Prolonged pretrial detention was a significant problem. The law stated a person accused of a crime could not be detained for longer than the possible minimum sentence for that crime or for longer than two years, whichever was shorter, except in certain circumstances, such as when the defendant was responsible for the delay in the proceedings. Maduro representatives routinely ignored these requirements. Due to overcrowding in prisons, many police station offices were used as makeshift prison cells. Long delays in court proceedings and prison transfers caused some prisoners to be held in these facilities for years.	The 2024 report goes into depth on the prolonged pretrial detention and the lack of urgency judges felt in presiding over a case.
	Despite constitutional protections that provided for timely trials, judges reportedly scheduled initial hearings months after the events that led to the detention. Proceedings were often deferred or suspended when an officer of the court, such as the prosecutor, public defender, or judge, failed to attend. Prisoners reported to NGOs that disorganization in the prison system and a lack of transportation reduced their access to the courts and contributed to trial delays. The OHCHR observed further delays in the issuance and execution of release orders. The OHCHR identified 10 detainees who remained in detention after completing their sentences and with no order for their release being issued.	The 2024 report goes into depth on the prolonged pretrial detention and the lack of urgency judges felt in presiding over a case.
e. Denial of a Fair Trial	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The law provided for the right to a fair and public trial with oral proceedings for all individuals. OHCHR noted that continued delays in judicial procedures (including investigations, hearings, and prosecutions) eroded guarantees of procedural fairness and due process. The constitution provided for an independent judiciary, but the judiciary lacked independence and generally ruled in favor of Maduro and his representatives at all levels. There were credible allegations of corruption and political influence throughout the judiciary.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Trial Procedures	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
By law, defendants were considered innocent until proven guilty. The law required that detainees be informed promptly of the charges against them. The law also stated that in the absence of the defense attorney, a trial could proceed with a public defender whom the court designated. These requirements were often ignored, according to human rights organizations. Indigent defendants' right to free counsel was often not respected due to attorney shortages. Free interpretation was often not available to non-Spanish-speaking defendants.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Political Prisoners and Detainees	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.

Maduro representatives used the judiciary to intimidate and prosecute individuals critical of their policies or actions, commonly using charges of conspiracy, terrorism, and treason to arrest individuals	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
f. Transnational Repression <u>Misuse of International Law Enforcement Tools:</u> There were credible reports Maduro representatives attempted to misuse international law enforcement tools, including Interpol Red Notices, to carry out politically motivated reprisals against specific individuals located outside the country.	e. Instances of Transnational Repression <u>Misuse of International Law Enforcement Tools:</u> There were credible reports Maduro representatives attempted to misuse international law enforcement tools, including INTERPOL Red Notices, to carry out politically motivated reprisals against individuals located outside the country.	The 2024 and 2023 reports document the same information regarding the Misuse of International Law Enforcement Tools.
g. Property Seizure and Restitution	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Observers noted Maduro representatives confiscated the assets of political opponents to intimidate and punish them. In January, de facto authorities broke into Auristela Vázquez's apartment and announced that it was being confiscated. There were no reports of restitution being made for such property seizures.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
h. Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The constitution provided for the inviolability of the home and personal privacy, but Maduro representatives generally failed to respect these prohibitions. Maduro-aligned individuals interfered in personal communications or raided homes, particularly in cases involving political opponents.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
i. Conflict-related Abuses	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The NGO Alerta Venezuela warned that irregular armed groups in the country committed human rights abuses, including killings, torture, kidnapping, internal displacement of Indigenous communities, trafficking in persons, and exploitation of women and children.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Child Soldiers:</u> The Secretary of State determined Venezuela had government-supported armed groups that recruited or used child soldiers during the period of April 2022 to March 2023.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties	Section 3. Security of the Person	
a. Freedom of Expression, Including for the Members of the Press and Other Media	a. Freedom of the Press	
The law provided for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, but the combination of laws and regulations governing libel, slander, and media content as well as legal harassment, physical intimidation of individuals and media, and Maduro's influence on the judiciary resulted in significant repression of these freedoms. National and international groups condemned Maduro's efforts throughout the year to restrict press freedom and create a climate of fear and self-censorship.	The law provided for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, but this freedom was significantly restricted due to laws and regulations governing libel, slander, and media content; legal harassment, physical intimidation of individuals and media outlets; and Maduro's undue influence on the judiciary. National and international groups condemned Maduro's efforts to restrict press freedom and create a climate of fear and self-censorship.	Some language from the 2023 report has been changed in the 2024 report.
