



## VENEZUELA: VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DURING PROTESTS DEMAND JUSTICE

### ANTHONY GREGORIO CARRERO – SHOT AND WOUNDED DURING A PROTEST



**“Sometimes I wonder why this happened to me, why did this have to happen to me.”**

Anthony Gregorio Carrero was wounded on his way home from work on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014. He was struck on the left-hand side of his chest by a bullet fired at close range, reportedly by an officer of the National Guard as they dispersed a protest by local residents in San Cristóbal (Táchira).

According to the medical report, to which Amnesty International was given access, Anthony Carrero required surgery for a gunshot wound; a bullet had pierced the left-hand side of his diaphragm. Anthony Carrero told Amnesty International that he was discharged prematurely, just five days after the operation, because medical personnel feared that he would be detained if he remained in hospital. Several months later he had to be readmitted to hospital for emergency treatment to drain his lung. At the time of writing, he was waiting to undergo further surgery linked to the gunshot wound.

Despite an initial reluctance to report the incident for fear of reprisals and further attacks, Anthony Carrero lodged a formal complaint with the Public Prosecution Service, which launched an investigation. The Public Prosecutors office has recently informed Amnesty International that it has requested that the case be closed. This will mean the end of the investigation and that those responsible will not be brought to justice.

Amnesty International has documented many cases in which law enforcement officials used excessive force in the context of the pro and anti-government protests that took place in various parts of Venezuela between February and July 2014. The victims included demonstrators, passers-by and people living in the neighbourhoods where protests were taking place. Among the cases documented by Amnesty International are incidents in which live ammunition was used against demonstrators and homes in residential areas where “cacerolazos” (protests in which people use cooking utensils or other objects to make a noise) were taking place or where residents had set up roadblocks.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

The information obtained indicates that law enforcement officials frequently saw dispersing protests, including peaceful protests, as a priority and used force to do so, often without attempting to negotiate with the demonstrators or giving a clear prior warning.

## ACT NOW!

### Write to the Venezuelan authorities urging them to:

- Carry out a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the shooting of Anthony Gregorio Carrero, ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and ensure that he receives comprehensive and appropriate reparations.
- Ensure that protests are allowed to take place and that law enforcement officials use force only when strictly necessary and never against peaceful protesters, in line with the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

### 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](mailto:vicepresidencia@venezuela.gov.ve)  
[ciudadano@vicepresidencia.gov.ve](mailto: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](mailto:ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve)  
Fax: +58 212 578 3239  
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

#### **Minister of the Interior, Justice and Peace**

Almirante en Jefa Carmen Teresa Meléndez Rivas  
Ministerio del Poder Popular para las  
Relaciones Interiores, Justicia y Paz.  
Edificio Sede del Ministerio, Avenida México  
Caracas, Venezuela  
Email: [mijcudecon@gmail.com](mailto:mijcudecon@gmail.com)  
Fax: +58 212 506 1558  
Salutation: Dear Minister

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