

URGENT ACTION

MORE KILLINGS DURING VENEZUELAN PROTESTS

Violent clashes during protests that started in early February give no signs of abating and have led to the death of two more people on 6 March. So far the official death toll stands at 21 people, with over 300 injured. Victims include civilians demonstrating for and against the government and members of security forces. Over 1,300 people have been arrested, though most of them have been released on bail.

Acner Isaac López, member of the Bolivarian National Guard, and José Gregorio Amaris are the most recent victims in an increasing number of people killed or injured as a result of the protests that have overtaken the country since February. They were reportedly shot dead in the municipality of Sucre, Miranda state, during a confrontation that occurred on 6 March when a group of government supporters travelling in motorbikes attempted to remove a road blockade by opposition protesters.

These killings took place only days after President Nicolás Maduro and the National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello called on all pro-government groups to intervene to put an end to the protests. Given the current context of increasing violence and polarization between pro and anti-government groups, this could be dangerously interpreted by some pro-government armed groups as a call to the streets to quash opposition protesters, potentially resulting in further serious human right violations, including loss of life. Over the past month Amnesty International has received reports of human rights abuses committed by security forces, including excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment. The Office of the Attorney General has announced that it has opened 27 investigations into allegations of human rights violations, including the 21 deaths. At least 15 members of the security forces have been detained for their alleged involvement in these violations.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to send a clear and unequivocal message that respect for human rights must be at the core of the solution to this standoff and crucially, to avoid making declarations which could lead to violent confrontations between pro and anti-government groups;
- Informing them that Amnesty International is also calling on opposition leaders to send a clear message to protesters not to commit acts of violence and acknowledging that the state has a duty to maintain public order, remind the authorities that they must respect human rights, must not use excessive force, and ensure that the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly are respected;
- Calling for prompt and impartial investigations into all killings, allegations of excessive use of force, arbitrary detentions, and torture and ill treatment, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 APRIL 2014 TO:

President of Venezuela

Nicolás Maduro Moros
Final Avenida Urdaneta, Esq. De Bolero
Palacio de Miraflores
Caracas, Venezuela
Twitter: @NicolasMaduro
Salutation: **Señor Presidente/**
Dear President

Attorney General of the Republic

Dra. Luisa Ortega Díaz
Edificio Sede Principal del Ministerio
Público, Esquinas de Misericordia a Pele
El Ojo Avenida México, Caracas,
Venezuela
Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve
Fax: +58 212 578 3239
Salutation: Dra. Fiscal / Dear
Prosecutor

And copies to:

Amnistía Internacional Venezuela
Av la Salle, Torre Phelps, piso 17 Ofic
17A
Plaza Venezuela, Los Caobos
Caracas 1050
Venezuela
Email: info@aiven.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over the past month, Amnesty International has issued a series of documents on the ongoing Venezuelan protests, calling for investigations into a series of alleged abuses and highlighting the importance to respect human rights.

For more information, please see:

13 February: Press release

Venezuela must investigate demonstration deaths

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/venezuela-must-investigate-demonstration-deaths-2014-02-13>

13 February: Urgent Action

Three protesters killed, others injured

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/002/2014/en>

18 February: Urgent Action

Opposition party headquarters raided

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/004/2014/en>

19 February: Press release

Trial of opposition leader an affront to justice and free assembly

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/venezuela-trial-opposition-leader-affront-justice-and-free-assembly-2014-02>

24 February: Opinion piece

Human rights and the rule of law are the only reasonable answer to the crisis

<http://livewire.amnesty.org/2014/02/24/venezuela-human-rights-and-the-rule-of-law-are-the-only-reasonable-answer-to-the-crisis/>

Documents only available in Spanish:

11 February: Public Statement

Amnistía Internacional llama al respeto a los derechos humanos durante las protestas

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/001/2014/es>

17 February: Public Statement

Amnistía Internacional espera sea real el llamado a la no violencia de ambas partes durante las protestas de mañana

<http://www.amnesty.org/es/library/info/AMR53/003/2014/es>

7 March: Press release

El creciente clima de violencia y polarización sofoca los derechos humanos

<http://amnesty.org/es/for-media/press-releases/venezuela-el-creciente-clima-de-violencia-y-polarizaci-n-sofoca-los-derecho>

Name: pro and anti-government groups in Venezuela

Gender m/f: both

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