

URGENT ACTION

SAFETY FEARS FOR DETAINED OPPOSITION MEMBER

Opposition politician and former Mayor of San Cristóbal in Táchira State, Daniel Ceballos, was transferred from a military prison to a high-risk civilian prison in San Juan de los Morros, Guarico State, in the early hours of the morning on 23 May. There are fears for his safety.

Daniel Ceballos, former Mayor of San Cristóbal, Táchira State, and member of the Popular Will (Voluntad Popular) opposition party was transferred from a military prison in the city of Los Teques, Miranda state, to a high-risk civilian prison in San Juan de los Morros, Guarico State, central Venezuela, in the early hours of the morning on 23 May. His family and legal representatives have told Amnesty International that they are concerned about his safety.

The prison transfer took place weeks after the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued precautionary measures on behalf of Daniel Ceballos on 15 April and ordered the state to protect his life and physical integrity and ensure that his conditions of detention meet international standards.

Daniel Ceballos has been in detention since 19 March 2014, when he was Mayor of San Cristóbal, on charges related to the anti-government protests that shook the country between February and July 2014. In August 2014 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention stated that his detention was arbitrary. Based on the opinion of the Working Group, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has urged the authorities to release him immediately.

Daniel Ceballos is on trial charged with civil rebellion and conspiracy to commit a crime. He must be released as there is no evidence to substantiate the charges he faces and his detention appears to be politically motivated.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to ensure that Daniel Ceballos is protected from torture or other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Calling on the authorities to comply with the recommendations of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and release Daniel Ceballos immediately;
- Urging them to address and investigate the human rights violations that were committed last year during the anti-government protests.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 JULY 2015 TO:

Vice President

Sr. Jorge Arreaza
Vicepresidencia de la Republica
Av. Urdaneta, Esquina de Carmelitas,
Caracas, Venezuela
Email: via website
<http://www.vicepresidencia.gob.ve>
Twitter: @jaarreaza

**Salutation: Señor Vicepresidente/
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 Avenida México, Caracas
Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 578 3239
Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve

**Salutation: Dra. Fiscal / Dear
Prosecutor**

And copies to:

Ombudsman
Tarek William Saab
Defensor del Pueblo
Av. Urdaneta - Frente a El Universal
Centro Financiero Latino, Piso 27
Caracas, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 5077025
Email: contacto@defensoria.gob.ve

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. This is the third update of UA 33/14. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr53/0016/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 43 people died and 878 were injured as a result of excessive use of force and violence perpetrated by anti-government protestors and armed pro-government groups during the pro and anti-government protests that took place in Venezuela between February and July 2014. Some victims were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

In addition, 3,300 people were detained. The vast majority have been released, although according to official statistics, 507 are facing prosecution for their alleged involvement in violence during the protests. At the time of writing, at least 20 ordinary civilians remain in detention. Amnesty International is concerned that others held on charges linked to the protests may also have been arbitrarily detained.

In spite of reforms to the prison system, prison conditions remained harsh. Lack of medical care, food and clean drinking water, unhygienic conditions, overcrowding and violence in prisons and police stations remained a concern. Firearms and other weapons continued to be routinely used in prison clashes. Between 1999 and 2014, there were 6,472 deaths and 16,387 injuries registered in Venezuelan prisons. In 2014 alone, 309 deaths and 179 injuries were reported in Venezuelan prisons.

Name: Daniel Ceballos

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 33/14 Index: AMR 53/1715/2015 Issue Date: 25 May 2015