

# URGENT ACTION

## THREE MEN ABDUCTED IN VENEZUELA

**Three young men were abducted, apparently by police officers, from a construction site where they were working in Venezuela on 12 March. They have not been seen since and their families have no idea where they are or whether they are still alive.**

**Gabriel Antonio Ramírez**, aged 23, **José Leonardo Ramírez**, aged 21, and 19-year-old **Nedfrank Xavier Cona**, were all working as labourers on new university buildings in the city of Barcelona in Anzoátegui state, north eastern Venezuela. According to local human rights organization *Fundación de los Derechos Humanos del Estado Anzoátegui*, eyewitnesses have described how at around 6.50 am on 12 March, a group of between 17 and 20 police officers jumped over the back of the construction site and bundled all three men into an unmarked car. Eyewitnesses could not see the occupants of the car, but saw it drive away, escorted by the officers on their police motorbikes.

Relatives of the three men have visited a number of police stations to try and find out what has happened to them, but there is no information on the men's whereabouts. Their families and the *Fundación de los Derechos Humanos del Estado Anzoátegui* are not aware of any arrest warrant having been issued against the three men. The Public Prosecutor's office in Anzoátegui has apparently opened an investigation into the abduction.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Gabriel Antonio Ramírez, José Leonardo Ramírez, and Nedfrank Xavier Cona who were seen being detained by police officers on 12 March 2010 in Barcelona, Anzoátegui state;
- urging the authorities to make every effort to locate Gabriel Antonio Ramírez, José Leonardo Ramírez and Nedfrank Xavier Cona;
- calling on them to order an independent and impartial investigation into the apparent unlawful detention of Gabriel Antonio Ramírez, José Leonardo Ramírez and Nedfrank Xavier Cona, and bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on the authorities to immediately acknowledge the detention of Gabriel Antonio Ramírez, José Leonardo Ramírez, and Nedfrank Xavier Cona, if they are in custody, and ensure that they are given access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention they may require, and are charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released;
- calling for effective measures to ensure police operations are carried out in accordance with the law and international human rights standards, and that any alleged abuses are promptly and impartially investigated.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 MAY 2010 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior and Justice

Sr. Tarek El Aissami  
Ministerio del Poder Popular para  
Relaciones Interiores y Justicia  
Av. Urdaneta, Edif. Sede MIJ, Piso  
1, Carmelitas, Caracas, Venezuela  
**Fax: +58 212 506 1557**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear  
Minister**

#### Governor of Anzoátegui state

Sr. Tarek William Saab  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Av. 5 de Julio  
Diagonal a la Plaza Barrio  
Barcelona, Anzoátegui, Venezuela  
**Fax: +58 281 275 1671**

**Email:**  
[tarek@gobernaciondeanzoategui.com](mailto:tarek@gobernaciondeanzoategui.com)  
[tarek@psuv.org.ve](mailto:tarek@psuv.org.ve) (please copy both)  
**Salutation: Señor Gobernador/Dear  
Governor**

#### **And copies to:**

Human rights organization  
*Fundación de los Derechos Humanos  
del Estado de Anzoátegui*  
Calle Buenos Aires cruce con calle Las  
Flores, 19-73  
Barcelona, Anzoátegui, Venezuela  
**Fax: +58 281 276 3531**  
**Email: fdhanzoategui1@gmail.com**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

