



República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Comunicado

The **Ministry of People's Power for Communication and Information** categorically rejects a new arbitrary action by the company in charge of the social network Facebook, which violates Articles 57 and 58 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, by blocking in an unjustified manner, for a period of thirty days, the official account of the Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros, thus violating the right of 1.2 million users of said account to truthful and timely information.

This is not the first time that Facebook and its associates (Whatsapp and Instagram) abrogate the right to silence and sanction, at their discretion, the contents that the Head of State publishes daily -in the ethical use of freedom of expression, thought and opinion- related to State policies and which are of high public interest for Venezuela and the world.

It is striking that, in a sort of tyranny of the algorithm, it is mainly those contents oriented to the fight against the pandemic and which are of scientific interest and therefore urgent for the health of humanity that are persecuted.

The facts:

There are countless unilateral measures that Facebook has taken against the freedom of expression of the Venezuelan dignitary, however let us refer to two facts that have become temporary censorship.

1. In October 2020, President Nicolás Maduro presented a report approved by the Venezuelan health authorities on the DR10 molecule, a nationally engineered drug, whose curative properties against Covid-19 have been endorsed by the country's scientific community and submitted in a unselfish manner, for certification, to PAHO. Facebook marked the content as false and arbitrarily deleted it.

2. Last Saturday, March 27, the administrators of President Nicolás Maduro Moros' official Facebook page were notified of the elimination of the live transmission of the balance and fight against Covid-19, on Sunday, March 21. This time for publicly presenting the Carvativir retroviral, also of national engineering and production, and its plan of massive and free distribution throughout the country.

This not only constitutes acts of censorship, typical of a new media dictatorship, but is also evidence of an extension of the blockade and boycott that the US empire illegally applies against our people in order to forcibly consummate the so-called "regime change".

The above is deduced from the curious fact that before notifying this confidential and private decision by Facebook to the administrators of said account - as provided for in the company's regulations - it was previously provided without consent to the Reuters news agency, which was in charge of giving it a tinge of political discrimination.

It is now clear, and so we denounce it, that we are witnessing a digital totalitarianism, exercised by supranational companies that want to impose their law on the countries of the world.

In this regard, as a faithful and practicing Republic of the highest democratic values and tributary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we deplore Facebook's unilateral actions, to the detriment of the freedom of expression of the President and his users.

We also inform the concerned parties that Venezuela has institutions and laws that cannot be violated by these new forms of political persecution, cultural subjection and media oppression.

Caracas, March 28, 2021