

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**A long way ahead: reproductive  
rights, discrimination of  
Dominicans of Haitian descent  
and the reform of the police**

*Amnesty International  
Submission to the UN Universal  
Periodic Review, January –  
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# INTRODUCTION

In this submission, prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Dominican Republic in January - February 2014, Amnesty International evaluates the implementation of a number of recommendations that Dominican Republic had accepted, including in relation to the creation of an Ombudsman function, ratification of UN human rights treaties, abuse and other human rights violations by police, violence against women and girls, and racial discrimination in particular towards Dominicans of Haitian descent.

Amnesty International raises concerns regarding the Dominican Republic's new Constitution, which risks further eroding the right to nationality. In addition, the draft Criminal Code reaffirms Dominican Republic's unacceptable stance on abortion, i.e. that abortion is illegal and in breach of the right to life.

The organization also analyses the human rights situation on the ground, highlighting instances of police conduct amounting to violations of human rights, violence against women and girls, violations of their sexual and reproductive rights, illegal expulsion of migrant workers, discrimination against Dominicans of Haitian descent, trafficking of women and children, discrimination against LGBTI persons, attacks on freedom of the press, and the high number of forced evictions during which the police have used excessive force.

Amnesty International also makes a series of recommendations to the Dominican Republic to address the human rights concerns set out in the submission.

# FOLLOW UP TO THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

During its first UPR in December 2009, the Dominican Republic supported recommendations to “promptly designate the person who will occupy the position of Ombudsman (*Defensor del Pueblo*)”.<sup>1</sup> However, it was only in May 2013 that the first Ombudsman was appointed and so far no measures have been taken to expedite the creation of an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principle, as agreed by the Dominican Republic during the last review.<sup>2</sup>

During the last review the Dominican Republic agreed to sign and ratify a number of international human rights conventions;<sup>3</sup> however, it has ratified only the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, on 24 January 2012.

Although the Dominican Republic supported recommendations to establish an independent oversight body to investigate complaints of police abuse and human rights violations,<sup>4</sup> no action has been undertaken to implement these recommendations.

The Dominican Republic also supported several recommendations related to combating violence against women and girls, in particular aimed at enhancing the legal framework,

criminal prosecution and the protection and care of victims and witnesses.<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International notes that although some steps have been taken, such as training of relevant officials and the opening of three additional units for integrated assistance of victims, much more needs to be done to implement the recommendations and to eradicate violence against women and girls (see also below).

The Dominican Republic accepted a number of recommendations to combat racism and racial discrimination,<sup>6</sup> as well as two recommendations on protecting the rights of migrants.<sup>7</sup> To Amnesty International's knowledge, the Dominican Republic has not taken action to implement any of these recommendations (see also below).

Amnesty International regrets that the Dominican Republic rejected the recommendation to ensure that Dominicans of Haitian descent are not denied citizenship or access to civil and birth registration procedures and are not arbitrarily subject to retroactive cancellation of birth and identity documents.<sup>8</sup>

## **NORMATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### **RIGHT TO NATIONALITY**

The new Constitution, which entered into force in January 2010, consolidates the exception to the right to *jus solis* nationality introduced by the 2004 Migration Law. Under the previous Constitution, the only persons exempted from the right to nationality were the children of diplomats and of persons in transit. The new Constitution further widens this exemption to exclude children of persons who are residing illegally in the country. This new provision directly contradicts the 2005 ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *Dilcia Yean and Violeta Bosico v. Dominican Republic*,<sup>9</sup> according to which the migratory status of a parent should have no bearing on a child's right to nationality.

### **RIGHT TO ABORTION**

Amnesty International is concerned that under the Criminal Code women seeking abortion services and those providing such services face criminal sanctions regardless of the circumstances in which the abortion was sought or provided. The new Constitution reinforces this framework, and in article 37 affirms the inviolability of the right to life "from conception to death".

Reform of the Criminal Code has been ongoing for several years. In June 2013, a commission of the Lower House submitted an amended draft to the plenary of the House which continues to deny women the right to abortion in all circumstances.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Current legal provisions ensure only compensation and restitution to victims of human

rights violations and their families, thereby falling short of international standards which require states to ensure full reparation for victims of human rights violations and their families, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

Article 5 of the draft Criminal Code, presented in June 2013, expressly absolves the state of any criminal responsibility.

