UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL OCTOBER 28

Venezuela Ranks 143 out of 143 in the WJP Rule of Law Index

- *2025 WJP Rule of Law Index*® finds the rule of law recession accelerates as authoritarian trends expand
- Decline in judicial independence and shrinking civic space signal heightened risk to democracy worldwide
- Venezuela's score decreased, ranks 32 out of 32 regionally

WASHINGTON (October 28, 2025) – The **global rule of law recession has accelerated** again, according to the new ***WJP Rule of Law Index® 2025.*** A stark 68% of countries declined in their rule of law in 2025, compared to 57% in the previous year—including Venezuela.

Venezuela's overall rule of law score decreased by less than 1% in this year's Index. It ranks 143rd out of 143 countries worldwide.

Regionally, Venezuela ranks 32nd out of 32 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.* The region's top performer is Uruguay (ranked 23rd out of 143 globally), followed by Costa Rica and Barbados. The three countries with the lowest scores in the region are Nicaragua, Haiti, and Venezuela (143rd globally).

In the last year, 24 out of 32 countries declined in Latin America and the Caribbean. Of those 24 countries, 19 had also declined in the previous year.

Among upper-middle income countries, Venezuela ranks 41st out of 41.**

Venezuela and global trends

An expansion of **authoritarian trends is the primary force behind the rule of law recession**, with deep declines in factors measuring Constraints on Government Powers, Open Government, and Fundamental Rights.

The integrity of **checks and balances** has also been seriously weakened, including in Venezuela.

A characteristic of this accelerated rule of law recession is a shrinking civic space. Freedoms crucial for public discourse and government oversight—measured under the **Open Government** and **Fundamental Rights** factors—saw widespread erosion. Venezuela is among the over 70% of countries experiencing a shrinking of civic freedoms:

- **"Freedom of opinion and expression"** declined in **73%** of countries, but not in Venezuela.
- **"Freedom of assembly and association"** declined in **72%** of countries, including Venezuela.
- **"Civic participation"** declined in **71%** of countries, including Venezuela.

The Index shows that judiciaries are losing ground to executive overreach, with rising political interference across justice systems. Indicators measuring whether the **judiciary limits executive power** and whether **civil and criminal justice are free from improper government influence** declined in 61%, 67%, and 62% of countries, respectively. This includes Venezuela.

More broadly, **civil justice** weakened in 68% of countries, but not in Venezuela. This decline reflects longer delays, less effective alternatives to court (such as mediation), and greater government interference.

Global rankings

Globally, the top-ranked country in the 2025 *WJP Rule of Law Index* is Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden, and New Zealand. The country with the lowest score is Venezuela, followed by Afghanistan, Cambodia, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

Venezuela's WJP Rule of Law Index rankings

Overall score global rank: 143/143

Overall score regional rank: 32/32

Factor score rankings:

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**
Constraints on Government Powers	143/143	32/32	41/41
Absence of Corruption	136/143	30/32	40/41
Open Government	141/143	32/32	41/41
Fundamental Rights	137/143	32/32	39/41
Order and Security	129/143	29/32	39/41
Regulatory Enforcement	143/143	32/32	41/41
Civil Justice	143/143	32/32	41/41
Criminal Justice	143/143	32/32	41/41

(1 is best in WJP Rule of Law Index *rankings)*

To see Venezuela's performance across all 44 sub-factors the Index measures, visit: www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2025/Venezuela%2C%20RB/

***Explore the full rankings and findings of the 2025* World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index *at: www.worldjusticeproject.org/index/*.**

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- Find graphics (regional rankings, global rankings, and comparative maps) **here**.
- Find 143 country press releases organized by region **here**.

About the WJP Rule of Law Index:

The ***World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index®*** is the world's leading source for original, independent rule of law data. Its rigorous methodology draws on expert and household surveys to measure the rule of law in 143 countries and jurisdictions, covering 95% of the world's population.

The Index relies on more than 215,000 household surveys and 4,100 legal practitioner and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. Published annually since 2009, the Index is used by governments, multilateral organizations, businesses, academia, media, and civil society organizations.

About the World Justice Project:
The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.

*Countries and jurisdictions measured in the Latin America and Caribbean region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

**Upper-middle income countries and jurisdictions: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Serbia, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Venezuela.