



Human Rights Around the World

In a couple of weeks, people around the world will stand up for equality, justice, and human dignity by celebrating international Human Rights Day which is celebrated on December 10 – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Local 4092 had two resolutions related to the situation in Venezuela that were sent to 2019 CUPE National convention, resolution 115, together with a resolution of Local 1871 (non-magisterial staff at the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission).

The resolution calls on the Canadian government to work multilaterally to restore peace and democracy in Venezuela and to pressure the Venezuela government of Nicolas Maduro to release political activists, cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights officers now present in Venezuela and with all international investigations into alleged human rights abuses and crimes against humanity. It also requests expanded humanitarian aid for persons displaced from Venezuela and those who remain within Venezuela.

The resolution read:

The accumulation of evidence has starkly implicated the Maduro government in appalling offenses and terrible crimes. Amnesty International, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Reporters without Borders, Human Rights Watch and the International Labor Organization have all repeatedly documented human rights abuses by the Maduro government. Moreover, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court launched an examination into crimes against humanity allegedly committed by the Venezuela State authorities. A central focus of CUPE's international work is to speak out against human rights

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abuses wherever they occur and lobby the Canadian Government to secure human rights through peaceful and diplomatic means.

Many of us cannot imagine what the Venezuelan people are going through. So far, 4,600,000 to 5,000,000 Venezuelans have left for other countries. Hundreds of women are missing, many people are being trafficked and violations of aboriginal rights is common. Environmental destruction is widespread particularly through government sponsored mining in the Amazon region. As well, there are hundreds of political prisoners, thousands of extrajudicial killings and political persecution is common. There is little medicine, food or clean water and electrical blackouts are a regular occurrence. Many have left their homes, walking for weeks with a suitcase for the hope of a shot at dignity.

The monthly salary there is just under eight Canadian dollars. Union members are been persecuted as well. The Secretary-General of the Ferrominera Orinoco Union was sentenced to five years and 9 months in prison by a military court. So far, 65 local radio stations, 10 television channels, and 70 Newspapers have been forced to close as freedom of speech has been curtailed. Also, eleven international media (channels) have been blocked. If nothing changes, the number of displaced will surpass 8 million people by the end of 2020 according to the Organizations of American States.

Join the initiative from Francisco Ortiz to form the Human Rights and Global Justice committee to Stand Up for Human Rights. Email the local to get involved office@local4092.ca.

We are reminded that it is our responsibility as global citizens to stand up to injustice everywhere.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/venezuela-refugees-south-america-1.5359306>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/11/1052031>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/venezuelan-exodus-5-3-million-un-1.4946322>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24788&LangID=E>

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