

URGENT ACTION

DEATH TOLL RISES DURING VENEZUELAN PROTESTS

Two more fatalities have occurred in Venezuela as violent clashes during protests continue. The death toll has risen to 23 and the number of injured continues to escalate. It is imperative that the government sends a clear and unequivocal message that human rights must be respected and violence will not be tolerated. Opposition authorities must also urge their supporters not to engage in human rights abuses.

On the evening of 10 March, student **Daniel Tinoco** received a fatal shot in the chest in San Cristobal, Táchira State. According to media reports, Daniel Tinoco was among many other students when pro-government armed motorized groups (*grupos de motorizados armados*) attacked them. Two other protesters, Gabriel Contreras and Nelson Salas, have been injured after being shot. The National Guard in San Cristobal is reportedly using tear gas and pellets to dismantle barricades erected by protestors.

On the evening of 9 March, **Giselle Rubilar Figueroa**, a Chilean national, was shot dead while clearing debris from part of a barricade close to her home in Mérida, western Venezuela. The Public Prosecutor's office announced that an investigation into the incident will be opened.

Violent clashes continue between pro and anti-governments groups and the security forces throughout the country. On 10 March for example clashes between protesters and security forces in Valencia, Carabobo State, led to allegedly seven protesters and three members of the security forces being injured. The incident apparently occurred when some of the protesters blocked a main road with three hijacked vehicles and the security forces intervened with tear gas and pellets. Also on 10 March in Los Nuevos Teques, Miranda State, three people were injured (one by bullet) during clashes between protestors and alleged armed motorized groups.

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 their supporters not to commit human rights abuses, 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, including Daniel Tinoco and Giselle Rubilar Figueroa, 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 22 APRIL 2014 TO:

President of Venezuela

Nicolás Maduro Moros
Final Avenida Urdaneta, Esq. De Bolero
Palacio de Miraflores
Caracas, Venezuela
Twitter: @NicolosMaduro

Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear Mr. President

Attorney General of the Republic

Dra. Luisa Ortega Díaz
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Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve

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

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Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 51/14. Further information:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/007/2014/en>

Name: Daniel Tinoco (m), Giselle Rubilar Figueroa (f), pro and anti-government groups in Venezuela
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 51/14 Index: AMR 53/008/2014 Issue Date: 11 March 2014