The Institutional Law on the National Police recognizes only the personal responsibility of members of the police for unlawful actions carried out while on duty. Accordingly, the National Police does not consider itself liable as an institution for civil damages resulting from the unlawful actions of its members.

## **PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY POLICE**

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of unlawful killings, torture and other ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, committed by the police.<sup>10</sup> The National Police is responsible for a high number of killings every year; according to statistics from the Office of the Prosecutor General, 2,663 persons were killed by the police between 2005 and 2012. Amnesty International's research shows that in the last three years officers have been responsible for approximately 10 percent of all homicides committed in the Dominican Republic.

The vast majority of these fatal shootings are described by the police as “exchanges of gunfire” (*intercambios de disparos*) with criminal suspects. However, interviews with victims' families carried out by Amnesty International, as well as newspapers and NGO reports, suggest that in many cases police officers fail to comply with international standards and domestic law and use force that is disproportionate to the threat they face.

For example, Jean Carlos de León (known as Cacón) was killed by the police on 4 January 2013 during what the police described “an exchange of gunfire”, as they investigated the alleged killing of a police officer. On 2 January 2013, the Police Chief had stated on TV that he would prefer Cacón not to hand himself in to the police, so that the police could look for him. According to witnesses, when the police went to arrest him, he knelt down and pleaded for clemency. Although the Prosecutor General stated that an investigation had been opened into the case, his family was never contacted and the outcome of the investigation has not been made public.

Several people have been killed by the police in the context of demonstrations and in many such instances the police appear to have used unnecessary or excessive force. In June 2012, three men and a pregnant woman were killed in the town of Salcedo during a demonstration sparked by the lack of progress in the investigation into a police killing. In October 2012, the Prosecutor General stated that the investigation into the killings was ongoing. On 11 June 2013, another demonstration took place protesting against the lack of progress in the investigation.

Amnesty International has also received several reports of torture and other ill-treatment by the police, mostly during interrogation of suspects, including the use of electroshocks. Many former detainees told Amnesty International that they had been handcuffed, hung from bars or nails by their handcuffs and beaten every time they tried to put their feet on the floor.

Two cases of possible enforced disappearance have also been reported to Amnesty International: Juan Almonte Herrera<sup>11</sup> and Gabriel Sandi Alistar, both of whom were last seen in 2009 while in police custody.

Although some police officers have been brought to justice, many other cases of human rights violations remain unpunished. Amnesty International's research indicates that many investigations lack the thoroughness and independence required under international law. Among the barriers to ensuring justice for all cases of human rights violations by the police, Amnesty International identified unclear investigation procedures, failure to investigate when there is no official complaint, discriminatory investigation practices, inadequate investigations, shortcomings in forensic services, inadequate protection for victims and witnesses, and lack of reparations to victims.

During a meeting with Amnesty International delegates in November 2012, the President of the Dominican Republic acknowledged that the police commit abuses and that radical reform was needed. In May 2013, the President submitted a new draft organic law on the National Police to Congress. Even though the draft law represents an advance over existing legislation, and over previous drafts, it still fails to establish the liability of superior officers or the civil liability of either the police as an institution or the state for human rights violations committed by police officers in the course of their duties.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned at the high rate of violence against women in recent years, including killings, domestic violence and sexual assault. According to the Office of the Prosecutor General, 1,619 women and girls were killed between January 2005 and March 2013, 854 of them by partners or former partners.

In response to these alarming statistics, a new law on the prevention, care, sanction and eradication of violence against women was adopted by the Senate in November 2012.<sup>12</sup>

The establishment in 2005 of units for integrated assistance to victims of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual crimes, under the supervision of the Office of the Prosecutor General,<sup>13</sup> is a major step towards enhancing the institutional response to gender-based violence. Women's organizations remain concerned, however, that the number of units is insufficient (there are currently only 17 units for 32 provinces), that more extensive education programmes and awareness-raising campaigns are needed to prevent gender-based violence, and that the government has not adequately funded plans to eradicate violence against women.

Women's organizations also report that the national health system is largely unable to provide adequate medical and psychological care to victims of gender-based violence, despite Ministry of Health protocols for the provision of comprehensive care for survivors of domestic and other gender-based violence.

Despite the passing in 2003 of Law 88-03 regarding the *Establishment of Halfway Houses and Shelters*, only two functional shelters have been established by the authorities under this law. Of these, one provides accommodation only for very short periods while the other can accommodate women and their children for up to three months. Women at risk and their children are mostly forced to take refuge in the homes of family and friends. This makes them more easily located by their aggressor and increases risks to their safety.

