

# URGENT ACTION

## THREE PROTESTERS KILLED, OTHERS INJURED

**Three people have been killed, several injured and dozens more detained in clashes between protesters, security forces and armed civilians during demonstrations throughout Venezuela. As the demonstrations continue, risk of further incidents remains.**

Three people were killed in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, and scores were injured nationwide following violent outbreaks that occurred during and after pro and anti-government demonstrations on 12 February to mark Venezuelan's Day of Youth. Amnesty International received reports of excessive use of force by the security forces, including the use of fire arms, as well as clashes between protesters and security forces and violence against protesters by armed civilians, allegedly perpetrated with the consent of the security forces. According to local organizations, clashes began in Caracas at the end of a march to the Public Prosecutors' office, where demonstrators intended to hand over a petition asking for the release of students who were detained during previous demonstrations. Two people, Juan Montoya and Bassil Da Costa, were killed and several others injured, including public officials. Later in the evening of 12 February clashes arose in the municipality of Chacao, east of the capital, where the mayor of the municipality confirmed the death of another person.

Human rights defender Inti Rodríguez reported being detained for two hours, beaten and threatened with death by members of the Venezuelan Intelligence Service (SEBIN) and armed civilian groups (*colectivos*). All of his possessions and the documents he was carrying were taken from him. A journalists' union reported that two journalists were detained at the demonstrations and equipment from other journalists' crews was stolen. Many media outlets stopped covering the protests after the media regulator, CONATEL, criticised the coverage by some stations and argued that it could be a violation of the law on social responsibility, which states that media outlets are forbidden from showing images that condone violence or can alter the public order.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to ensure that the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly are respected, and to publicly condemn any act of violence or abuse that seeks to intimidate or silence those exercising their legitimate right to participate in these events;
- Calling on them to order a full and impartial investigation into those killed, injured, and reportedly arbitrary detained such as Inti Rodríguez during the protests, to either charge those detained with a recognisable offence or release them, and to respect the right of all those charged with an offence to due process;
- Urging them to ensure that nobody is prosecuted or detained for exercising their legitimate right to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Especially human rights defenders and journalists, given their essential role in monitoring and reporting on the protests and abuses.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 MARCH 2014 TO:

#### President of Venezuela

Nicolás Maduro Moros  
Final Avenida Urdaneta, Esq. De Bolero  
Palacio de Miraflores  
Caracas, Distrito Capital  
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:**

#### PROVEA

Bulevar Panteón  
Puente Trinidad a Tienda Honda  
Edif. Centro Plaza las Mercedes, PB.  
Loc. 6, Parroquia Altigracia, Apartado  
Postal 5156, Carmelitas101-a  
Caracas, Venezuela

### 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**



# URGENT ACTION

## THREE PROTESTORS KILLED, OTHERS INJURED

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several student demonstrations have taken place since 4 February across Venezuela, during which there has been reported use of excessive force by security forces to contain the protestors and allegations of arbitrary detentions. Similarly, there have been reported clashes between students and security forces, and use of violence and intimidation against protestors by armed civilians.

Name: protestors across Venezuela

Gender m/f: both

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