<u>Freedom of Expression:</u> The law made conviction for insulting the president punishable by six to 30 months in prison without bail, with lesser penalties for insulting lower-ranking officials. The Constitutional Law against Hate for Political Coexistence and Tolerance (law against hate) stipulated prison sentences of up to 20 years.	The law against hate stipulated prison sentences of up to 20 years. While the stated purpose of the law was to "promote peace and tolerance," NGOs observed the vaguely written law was used to silence activists and journalists and limit freedom of expression. The law was also used to limit the rights of activists and journalists following their release from prison by banning international travel and requiring regular court appearances. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented 12 cases of individuals, including human rights defenders and journalists, charged or prosecuted under the law from May 2023 to April.	The 2024 report does not mention Freedom of Expression.

<u>Violence and Harassment</u> : Senior national and state leaders and Maduro-aligned figures continued to harass and intimidate privately owned and opposition-oriented television stations, media outlets, and journalists by using threats, property seizures, administrative and criminal investigations, and prosecutions	Widespread violence in the country, often encouraged or left undeterred by Maduro and his representatives, made it difficult to determine whether attacks on journalists resulted from common criminal activity or whether criminals or others targeted media members as a form of censorship. IPYS stated journalists faced higher risks in border areas due to the presence of criminal groups.	The 2024 report does not mention Violence and Harassment.
<u>Censorship or Content Restrictions for Members of the Press and Other Media, Including Online Media</u> : The law provided that inaccurate reporting deemed to disturb the public peace was punishable by prison terms of two to five years. The requirement that media disseminate only “true” information was undefined and open to politically motivated interpretation.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Censorship or Content Restrictions for Members of the Press and Other Media, Including Online Media.
The law declared telecommunications a “public interest service,” thereby giving the government authority to regulate the content and structure of radio, television, and audiovisual production sectors. The law provided that the government could suspend or revoke licenses when it judged such actions necessary in the interests of the nation, public order, or security. The law empowered the government to impose heavy fines and cancel broadcasts for violations of its norms; CONATEL oversaw the law’s application.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention telecommunications and its effects.
<u>Libel/Slander Laws</u> : Libel and slander were criminal offenses, punishable by one to three years’ imprisonment and a significant fine. Maduro-aligned individuals engaged in reprisals against media organizations and individuals who publicly expressed criticism of Maduro or his policy.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 does not mention Libel/Slander Laws.
<u>National Security</u> : The law allowed the government to suspend or revoke licenses when it determined such actions necessary in the interests of public order or security. Maduro representatives exercised control over the press through a public entity, the Strategic Center for Security and Protection of the Homeland, which was similar to the governmental entity Center for National Situational Studies. The two entities had similar mandates and were responsible for “compiling, processing, analyzing, and classifying” public information with the objective of “protecting the interests and objectives of the state.”	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention National Security.
<u>Non Governmental Impact</u> : Widespread violence in the country, often encouraged or left undeterred by Maduro and his representatives, made it difficult to determine whether attacks on journalists resulted from common criminal activity or whether criminals or others targeted media members as a form of censorship.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Non Governmental Impact.
Internet Freedom		
Maduro representatives restricted or disrupted access to the internet and censored online content. They exercised broad control over the internet through CONATEL.	According to IPYS, more than five million citizens lived in “media deserts” or “silenced zones,” areas where access to information was insufficient. Access to information was most heavily restricted in border territories and areas where Indigenous communities resided. These areas also faced greater internet restrictions.	The 2024 report does not mention CONATEL, while the 2023 report does not mention IPYS. Both reports used different organizations to measure documentation.
State-controlled CANTV was the leading internet provider in the country, with 70 percent of subscribers. CANTV implemented a blocking system that required the use of a virtual private network to evade censorship.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention CANTV.
b. Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Maduro representatives restricted the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.