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The criminalization of abortion has a serious impact on the rights of women, including their right to life, health, freedom from torture and other ill-treatment, and non-discrimination. For example, in August 2012, Rosaura, a 16-year-old girl with leukemia, died of complications caused by a miscarriage. She had been prevented from having a therapeutic abortion – as recommended by various health professionals – because it was against the law. Her chemotherapy treatment had also been delayed as doctors were concerned it would harm the foetus.

Despite a decrease in the maternal mortality rate over the past decade, unsafe abortions and complications during pregnancy and delivery are among the major causes of maternal death, according to the Minister of Public Health.

The high rate of pregnancies among adolescents (between 10 and 19 years old) is also highly concerning. In July 2013, UNFPA revealed that over 22 percent of adolescent girls are or have been pregnant. A 2008 CEPAL study found that the Dominican Republic is among the five countries in Latin America with the highest fertility rate of adolescents between 15 and 19 years old. These high rates also contribute to the high level of maternal mortality, with 19 percent of maternal deaths occurring among adolescents. The lack of sex education is considered to be one of the main causes for the high rates of fertility among adolescents.

In response to these alarming rates, the government has adopted a National Strategic Plan for the Reduction of the Maternal Mortality 2012-2016<sup>14</sup> and a National Plan for the Prevention of Pregnancies in Adolescents 2011-2016.<sup>15</sup> As part of the strategy, a draft law on sexual and reproductive health is to be submitted to Congress for its consideration. However, women's rights organizations believe that lack of dedicated funds is affecting the full implementation of these policies.

## ILLEGAL EXPULSION OF HAITIAN MIGRANT WORKERS

The Dominican authorities continue to carry out mass expulsions of Haitian migrants, despite an appeal in February 2010 (renewed in June 2011) from both the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to suspend all involuntary returns to Haiti on humanitarian grounds, following the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. These mass expulsions also breach international human rights standards.

In one case, on 20 September 2011, at 5am, at least 80 Haitian migrants living in Navarrete were deported to Haiti. According to local organizations working with migrants, several of them were beaten and some of the children were separated from their parents. The migrants, many of whom had been living in the community for over 10 years, did not have an opportunity to have their cases individually examined or to appeal against the decision to deport them.

Collective expulsions contravene the protocol of understanding on the mechanisms of repatriation agreed by the Dominican and Haitian governments in December 1999. In signing the Protocol, the Dominican Republic undertook to improve its deportation mechanisms and made a number of specific commitments, including to avoid separating nuclear families during the process of repatriation and to allow those being deported to collect their belongings and keep their identity documents.

Many of these mass expulsions have occurred through the use of excessive force by the Dominican security forces. For example, on 23 May 2013, Jean Robert Lores, a Haitian migrant, died as a consequence of beatings by officers from the General Directorate for Migrations and the National Police during a round-up in the city of Juan Dolio to deport Haitian migrants. According to his brother, Jean Robert was brought to the hospital only hours after the beating, as officers repeatedly denied him medical care as he was lying severely injured on the floor.

According to civil society organizations, the regulation enabling the implementation of the 2004 migration law fails to include essential guarantees for the protection of migrants during expulsions. Moreover, migrant workers cannot appeal the deportation orders before a competent judicial body, in violation of international and constitutional standards of due process.

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DOMINICANS OF HAITIAN DESCENT

Since 2007, thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent have been denied access to identity documents on the basis of directives (circular 017 and resolution 12), issued in March and December 2007 by the Central Electoral Board.<sup>16</sup> These directives instruct civil registry officers to check whether identity documents presented for renewal or registration had been wrongly issued in the past to children of foreign parents who did not prove their residence or legal status in the country and if so to provisionally suspend their documents. This has led to the arbitrary removal from the civil registry of persons born in the Dominican Republic and recognized as Dominicans and their enrolment in the Registry of Foreigners (*Libro de Extranjería*). The refusal to issue identity documents and the attempt to retroactively modify nationality status have resulted in the violation of human rights of thousands of people who have become de facto stateless and been denied the enjoyment of their human rights, including access to education, employment and health services, and their rights to vote and to citizenship. Those without papers are also at risk of arbitrary detention and mass expulsion, without access to judicial review. The vast majority of people affected by these directives are of Haitian descent.

