



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Venezuela approves amnesty bill that could free many political prisoners

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§The Venezuelan legislature (parliament) approved an amnesty bill that could lead to the release of many people imprisoned for political reasons.

§The bill was signed into law by Acting President Delcy Rodríguez after being approved by lawmakers.

§This move is seen as a major change in policy, especially because the government had denied holding political prisoners for many years.

Who Could Be Freed?

Groups That May Benefit

§The law may lead to the release of hundreds of people jailed for political motivations.

§It is expected to benefit many groups such as:

§Opposition politicians

§Activists and human rights defenders

§Journalists and lawyers

§These are individuals who have been detained over the past two to three decades for opposing the government.

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What the Law Covers

§It grants general amnesty for political offenses linked to events from 1999 to recent years.

§It applies to offences that may have happened during protests or political conflicts.

§The law also lets some people abroad apply for amnesty through lawyers, without returning to Venezuela immediately.

Who Is NOT Covered

§The law does not apply to people convicted of serious crimes, including:

§Murder

§Drug trafficking

§Corruption

§Human rights violations

§Others involving armed attacks or foreign intervention against Venezuela

§Because of these exclusions, some people still remain in jail.

What is an Amnesty Law?

§Meaning: An Amnesty Law is a law passed by a government that forgives certain crimes and removes legal punishment for specific individuals or groups.

Basic Theory Behind Amnesty

§Amnesty is usually used:

§To reduce political tension

§To promote national unity or reconciliation

§After conflicts, protests, civil wars, or political crises

§During a change of government

§It is a political and legal tool to restore peace.

Key Features

§It is granted by the government or parliament.

§It usually applies to a group of people, not just one person.

§It often covers political offences.

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§Serious crimes like murder, terrorism, or corruption are usually excluded.

Venezuela

§Capital: Caracas

§Currency: Venezuelan bolívar

§Continent: South America

§President: Delcy Rodríguez (acting)