

URGENT ACTION

POLICE SHOT MAN AND NOW INTIMIDATE HIS FAMILY

On 11 April, Freddy Moreno Lorenzo was shot by police officers at his home and brought to a hospital, where he was shot dead, apparently by the same officers. Since then his aunt, Ana Moreno, who witnessed his death, has been intimidated by the police officers regularly passing by her house with their firearms on show.

On 11 April, **Freddy Moreno Lorenzo** was sick in bed with his two year-old son at his home in Haina, San Cristóbal Province, in the Dominican Republic, when four police officers entered his house and shot him twice. Hearing the gunshots, his sister-in-law, who was downstairs in the same building, came out and saw that Freddy was injured but still alive and was being dragged down the stairs by the police officers and loaded into a police car.

The police officers took Freddy to the Haina hospital morgue. Freddy's aunt, Ana Moreno, a doctor at this hospital, was heading towards the morgue when she heard a gunshot coming from inside. As she was about to enter, she saw three police officers coming out of it. Once in the morgue, she recognized the body of her nephew. She then ran after the officers and asked one of them why they had killed him, but they left the morgue with no reply.

Ana Moreno recognised one of the officers who killed Freddy as the same one who had arrested him on 29 March on suspicion of possession of an illegal firearm. He had then been released on 1 April 2011 with no charges. Members of his family members reported that during his detention Freddy had been repeatedly beaten and also had an onion put in his mouth and a plastic bag put over his head.

Since the death of Freddy, Ana Moreno has noticed the same police officer passing regularly by her house holding his firearm. Ana and other family members believe that this might be an attempt to intimidate them as they had denounced the killing in the media and submitted a formal complaint to the prosecutor of San Cristóbal.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to immediately and independently investigate the killing of Freddy Moreno Lorenzo, publish the results of the investigation and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to ensure all police officers identified as being involved in the killing are immediately suspended from duties until the judicial investigation is satisfactorily concluded;
- urging the authorities to act immediately to ensure the safety of Ana Moreno and her family, in accordance with their wishes, and protect them from any intimidation;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 JUNE 2011 TO:

Chief of Police

Mayor General P.N.
Lic. José Armando Polanco Gómez
Jefe de la Policía Nacional
Palacio de la Policía Nacional
Av. Leopoldo Navarro #402,
Santo Domingo, R.D.
Fax: +1 809 685 4510
Email: ayudantedeljefe@hotmail.com

Salutation: Estimado Jefe de la Policía Nacional/Dear Chief of Police

Attorney General

Radhamés Jiménez Peña
Procurador general de la República
Ave. Jiménez Moya esq. Juan Ventura
Simón, Palacio de Justicia, Centro de
los Heroes, Constanza, Maimón y Estero
Hondo
Email: info@procuraduria.gov.do

**Salutation: Dear/Estimado
Procurador General de la República**

And copies to:

His lawyer:

Genaro Rincon
Email: genaro.rincon@hotmail.com

The office of the public prosecutor of San Cristóbal:

Faustino Pulinario
Procurador Fiscal de San Cristóbal
Fax: +1 809 528 3231
Email: pulinario.faustino@live.com

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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned by continued reports of fatal shootings by members of the security forces in the Dominican Republic, some of which may amount to unlawful killings. According to police statistics, 2367 people have been killed by the police between 2005 and 2010. According to the police the vast majority of these incidents are the result of “exchanges of gunfire” (“intercambios de disparos”) between police and armed criminal suspects. However, eyewitness reports and other evidence frequently contradict such claims. Amnesty International believes that a large proportion of these fatal shootings may be unlawful and some may amount to extra-judicial executions.

Amnesty International has also received several reports of torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment, mainly of criminal suspects in police custody.

It is rare for a police officer to be found guilty of unlawful killing and no conviction for torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment has been handed out in recent years. Investigations on human rights abuses by the police suffer from lack of independence. According to the law, they have to be conducted by the office of the attorney general. However, in many cases representatives of the office of the attorney general simply subscribe the investigation report submitted by the police. In many cases, the Dominican authorities fail to comply to their obligation to conduct full, thorough, independent and effective investigations. As a consequence, those responsible are rarely brought to justice and families of the victims are denied their right to reparation and redress.

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