In 2012, several courts ordered the Central Electoral Board to issue identity documents to hundreds of Dominicans of Haitian descent. However, the Central Electoral Board did not implement the decision of the courts but appealed it to the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court has not ruled in these cases.

It is unclear how many people are affected by these measures as they are usually only informed of this when requesting the renewal of their identity documents. In February 2013, the Central Electoral Board announced that more than 22,000 Dominicans had been removed from the civil registry and transferred to the General Directorate of Migration, under the pretext that their parents were illegally residing in the Dominican Republic. Such a measure would have the effect of arbitrarily and retroactively reviewing the citizenship of the affected people, who have not even been individually notified of



the process.

On 10 June 2013, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights granted urgent protective measures on behalf of 80 Dominicans of Haitian descent, including 32 children, who had been denied their identity documents and were at risk of being illegally expelled.

## TRAFFICKING

Smuggling and trafficking of Haitians, including children, to the Dominican Republic continue, as does the trafficking of Dominicans and nationals of other countries, especially women, to third countries.

For example, in May 2013, the Dominican authorities found a group of 58 Haitian children in Santo Domingo's eastern neighbourhood of Los Alcarrizos, who had been trafficked into the Dominican Republic and exploited for begging. At least 20 persons were arrested suspected of being members of a gang dedicated to the trafficking of children from Haiti.

In 2009, authorities launched a National Action Plan against the Trafficking of People and the Smuggling of Migrants 2009-2014,<sup>17</sup> focusing on prevention, sanction of perpetrators and protection of victims and witnesses. However, this has led to very few results, and the number of people convicted of smuggling or trafficking is very limited and the victims and witnesses receive very little support and protection.

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PERSONS

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons report being victims of discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. According to NGOs working on behalf of LGBTI persons, at least 20 homophobic killings have been recorded since 2006. In only one case have the perpetrators been brought to justice.

Other incidents of discrimination include arbitrary arrests by the security forces, denial of medical care, and exclusion from job and educational opportunities. Such discrimination leaves most LGBTI persons in a situation of poverty and powerlessness.

There are no laws in the Dominican Republic that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

## FORCED EVICTIONS

The high number of forced evictions, as well as the manner in which these are carried out, continue to be a serious concern for Amnesty International. In order to make land available for the construction of infrastructure, tourist estates and industrial complexes, evictions are carried out without due process or consultation with the affected communities. The lack of deeds and security of tenure, which is estimated to affect more than 50 percent of the population (75 percent in Santo Domingo Province), are among the main arguments used by the authorities to justify forced evictions.

Excessive use of force by the police during evictions is common. For example, on 15 October 2011, some 72 families were forcibly evicted from private land in the neighbourhood of Brisas del Este in Santo Domingo Este.<sup>18</sup> According to eyewitnesses, police and soldiers fired buckshot and teargas into the families' houses to force them

out. The evicted families were not offered any alternative accommodation.

## ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Every year the National Union of Press Workers<sup>19</sup> reports that scores of journalists and other media workers have been harassed or physically attacked, in many cases by police officers. In most cases the perpetrators are not brought to justice.

For example, in April 2013, journalist Marcelo Contreras was threatened with a pistol by a police officer while filming police officers carrying out a forced eviction on farmland near the northern coastal city of Nagua. As the journalist claimed his right to document the eviction, the officer snatched his camera and arrested him. He was released the same day. The head of the police station in Nagua advised him to not talk about what had happened. The police maintain that an investigation has been opened but its outcome remains unknown.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE STATE UNDER REVIEW

## **Amnesty International calls on the government of Dominican Republic:**

### *National Human Rights Institutions*

- To provide adequate resources to the Office of the Ombudsman, including competent and independent investigators, and to ensure that state institutions, including the National Police, collaborate fully with the Office of the Ombudsman;
- To gradually strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman in line with the Paris Principles with a view to it becoming recognized as an independent national human rights institution.

### *Human rights violations by police and security forces*

- To undertake independent, prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all cases of alleged human rights violations by the police and to ensure that victims and families receive full reparation;
- To ensure that national legislation makes explicit reference to the responsibility of the police as an institution and of the state for human rights violations committed by members of the police and other state agents while acting in the course of their official duties or exercising their authority as law enforcement officials;
- To design and implement an effective and human rights-based reform of the police, including through a new law on the police, developed in consultation with civil society, and the establishment of a fully independent oversight body to receive and investigate complaints of police abuses;
- To ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to include the crime of enforced disappearance in the national legislation.