The constitution provided for the right of peaceful assembly, but Maduro representatives generally repressed or suspended it. A 2015 public decree regulated the right to assembly and granted the armed forces authority to control public order. Human rights groups criticized the law as enabling Maduro representatives to charge protesters with serious crimes for participating in peaceful demonstrations. Ambiguous language in the law also allowed Maduro representatives to criminalize organizations and persons critical of them. FFM Chair Marta Valiñas warned that fear of detention hindered freedom of expression.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Freedom of Association	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The constitution provided for freedom of association and freedom from political discrimination, but Maduro representatives did not respect these rights. Although professional and academic associations generally operated without interference, some associations complained the TSJ and the National Electoral Council (CNE), which was responsible for convoking all elections and establishing electoral dates and procedures, interfered with their attempts to hold internal elections.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
c. Freedom of Religion		
d. Freedom of Movement and the Right to Leave the Country	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The constitution provided for freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation; however, Maduro representatives did not respect these rights. Several human rights defenders reported security officials detained and questioned them when leaving or entering the country, particularly if traveling to or from the United States.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>In-country Movement</u> : Maduro representatives restricted the movement of some opposition leaders, at times refusing to allow them to board domestic flights.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Foreign Travel</u> : Obtaining a passport remained difficult. Maduro representatives repeatedly seized passports from journalists, members of the opposition, and legitimate national assembly deputies at ports of entry without explanation as they attempted to depart the country. The cost of a passport was approximately 5,300 bolívares (\$216), too expensive for many citizens.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
e. Protection of Refugees	c. Protection of Refugees	
Maduro representatives did not cooperate with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to refugees, returning refugees, or asylum seekers, as well as other persons of concern. Additionally, in August, the TSJ dismissed the president of the National Red Cross, Mario Enrique Villarroel, and the entire board of directors. Villarroel's removal by the Maduro-affiliated TSJ left local and international organizations concerned regarding government overreach, the role of politics in humanitarian assistance, and the precedent this dismissal created for government interference in civil service organizations.	Maduro representatives did not cooperate with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees or other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to refugees, returning refugees, or asylum seekers, as well as other persons of concern.	The 2023 report documents the same thing as the 2024 report, but it also provides an example of TSJ.
<u>Access to Asylum</u> : The law provided for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and there was an established system for providing protection to refugees, although delays in the system allowed for abuse at the hands of private individuals and representatives of the state.	<u>Provision of First Asylum</u> : The law provided for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and there was a system for providing protection to refugees, although delays in the system allowed for abuse at the hands of private individuals and representatives of the state.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same thing but use different wording.

<u>Abuse of Refugees and Asylum Seekers:</u> The refugee status determination process was managed by the National Refugee Commission. Its administrative obstacles resulted in lengthy delays for asylum seekers waiting to obtain legal documentation and status determinations. Frequent and inconsistent administrative changes made it exceedingly difficult for refugees to regularize their status and prevented full access to basic rights. Government offices charged high fees for documents used in immigration and foreign affairs processes. Additionally, the National Refugee Commission announced persons who had been recognized as refugees but had not begun the process of requesting an identification document from the Administrative Office of Immigration and Foreign Affairs before 2021 were required to first request a certification card to establish their refugee status.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Employment:</u> There were credible reports that the government imposed restrictions on refugees' ability to work after their status as refugee was official. Refugees without legal residency permits had limited access to the formal labor market.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Access to Basic Services:</u> Asylum seekers without legal residency permits had limited access to education and health systems. The lack of documentation created significant difficulties in achieving sufficient protection and long-term integration.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Section 3. Freedom to Participate in the Political Process	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The constitution provided citizens the ability to change their government through free and fair elections. Maduro's interference, electoral irregularities, unconstitutional appointments of electors, and harassment and manipulation of voters and candidates restricted the exercise of this right.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Elections and Political Participation	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Abuses or Irregularities in Recent Elections: Presidential elections in 2018 were widely condemned by the political opposition and international observers as fraudulent and constitutionally invalid. In the 2018 presidential and municipal elections, 2020 legislative elections, and 2021 regional elections for governor, mayor, and state and local officials, Maduro representatives arbitrarily banned key opposition figures from participating in the political process, threatened them with spurious judicial charges, held hundreds of political prisoners, utilized judicial processes to deprive political parties of legal standing, and denied opposition political representatives equal access to media coverage and freedom of movement in the country.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Political Parties and Political Participation:</u> Opposition political parties and PSUV dissidents operated in a restrictive atmosphere characterized by intimidation, the threat of prosecution or administrative sanction on questionable charges, and very limited mainstream media access.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Participation of Women and Members of Marginalized or Vulnerable Groups:</u> On August 25, 74 civil society organizations reported harassment and political violence disproportionately affected women seeking public office. Actions against women included death threats, physical aggressions, and other forms of intimidation.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Section 4. Corruption in Government	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The law provided criminal penalties for corruption by officials, but it was not implemented effectively. Several officials explicitly acknowledged corruption as a major problem. According to Transparency International, among the main reasons for the country's widespread corruption were impunity, systematic institutional weakening, and a lack of transparency in the management of government resources.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.

