

Internet Censorship in VENEZUELA:

Social Media vs. Venezuelan Government



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Introduction

Venezuela was once a country that was known for its rich natural resources, specifically oil, but now they are known for their political, economic, and social struggles. In 2013 president, Nicolás Maduro banned access to several internet websites. The Venezuelan residents depend on the internet to receive their daily news and are improvising daily to share and bring awareness of what is occurring in their country.

- Around 4 million people have left Venezuela in the search of better future.
- According to *Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida* (ENCOVI), during 2019-2020 96% of Venezuelans live in poverty and 70% live in extreme poverty.
- Today approximately only 34% of the population has fixed internet access, the speed is the second slowest in Latin America.
- The Venezuelan government controls the majority of the internet from blocking media such as Facebook, Instagram, Periscope, and even VPN services too.



Research Goal

How are Venezuelans using social media as a means to counter governmental propaganda?

Methods



Bilingual News Articles



Bilingual Peer-Reviewed Articles

Conclusion

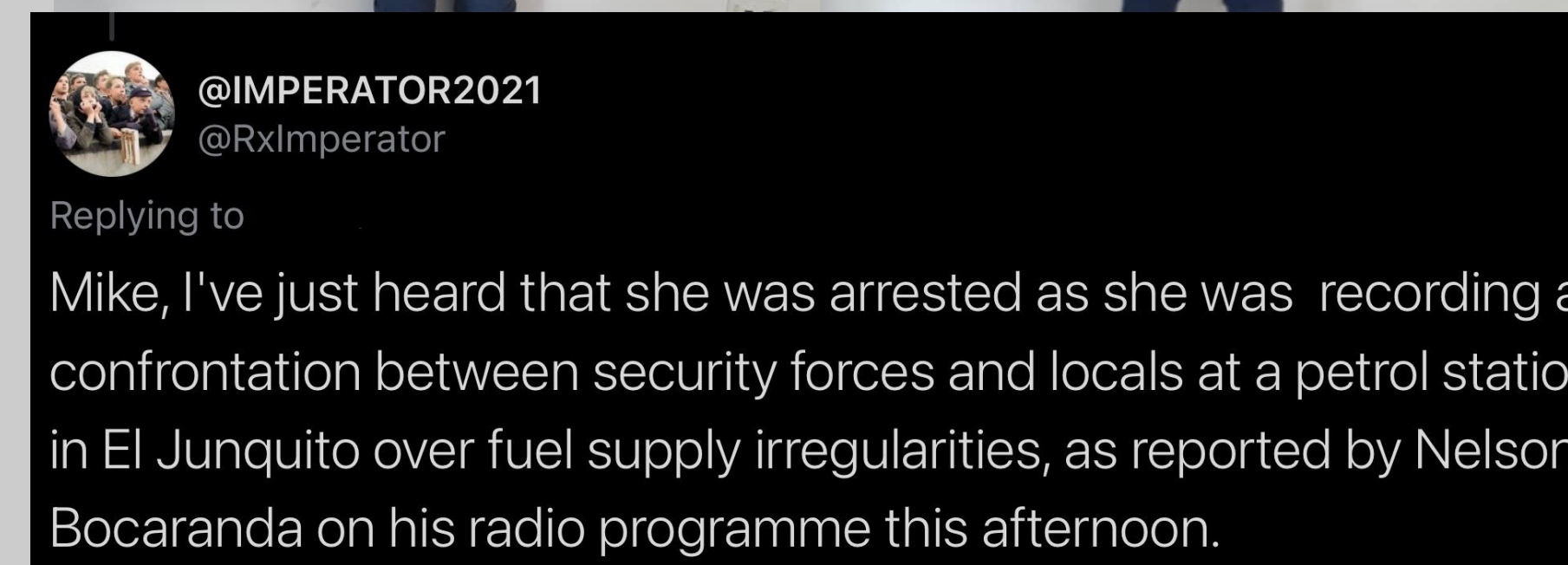
Leopoldo Lopez, a Venezuelan opposition leader, has fled Venezuela after years of jail and house arrest. Venezuelans being exiled allows opposition leaders, such as Leopoldo Lopez, to remain influential in the opposition in Venezuela. When exiles go abroad, they tend to be more strident than when they were in their native country. As long as Nicolas Maduro continues to be president, the future of Venezuela will continue to worsen. Social media will be one of the main sources Venezuelans will obtain their information from. This research has impacted me in many ways, especially since my mother was born in Venezuela. Originally, I was already aware of the struggles this country is facing on a daily. But this research opened my eyes up to information that I had never heard or seen before. As a Latinx community, we should bring more awareness to the struggles Spanish-speaking countries are encountering due to their government.

Figures



Results

Venezuelans using social media as a means to counter governmental propaganda results in them getting arbitrarily arrested for sharing information to countries outside of Venezuela. When sharing information on encrypted applications, such as Whatsapp, Facebook messenger, etc, Venezuelans must immediately erase chats, calls, pictures, videos once the purpose has been served.



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