*Violence against women and girls*

- To establish Units for the Integrated Assistance for Victims of Violence against Women in each of the country's 32 provinces, and shelters in each of the country's nine regions;
- To implement the Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Detection, Support and Punishment of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, 2011-2016;
- To ensure that the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Prosecutor General and other institutions with a role in preventing and addressing cases of gender-based violence are adequately resourced;
- To strengthen the national legal framework for the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence.

*Sexual and reproductive rights*

- To reform the Criminal Code to ensure that women and girls seeking abortion services are not subject to criminal sanctions and that health professionals are not criminalized for providing safe abortion services;
- To ensure that counselling, information, and safe and legal abortion services are available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality for all women who require them in cases of unwanted pregnancy as result of rape, sexual assault, or incest, and in cases of pregnancy which poses a risk to the life or the health of the woman;
- To dedicate adequate resources for the full implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Reduction of the Maternal Mortality, 2012-2016, and a National Plan for the Prevention of Pregnancies in Adolescents, 2011-2016.

*Illegal expulsions of Haitian migrant workers*

- To stop mass arbitrary expulsions of migrant workers and to ensure that their human rights are respected in all deportation processes, including the right to appeal deportation orders before a competent judicial body;
- To take effective measures to reduce the climate of racism and xenophobia against Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic.

*Discrimination against Dominicans of Haitian descent*

- To introduce effective measures to stop discriminatory practices linked to the process of granting citizenship and civil status registration, and issuing identity documents;
- To ensure that all persons affected by Circular 017 and Resolution 12 receive full compensation for any damages caused by the application of these directives;
- To avoid any retroactive application of the General Law on Migration 285/04 and of the Constitution and to recognize citizenship of those who had it at the time of their birth.

*Trafficking in persons*

- To assess the implementation of the National Action Plan against the Trafficking of People and the Smuggling of Migrants and to ensure that effective measures are taken to prevent and punish the smuggling and trafficking in persons and to ensure adequate protection of the victims and witnesses.

*Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons*

- To include in national legislation provisions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity;
- To ensure that all suspected homophobic killings and other instances of homophobic violence and discrimination towards LGBTI persons are thoroughly and independently investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice;
- To establish and implement policies and initiatives to address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

*Forced evictions*

- To adopt and implement all necessary legislative and policy measures to promote security of tenure, particularly for women and vulnerable groups, to reduce vulnerabilities, and to promote equal access to housing resources;
- To ensure that evictions are carried out in conformity with international human rights standards, including the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement.<sup>20</sup>

*Attacks on freedom of the press*

- To ensure effective investigation of threats and intimidation aimed at journalists and to ensure prosecution of those responsible for the killings of journalists;
- To reform national laws regulating criminal libel, slander, and defamation so that only civil penalties may be applied for offenses against public officials.

# ENDNOTES

# ANNEX

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR FURTHER REFERENCE<sup>1</sup>

*República Dominicana: Carta abierta de Amnistía Internacional a la Comisión Bicameral del Congreso sobre el Proyecto de Ley Orgánica de la Policía Nacional* (Index: AMR 27/007/2013), 20 June 2013

*Dominican Republic: Murder of a Haitian migrant during deportation must motivate the Dominican government to finally respect its international obligations* (Index: AMR 27/006/2013), 31 May 2013

*Urgent action: Dominican Republic: 600 families face forced eviction from homes* (Index: AMR 27/005/2013), 31 May 2013

*Urgent action: Dominican Republic: Police threaten, assault journalist* (Index: AMR 27/004/2013), 18 April 2013

*Transforming pain into hope: human rights defenders in the Americas* (Index: AMR 01/006/2012), 7 December 2012

*Dominican Republic: Towards a successful reform? Proposals for an organic law to help bring about comprehensive reform of the national police in the Dominican Republic* (Index: AMR 27/016/2012), 30 November 2012

*República Dominicana: Carta abierta de Amnistía Internacional al Presidente de la Cámara de los Diputados en relación con las discusiones sobre el proyecto de reforma del Código Penal y la penalización del aborto* (Index: AMR 27/015/2012), 23 October 2012

*Dominican Republic: Three years on, justice continues to be denied: No progress in the investigation of the killings by police of Cecilio Díaz and William de Jesús Checo* (Index: AMR 27/014/2012), 10 October 2012

