

URGENT ACTION

BOY KILLED DURING ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST

A 14-year-old boy was killed during an anti-government protest amid reports of excessive use of force by the security forces. There are concerns the violence will intensify if the authorities do not send a clear message that peaceful protest is permitted and that excessive use of force will not be tolerated.

On 24 February, 14-year-old **Kluiverth Roa Núñez** was killed during a protest in the vicinity of the Táchira Catholic University in San Cristóbal, Táchira State. The investigative police have detained a National Police officer and charged him with the boy's death, apparently for having fired rubber bullets directly at protesters, some of whom had reportedly thrown stones and Molotov cocktails.

Between February and July 2014, 43 people died and almost 900, including 300 police officers, were injured during the pro and anti-government protests that swept the country, which began in San Cristóbal at the beginning of February 2014. One year later, 41 individuals, including 27 civilians remain in pre-trial detention and no one has been found responsible for those killed during the protests.

In recent weeks there have been concerns that the situation is deteriorating rapidly with reports of excessive use of force by the security forces during protests, the detention of the mayor of Caracas, a judge and a lawyer and the cases of at least four students who have been found dead in unknown circumstances.

Amnesty International is concerned that the violence will intensify and more lives will be lost if the authorities do not prioritise the protection and promotion of human rights and send a clear message that excessive use of force by the security forces will not be tolerated, and that dissent and those who protest will not be persecuted.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into Kluiverth Roa Núñez's death, for those found responsible to be brought to justice and for his family to get redress;
- Urging them to ensure the rights to freedom of assembly, expression and association are respected and guarantee that people are free to peacefully express their views, including views critical of the authorities, without fear of losing their lives or their freedom;
- Urging them to send an unequivocal message that the security forces will maintain public order but will only use force when strictly necessary and never against peaceful protesters.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 APRIL 2015 TO:

President of Venezuela
Nicolás Maduro Moros
Final Avenida Urdaneta, Esq. De Bolero
Palacio de Miraflores
Caracas, Distrito Capital
Venezuela
Twitter: @NicolasMaduro
Salutation: **Señor Presidente /**
Dear President

Minister of Justice and Interior
Almirante en Jefa Carmen Teresa
Meléndez Rivas
Ministerio del Poder Popular para
Relaciones Exteriores, Justicia y Paz
Av. Urdaneta, Edificio Interior y Justicia
Caracas, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 5061558
Email: mijcudecon@gmail.com
Salutation: Señor Ministro /
Dear Minister

And copies to:
Amnistía Internacional Venezuela
Apartado Postal 52121
Sabana Grande
Caracas 1050, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 793 1318 ext. 116
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

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Name: Kluiverth Roa Núñez

Gender m/f: m

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