<u>Corruption</u> : Corruption was a major problem in all security and armed forces, whose lower-ranked members were generally poorly paid and minimally trained. No information was publicly available on the number of cases involving police and military officials during the year, although the Public Ministry publicized several individual cases against Maduro officials for soliciting bribes and other corrupt activities.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Section 5. Government Posture Towards International and Nongovernmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
A variety of independent domestic and international human rights groups operated in the country. Despite restrictions from Maduro representatives, domestic human rights NGOs monitored or investigated human rights cases and published their findings. Maduro-aligned officials were rarely cooperative or responsive to the views of these groups.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Retribution against Human Rights Defenders</u> : The NGO Center for Defenders and Justice recorded more than 300 attacks and security incidents against human rights defenders and civil society organizations in the first half of the year, a 44 percent increase compared with the same period in 2022. The NGO recorded almost 200 cases that appeared intended to discredit the work of human rights defenders and organizations and noted Maduro representatives consistently linked the actions of human rights defenders and civil society to criminal activities such as terrorism or destabilization. Some human rights activists reported Maduro representatives barred them from traveling abroad or that they feared not being able to return to the country if they traveled. OHCHR reiterated its concern regarding the widespread application of the law against hate to criminalize and delegitimize the work of human rights defenders.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>The United Nations or Other International Bodies</u> : Maduro representatives were generally hostile toward international human rights bodies and continued to refuse access to the IACHR, which last visited the country in 2002.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Government Human Rights Bodies</u> : Maduro's human rights ombudsman failed to advocate for citizen victims of human rights neutrally and objectively, especially in cases of egregious abuses such as enforced disappearances.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Women	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Rape and Domestic Violence</u> : The law criminalized rape of women or men, including spousal rape and domestic or intimate partner rape and other forms of domestic and sexual violence. The law did not explicitly address so-called corrective rape of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex (LGBTQI+) persons. Femicide had a penalty of 20-25 years in prison and aggravated femicide a penalty of 28-30 years. The law was not consistently enforced.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The law criminalized physical, sexual, and psychological violence in the home or community and at work, with increased penalties for intimate partner violence. The law stipulated penalties ranging from six to 27 months in prison for perpetrators of intimate partner violence. The law required police to report intimate partner violence to judicial authorities and obligated hospital personnel to notify authorities when admitting patients who were victims of intimate partner violence. The law was rarely followed or enforced. Police generally were reluctant to intervene to prevent intimate partner violence and were not properly trained to handle such cases.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.

Enforcement of laws and access to justice were limited. Survivors of gender-based violence reported a lack of progress in investigations and inability to follow up on cases after filing reports. Advocates observed there was a lack of public awareness regarding resources and support available to prevent and combat gender-based violence. Protection and other resources for survivors of gender-based violence were inadequate.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Other Forms of Gender-based Violence or Harassment:</u> Sexual harassment was illegal and punishable by fines and a prison sentence of one to three years. Although common in the workplace according to media reports, sexual harassment cases were rarely reported. Several cases of harassment at the hands of security forces – both police and military – were reported during the year.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Discrimination:</u> Women enjoyed the same legal status and rights as men under the constitution. Women and men were legally equal in marriage, and the law provided for gender equality in exercising the right to work. The law specified that employers could not discriminate against women regarding pay or working conditions. Nevertheless, women earned less than men for equivalent work. Maduro representatives did not enforce the law effectively.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Reproductive Rights:</u> There were no reports of coerced abortion or involuntary sterilization on the part of Maduro representatives.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Women and girls lacked the conditions and information to safely make decisions concerning their sexual and reproductive health and lacked timely access to services and quality contraceptive methods. Lack of access to transportation and cost of basic services aggravated the situation.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Maduro representatives restricted access to sexual and reproductive health services for sexual violence survivors, including emergency contraception and postexposure prophylaxis for the clinical management of rape. Economic mismanagement and neglect of the country's health-care infrastructure severely restricted access to resources for menstrual health and hygiene as well as to skilled health attendants during pregnancy and childbirth. The NGO Acción Solidaria (Solidarity Action) reported one in four women did not have menstrual hygiene products at home, which forced them to use unhygienic and improvised alternatives that could cause infections and make them miss school and work.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Pregnant women faced inadequate conditions for childbirth, leading to high rates of maternal and newborn deaths, most of which were preventable.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Doctors stated these “predictable and treatable” conditions were often fatal due to hospitals’ lack of adequate beds, medical resources, medicine, and qualified doctors and specialists. CEDAW expressed concern regarding the criminalization of abortion in cases of rape, incest, or severe fetal impairment.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