*Dominican Republic: Letter concerning the appointment of the Ombudsman* (Index: AMR 27/010/2012), 13 August 2012

*Urgent action: Dominicans of Haitian descent harassed* (Index: AMR 27/011/2012), 19 June 2012

*Dominican Republic: Police must respect the decisions of the judiciary* (Index: PRE 01/332/2012), 9 June 2012

*Open letter from Amnesty International to presidential candidates in the Dominican Republic for the May 2012 elections* (Index: AMR 27/005/2012), 26 April 2012

*Dominican Republic: Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee: 104th Session of the Human Rights Committee, 12-30 March 2012* (Index: AMR 27/001/2012), 1 February 2012

*Urgent Action: Families evicted, threatened* (Index: AMR 27/007/2011). 28

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<sup>1</sup> All of these documents are available on Amnesty International's website:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/DominicanRepublic>

October 2011

*'Shut up if you don't want to be killed'. Human rights violations by the police in the Dominican Republic* (Index: AMR 27/002/2011), 25 October 2011

*Urgent Action: Migrants rounded up, deported* (Index: AMR 27/004/2011), 21 September 2011

*Dominican Republic: Journalist's killing must spur better protection* (Index: PRE01/386/2011), 3 August 2011

*Urgent Action: Dominican Republic: Police shot man and now intimidate his family* (Index: AMR 27/001/2011), 12 May 2011

*One year on, Juan Almonte's fate continues to be unknown: Possible enforced disappearance in the Dominican Republic* (Index: AMR 27/003/2010), 21 September 2010

*The Dominican Republic must investigate all forced disappearances* (Index: PRE 01/177/2012) (available at; <http://www.amnesty.org/es/for-media/press-releases/la-rep-blica-dominicana-debe-investigar-todas-las-desapariciones-forzadas-2>)

*Dominican police officers finally charged in key killings case* (Index: PRE 01/035/2013) (available at; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/PRE01/035/2013/en>)

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- <sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Dominican Republic*, A/HRC/13/3, 4 January 2010, recommendation 87.2 (Peru)
- <sup>2</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraph 88.16 (Egypt, France, Mexico, Norway, Peru)
- <sup>3</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraphs 88.1-88.11 (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Spain, Uruguay)
- <sup>4</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraphs 88.17-88.18 (Belgium, Netherlands)
- <sup>5</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraphs 87.13- 87.21 and 88.28 (Azerbaijan, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Holy See, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland,
- <sup>6</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraph 87.7-87.12 (Algeria, Belgium, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria, United Kingdom)
- <sup>7</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraphs 87.40 (Nicaragua) and 87.42 (Ghana)
- <sup>8</sup> A/HRC/13/3, paragraph 89.4 (United States)
- <sup>9</sup> The ruling is available at [http://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec\\_156\\_esp.pdf](http://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_156_esp.pdf)
- <sup>10</sup> See Amnesty International report AMR 27/002/2011 “*Shut up if you don’t want to be killed.*” *Human rights violations by police in the Dominican Republic* at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR27/002/2011/en>
- <sup>11</sup> See Amnesty International report AMR 27/003/2010 ‘*One year on, Juan Almonte’s fate continues to be unknown: possible enforced disappearance in the Dominican Republic*’ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR27/003/2010/en>
- <sup>12</sup> Ley Orgánica para la Prevención, Atención, Sanción y Erradicación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres
- <sup>13</sup> Unidad de atención integral para las víctimas de violencia de género, intrafamiliar y delitos sexuales
- <sup>14</sup> Plan Estratégico Nacional para la Reducción de la Mortalidad Materna e Infantil 2012-2016
- <sup>15</sup> Plan Nacional para la Prevención del Embarazo en las Adolescentes en la República Dominicana 2011-2016
- <sup>16</sup> Junta Central Electoral
- <sup>17</sup> Plan Nacional de Acción contra la Trata de Personas y el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes 2009-2014
- <sup>18</sup> See Amnesty International report ‘Violent eviction in Santo Domingo leaves scores living in a tent’ [HTTP://WWW.AMNESTY.ORG/EN/NEWS/VIOLENT-EVICTION-SANTO-DOMINGO-LEAVES-SCORES-LIVING-TENT-2011-11-28](http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/violent-eviction-santo-domingo-leaves-scores-living-tent-2011-11-28)
- <sup>19</sup> Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Prensa
- <sup>20</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, A/HRC/4/18, 5 February 2007.