



## **AMERICA/VENEZUELA - Cardinal Jorge Urosa-Savino fears Venezuela is moving towards a dictatorship**

Caracas (Agenzia Fides) – Cardinal Jorge Urosa-Savino, Archbishop of Caracas, has expressed concern that a dictatorship is being established in Venezuela. According to local press reports, the Archbishop of Caracas has stressed the importance of all Venezuelans to work for peace, whatever place they occupy in society. But he also expressed his fear about the destination towards which the country is heading.

The Cardinal, referring to the strong criticism expressed by President Hugo Chavez to the confrontations by the Church in Venezuela, said on television: “If someone gets angry because the Bishops note that there are political prisoners, if someone feels offended because we ask to respect the right to information, we are very sorry, but this is a postulate of the Constitution.” The Archbishop of Caracas expressed concern that Venezuela is moving towards a dictatorship with these words: “He who is at the wheel of the Government must take into account the great responsibility he has, historically and before God. If they want to impose a totalitarian dictatorship, this would certainly be a terrible thing for Venezuela.”

The Catholic Church has expressed its deep concern following the recent work of the National Assembly, which approved 22 laws in just two weeks to consolidate the socialist system before the expiry of his term on 4 January, 2011. (CE) (Agenzia Fides 28/12/2010)