OHCHR reported sexual and reproductive health services, such as obstetric care and cervical treatment, were often unavailable or inaccessible.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Systemic Racial or Ethnic Violence and Discrimination	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The constitution prohibited discrimination based on race. The law prohibited all forms of racial discrimination and provided for a maximum of three years’ imprisonment for acts of racial discrimination. As mandated by law, signage existed outside commercial and recreational establishments announcing the prohibition against acts of racial discrimination. Beyond signage, little was done to enforce laws against discrimination or prosecute cases of discrimination.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Indigenous Peoples		

OHCHR documented threats and intimidation by nonstate armed and criminal groups, including the U.S.-designated terrorist organizations National Liberation Army (ELN) and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP), against Indigenous defenders protecting their territory from drug trafficking and mining. Media and NGOs reported members of the military and police forces were often complicit in the violence by action or omission.	There were reports nonstate armed groups and criminal gangs engaged in violence, human trafficking, exploitation of Indigenous communities, sexual violence, and recruitment or use of children in illicit activities using force, fraud, or coercion. No action was taken to investigate or prosecute the abuses.	The 2023 document reports on violence, while the 2024 reports mention that no action was taken to investigate or prosecute the abuses.
OHCHR reported allegations of sexual violence against Indigenous women and girls, particularly in mining areas in Amazonas, Bolívar, and Zulia states where nonstate armed groups and criminal organizations involved in narco trafficking and mining reportedly operated.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention allegations.
Influxes of disease, drugs, human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, and other illegal activities in the mining areas put Indigenous communities at risk.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention this.
Indigenous communities reported Maduro representatives developed and expanded mining zones, resulting in a rise in environmental degradation, water contamination with mercury and cyanide, and malaria. Indigenous leaders said the results of expanded mining zones threatened the survival of entire Indigenous communities and preservation of their traditional ways of life. They added that Maduro representatives expanded mining zones without consulting those who claimed the region as ancestral territories. UNHCR reported mining communities were exposed to dengue, sexually transmitted infections, alcoholism, violence, and drug addiction. Additionally, it was common for informal gold mines to collapse. UNHCR also reported exposure to mercury-contaminated water contributed to displacement and endangered small subsistence farms and the livelihoods and cultural and sacred traditions of Indigenous communities.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Indigenous communities.
Children	b. Protection of Children	
There is no Similar Language in this report	NGOs asserted the prevalence of child labor continued to increase throughout the country, especially in the mining sector. In June, the domestic human rights NGO Fundaredes reported children and adolescents were among the victims of forced labor in the Orinoco Mining Arc. According to Fundaredes, children and adolescents were forced to work in inhuman conditions and suffered from mistreatment by armed groups in Amazonas, Bolívar, and Delta Amacuro States. Other NGOs reported children as young as seven could be seen in the streets offering to clean vehicles.	The 2023 report does not mention Child Labor.
There is no Similar Language in this report	<u>Child Soldiers</u> : The Secretary of State determined Venezuela had Maduro-supported armed groups that recruited or used child soldiers during the period of April 2023 to March 2024	The 2023 report does not mention Child Soldiers.
<u>Birth Registration</u> : While not discriminatory, birth registration was difficult to obtain due to a shortage of paper necessary to print birth certificates. The NGO Cecodap, a domestic group focused on child and adolescent rights, reported at least eight requests for support due to difficulties in obtaining birth certificates, passports, or identity cards for children between April 2022 and March. Thousands of children reportedly left the country without a birth certificate amid the country's migration crisis.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Birth Registration.
<u>Child Abuse</u> : The law prohibited child abuse. Maduro representatives made limited efforts to detain and prosecute some perpetrators of child abuse. Although the judicial system acted to remove children from abusive households, NGOs reported public facilities for such children were few and inadequate.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Child Abuse.
In June, Maduro's attorney general Saab reported Maduro's Public Ministry had registered 7,165 cases of child sexual abuse since 2022. Saab also announced the creation of a specialized prosecutor's office for crimes of sexual abuse of children and adolescents. According to Saab, since 2017, the Public Ministry opened 28,386 child abuse cases, in which 13,443 persons were accused and 4,295 convicted.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Child Sexual Abuse.

