



VENEZUELA: VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING PROTESTS DEMAND JUSTICE

GÉNESIS CARMONA – KILLED FOR TAKING PART IN A PROTEST



Génesis Carmona, a 22-year-old a marketing student and the 2013 Miss Carabobo Tourism, was shot in the head on 18 February while she was taking part in a student protest. She died the following day.

Génesis' family told Amnesty International that Génesis had gone with her brother, her mother and classmates to join a protest in Avenida Cedeño in the city of Valencia, Carabobo State. The demonstration was peaceful, with a contingent of National Guard officers at the front of the march. At a certain point, the row of officers reportedly parted to allow a group of armed men in civilian clothing on motorbikes to pass through. The armed men opened fire on the demonstrators. Most of the protesters threw

themselves to the ground to avoid the bullets, but Génesis reportedly started running in the opposite direction and she was shot in the head.

To date the Public Prosecution Service has accused one person of complicity in intentional homicide in connection with Génesis' death. And a international arrest warrant has reportedly been issued for another person, although there is no information about whether this is the person who actually killed her or not.

The pro and anti-government protests that took place between February and July 2014 left at least 43 people dead, including **Génesis Carmona**. In addition, 878 people were injured. Amnesty International is gravely concerned at the reports and photographic and video evidence received showing violence, including the use of firearms, apparently committed by pro-government armed groups acting with the acquiescence of the security forces.¹ It has repeatedly called on the authorities to carry out a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into these events. However, at the time of writing, to Amnesty International's knowledge no one belonging to these groups had been held to account in connection with human rights abuses committed during the protests.

In addition, Amnesty International has been able to determine that in most cases victims and their relatives have expressed a lack of confidence in their ability to get justice and are afraid of reporting abuses because they fear possible reprisals. Amnesty International's research has also revealed that in a number of cases victims and their families have been subjected to direct pressure and harassment aimed at intimidating them and forcing them to give up their fight for justice and reparation. In those cases where they have been granted protection measures by the authorities, measures in accordance with their wishes have not

¹ For more information on the February to July 2014 events, see the following Amnesty International reports: Venezuela: Human rights at risk amid protests (Index: AMR 53/009/2014), available at <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/009/2014/en>; and Venezuela: Briefing to the UN Committee Against Torture, 53rd session, November 2014 (Index: AMR 53/020/2014), available at <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/020/2014/en>.

always been implemented. Amnesty International has also documented attacks against demonstrators and passers by carried out by pro-government armed groups, in some cases acting with the acquiescence of the security forces.

ACT NOW!

Write to the Venezuelan authorities urging them to:

- Carry out a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the death of Génesis Carmona and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.
- Ensure that Génesis Carmona's relatives receive comprehensive reparations.

Send your appeals to:

Vicepresident of the Republic

Sr. Jorge Arreaza

Vicepresidencia de la República

Esq. Carmelitas, Avenida Urdaneta,
Caracas, Venezuela.

Email: vicepresidencia@venezuela.gov.ve

ciudadano@vicepresidencia.gov.ve

Salutation: Dear Vice-president

Attorney General of the Republic

Dra. Luisa Ortega Díaz

Edificio Sede Principal del Ministerio Público,

Esquinas de Misericordia a Pele El Ojo
Caracas, Venezuela

Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve

Fax: +58 212 578 3239

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Minister of the Interior, Justice and Peace

Gral. Gustavo González López

Ministerio del Poder Popular para las
Relaciones Interiores, Justicia y Paz.

Edificio Sede del Ministerio, Avenida México
Caracas, Venezuela

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Salutation: Dear Minister

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