

# *Venezuela criticizes Michelle Bachelet for distorted report on alleged rights abuses*

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Caracas, March 12 (RHC)-- Venezuela has strongly criticized a distorted and "unbalanced" report issued by Michelle Bachelet and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"Venezuela will review the relationship with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the upcoming renewal of the Letter of Engagement, in order to guarantee the strict and necessary adherence to the principles of objectivity, non-selectivity, impartiality, non-interference in internal affairs and constructive dialogue," the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has emphasized through a statement issued Thursday.

In this way, Caracas has reacted to the declarations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, who alleged that her office continues to receive denunciations of alleged

"extrajudicial executions" in the context of operations by Venezuelan security forces.

Bachelet claims that her office documented at least 66 cases of intimidation, harassment, disqualification and criminalization of journalists, human rights defenders, union leaders and opposition members or supporters, including elected members of the 2015 National Assembly (NA), among others.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry has considered that the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is "unbalanced" and has been issued "by mandate of a politicized resolution of the Human Rights Council, promoted by the U.S. Government through the self-styled Lima Group" -- made up of countries that seek to overthrow the Government of President Nicolás Maduro and support coup leader Juan Guaidó.

Caracas regrets that the High Commissioner loses her rigor and objectivity in the face of pressure from anti-Venezuelan actors and "makes biased statements, far from the truth, echoing media campaigns and presenting ideologized speculations, as facts."

Venezuela's ambassador to the United Nations, Héctor Constant Rosales, has criticized Bachelet before the Human Rights Council for offering unverified information that feeds "the media campaign" against the Bolivarian country.

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