<u>Child, Early, and Forced Marriage</u>: The legal minimum age for marriage was 18, but with parental consent the minimum age was 16. Maduro representatives did not enforce the law effectively. NGOs noted Maduro representatives did not collect data on child, early, and forced marriage in the country and assessed this represented a grave problem.	The legal minimum age for marriage was 18, or 16 with parental consent. Maduro representatives did not enforce the law effectively. NGOs noted Maduro representatives did not collect data on child marriage; the NGOs considered such marriages a grave problem.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same thing but use different wording.
<u>Sexual Exploitation of Children</u>: The law prohibited the sale, grooming, or use of children for commercial sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking. Conviction for having sexual relations with a child younger than 13, with an “especially vulnerable” person, or with a child younger than 16 when the perpetrator was a relative or guardian, was punishable with a mandatory sentence of 15 to 20 years’ imprisonment. Penalties ranged from 15 to 20 years’ imprisonment for some forms of sex trafficking of women and girls. The law did not criminalize all forms of child sex trafficking because it required demonstration of force, fraud, or coercion as essential elements of the crime. The law prohibited the production and sale of child pornography and established penalties of 16 to 20 years’ imprisonment. The government generally enforced the law.	There is no Similar Language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Sexual Exploitation of Children.
Antisemitism	d. Acts of Antisemitism and Antisemitic Incitement	
The Confederation of Israelite Associations in Venezuela estimated there were 10,000 Jews in the country. Jewish community leaders expressed concern regarding antisemitic statements by Maduro-aligned actors.	The Confederation of Israelite Associations in Venezuela estimated there were 10,000 Jews in the country. Jewish community leaders expressed concern regarding antisemitic statements by Maduro-aligned actors. On August 2, Maduro claimed “international Zionism” was financing a supposed coup attempt to remove him from power and “international Zionism” controlled “all social media networks, satellites, and power.” Maduro also said he condemned “the most brutal genocide that has taken place after that of Hitler, against the people of Gaza.”	The 2024 mentions an example of Acts of Antisemitism and Antisemitic Incitement in August.
Trafficking in Persons		
Acts of Violence, Criminalization, and Other Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression, or Sex Characteristics	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Criminalization</u>: Consensual sex between same-sex couples was reportedly lawful. On March 16, the Maduro-aligned TSJ annulled an article of the Organic Code of Military Justice that subjected members of the armed forces who engaged in same-sex relations to one to three years’ imprisonment and fines.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Violence and Harassment</u>: NGOs reported incidents of discriminatory violence against LGBTQI+ persons. Advocates for LGBTQI+ rights stated law enforcement authorities often did not properly investigate to determine whether crimes were motivated by hate or gender discrimination.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The Venezuelan Observatory of LGBTQI+ Violence documented 60 acts of aggression against members of the LGBTQI+ community between January and April, including physical violence, hate speech, and discrimination in public and private places.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Discrimination</u>: The law prohibited discrimination by state and nonstate actors based on sex but did not specifically address sexual orientation. Maduro representatives did not enforce the law effectively. There were no legal instruments that allowed same-sex marriage, domestic partnership, or the adoption of children by same-sex couples. Maduro representatives did not provide statistics disaggregated by sexual orientation, so the needs of the LGBTQI+ population were often not considered when generating public policies, according to advocates for LGBTQI+ rights. The LGBTQI+ community continued to demand passage of a marriage equality law.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Transgender and intersex persons were not provided adequate medical services, including hormone therapy and psychological support. Lesbian women reported discrimination in public health services, including gynecology and prenatal and postnatal services.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.

