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## **CEJ inquired the International Criminal Court on files opened against Nicolas Maduro and their actual state**

**Bogotá, November 13, 2019.** It has been several years since the government of Nicolas Maduro openly demonstrated to violate human rights in Venezuela, causing a humanitarian crisis that produced a migration exodus of millions of people, and triggered every alarm in the international protection and assistance system.

Given the current catastrophe suffered by the Venezuelan population and the lack of sanction against the Maduro regime, the Corporation Excellence in Justice -CEJ-, a think tank that studies and evaluates justice issues in Colombia and respected throughout the hemisphere, considers essential to inquire about the files that have been received and opened by the international jurisdiction and their real status.

Since 2016 Venezuela is in a state of exception, elections have been held without the participation of the opposition, the state's armed forces have acted with the excessive use of force, violating the rights of millions of people. Several jurisdictions have received complaints for the crimes of homicide, torture, arbitrary detention and sexual violence; followed by the widespread persecution of civilians and human rights defenders, which has resulted in the complete violation of freedom of expression.

The Maduro government has led to the current situation in the country presenting a very serious shortage of food, medicines and essential goods that are fundamental for the guarantee of human rights. In addition, despite the possession of the interim president Juan Guaido, the situation does not seem to improve and it is necessary to clarify how Nicolas Maduro and his political allies will be sanctioned.

For these reasons, the CEJ will request to the International Court of Justice information on the complaints that the jurisdiction has received against the regime of Nicolás Maduro, the organizations or individuals that have presented them, what crimes are attributed to him and his government and what actions has this organism taken regarding the crimes that fall within its competence.