



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Venezuela - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 25 May 2018

Information on the current security situation generally and in Caracas

A report published by the *International Crisis Group* in March 2018 states that:

“Venezuela is among the most violent countries in the world” (International Crisis Group (21 March 2018) *Containing the Shock Waves from Venezuela*, p.14).

Insight Crime in May 2018 notes that:

“Caracas ranks as one of the deadliest cities on the planet, with a murder rate of 130 per 100,000” (Insight Crime (7 May 2018) *Venezuela: A Mafia State?*, p.9).

Commenting on Caracas the *Wall Street Journal* in May 2018 states that:

“This city is unraveling fast...Shotgun-toting troops wearing camouflage and balaclavas run checkpoints” (Wall Street Journal (13 May 2018) *The Lights Have Gone Out in Caracas*).

A report issued in May 2018 by the *Assessment Capacities Project* notes that:

“There are Colombian armed groups present in Venezuela, particularly in the border region, where they are involved in contraband, extortion trafficking, and illegal mining...Pro-government groups known as colectivos reportedly have received arms support from the Venezuelan government and taken part in the repression of anti-government protests. They control an estimated 10% of Venezuelan towns and cities...There are high levels of criminal violence in the country” (Assessment Capacities Project (23 May 2018) *ACAPS Thematic report – 23 May 2018 - Venezuela: Humanitarian crisis*, p.8).

References

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<https://www.insightcrime.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Venezuela-a-Mafia-State-InSight-Crime-2018.pdf>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
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