<u>Availability of Legal Gender Recognition:</u> NGOs reported Maduro representatives systematically denied recognition to transgender, intersex, and nonbinary persons by refusing to issue them identity documents in their preferred gender. As identity documents were required for access to education, employment, housing, health care, and other services, these discriminatory actions often led transgender and intersex persons to become victims of human trafficking.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices:</u> The Federation of Psychologists of Venezuela condemned the practice of so-called conversion therapies to “cure” homosexuality and any other expression of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. According to LGBTQI+ rights NGOs, some evangelical Protestant churches and some psychologists promoted so-called conversion therapy. There were no official reports that medically unnecessary and irreversible “normalization” surgeries were performed on children or on non consenting adult intersex persons.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
<u>Restrictions of Freedom of Expression, Association, or Peaceful Assembly:</u> There were no restrictions against freedom of expression, association, or peaceful association related to LGBTQI+ matter or events.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Persons with Disabilities	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The law prohibited discrimination against persons with physical and mental disabilities, but no efforts were made to implement the law, inform the public of it, or combat societal prejudice against persons with disabilities. The law required all newly constructed or renovated public parks and buildings provide access, but persons with disabilities had minimal access to public transportation, and ramps were almost nonexistent.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The constitution prohibited employment discrimination based on disability. Nonetheless, persons with disabilities regularly faced discrimination in employment and occupation.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Some children with disabilities attended separate schools, while others were in mainstream schools with peers without disabilities. Media reported schools for children with disabilities suffered from underfunding, decaying infrastructure, and little consideration for the specific needs of individual disabilities. Schools lacked adequate materials and personnel, such as education materials in braille, sign language interpreters, and guides or interpreters for deaf or blind persons	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Other Societal Violence or Discrimination	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
The law provided for the equal rights of persons with HIV or AIDS and their families. Nevertheless, leading advocates alleged discrimination occurred against such persons. The NGO Citizen Action Against AIDS reported constant discrimination in public hospitals against persons with HIV, citing denial of medical care for persons with HIV and mistreatment of pregnant women with HIV at the time of delivery.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated this section and does not include similar language in the report.
Section 7. Worker Rights	b. Worker Rights	
a. Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	
The law provided for collective bargaining and all private- and public-sector workers (except members of the armed forces) with the right to form and join unions of their choice and to strike. The law, however, placed several restrictions on these rights, and Maduro representatives deployed a variety of mechanisms to undercut the rights of independent workers and unions. Minimum membership requirements for unions differed based on the type of union.	The law provided for the right for workers (except members of the armed forces) to form unions, collectively bargain, and conduct legal strikes. The law placed several restrictions on these rights, and Maduro representatives deployed a variety of mechanisms to undercut the rights of independent workers and unions. There was no effective enforcement of the laws to protect workers' right to form independent unions and collectively bargain.	The 2023 report mentions membership requirements while the 2024 report doesn't. The 2024 report mentions, "There was no effective enforcement of the laws to protect workers' right to form independent unions and collectively bargain".

The law prohibited “any act of discrimination or interference contrary to the exercise” of workers’ right to unionize.	The law prohibited “any act of discrimination or interference contrary to the exercise” of workers’ right to unionize. Maduro representatives did not effectively enforce the law. The law required all unions to provide Maduro’s Ministry of Labor with a membership roster that included the full name, home address, telephone number, and national identification number for each union member. The ministry reviewed the registration and determined whether the union fulfilled all requirements. The law required the presence of labor inspectors from the ministry to witness and legitimize unions’ decisions.	The 2024 report goes into depth on the law that was required for all unions and on how the Maduro representatives implemented it.
By law, employers could negotiate a collective contract only with unions that represent most of their workers. Minority organizations could not jointly negotiate in cases where no union represented an absolute majority. The law also restricted unions’ ability to administer their activities.	By law, employers could negotiate a collective contract only with unions that represented most of their workers. Minority organizations could not jointly negotiate in cases where no union represented an absolute majority. The law also restricted unions’ ability to administer their activities. For example, the National Electoral Council (CNE) had the authority to administer internal elections of labor unions, federations, and confederations. By law, elections were required to be held at least every three years. If CNE-administered- and -certified elections were not held within this period, the law prohibited union leaders from representing workers in negotiations or engaging in anything beyond administrative tasks.	The 2024 report documents the same thing as the 2023 report, but provides an example of unions’ abilities.
No similar Language in this Report	The law recognized the right of all public- and private-sector workers to strike, subject to conditions established by law. The law provided workers participating in legal strikes immunity from prosecution and specified their time in service could not be reduced by the time engaged in a strike, but workers in state-owned companies who engaged in a strike or who called out civil and political rights violations in addition to calling for better working conditions were more likely to be subject to detention and prosecution. The law required employers to reincorporate striking workers after the conclusion of a strike and provided for prison terms to deter violations for employers who failed to do so. This law was not enforced.	The 2023 report does not mention what the law recognized.
No similar Language in this Report	The law also restricted the right to strike. It prohibited striking workers from paralyzing the production or provision of essential public goods and services but defined essential services more broadly than ILO standards. The ILO called for the law to be amended to exclude from the definition of essential services activities “that are not essential in the strict sense of the term...so that in no event may criminal sanctions be imposed in cases of peaceful strikes.”	The 2023 report does not mention the law that restricted the right to strike.
b. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor	Forced or Compulsory Labor	
c. Prohibition of Child Labor and Minimum Age for Employment	There is no Similar Language in this Report.	The 2024 report does not mention the Prohibition of Child Labor and the Minimum Age for Employment.
The law prohibited all the worst forms of child labor. The law set the minimum employment age at 14. Children younger than 14 could work only if granted special permission by the National Institute for Minors or the Ministry of Labor	The law prohibited all the worst forms of child labor. The law set the minimum employment age at 14. Children younger than 14 could work only if granted special permission by the National Institute for Children or Maduro’s Ministry of Labor.	The 2023 report and 2024 report document the same thing.
Anyone employing children younger than eight was subject to time in prison. Employers were required to notify authorities if they hired a child as a domestic worker. Maduro representatives did not effectively enforce the law and did not release statistics on the number of children subjected to child labor or on penalties applied against violators.	Anyone employing children younger than eight was subject to time in prison. Employers were required to notify authorities if they hired a child as a domestic worker. Maduro representatives did not effectively enforce the law and did not release statistics on the number of children subjected to child labor or on penalties applied against violators.	The 2023 report and 2024 report document the same thing.
d. Discrimination (see section 6)		
e. Acceptable Conditions of Work	Acceptable Conditions of Work	
<u>Wage and Hour Laws:</u> The law provided for a minimum wage for all sectors. The national minimum wage was below the poverty line. Minimum wage and other benefits were established through decrees. The most recent salary increase was published in March 2022.	<u>Wage and Hour Laws:</u> The law provided for a minimum wage for all sectors. The national minimum wage was below the poverty line. Minimum wage and other benefits were established through decrees.	The 2024 excludes: “The most recent salary increase was published in March 2022.” The 2024 report does not mention salary increases.

There is no Similar Language in this report.	The law set the workweek at 40 hours (35 hours for a night shift). The law established separate limits for "shift workers," who could not work more than an average of 42 hours per week during an eight-week period, with overtime capped at 100 hours annually. Managers were prohibited from obligating employees to work additional time, and workers had the right to two consecutive days off each week.	The 2023 report does not mention the number of hours citizens worked.
There is no Similar Language in this report.	Workers organizations reported delays in the public electronic wage payment system made it difficult for workers to withdraw the full value of their wages in cash.	The 2023 report does not mention reported delays.
<u>Occupational Safety and Health:</u> Occupational safety and health (OSH) standards were not appropriate for the main industries. Workplaces were required to maintain "protection for the health and life of the workers against all dangerous working conditions." The law obligated employers to pay workers specified amounts for workplace injuries or occupational illnesses, ranging from two times the daily salary for missed workdays to several years' salary for permanent injuries.	<u>Occupational Safety and Health:</u> Workplaces were required to maintain "protection for the health and life of the workers against all dangerous working conditions," but occupational safety and health (OSH) standards were not appropriate for the main industries. There was no public information available as to whether inspectors proactively identified unsafe conditions or responded to workers complaints. Workers could legally remove themselves from unsafe situations without jeopardizing their employment, although there were no reports of workers doing this in practice. The law obligated employers to pay workers specified amounts for workplace injuries or occupational illnesses, ranging from two times the daily salary for missed workdays to several years' salary for permanent injuries.	The 2024 report adds that no public information was available, whereas the 2023 report does not.
<u>Wage, Hour, and OSH Enforcement:</u> The law covered all workers, including temporary, occasional, and domestic workers. The Ministry of Labor reportedly enforced minimum wage rates and hours of work provisions in the formal sector to some extent, but OSH law was not effectively enforced. Penalties for wage, hour, and OSH law violations were less than those for similar crimes, such as negligence. Penalties were rarely applied against violators. There were various administrative agencies tasked with verifying that workplaces complied with OSH regulations.	<u>Wage, Hour, and OSH Enforcement:</u> The law covered all workers, including temporary, occasional, and domestic workers. Maduro's Ministry of Labor reportedly enforced minimum wage rates and hours of work provisions in the formal sector to some extent, but OSH law was not effectively enforced. Penalties for wage, hour, and OSH law violations were less than those for similar crimes such as fraud or negligence. Penalties were rarely applied against violators. There were various administrative agencies tasked with verifying workplaces complied with OSH regulations.	Some language from the 2023 report has been changed in the 2024 report.