

UA 124/02

Death thro

**VENEZUELA**Liliana Ortega (f) - President of *Comité de Familiares de Víctimas del 27 de Febrero (COFAVIC)*, Committee of the Relatives of the Victims of 27 February  
Other members of COFAVIC

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Liliana Ortega, president of COFAVIC and other members of the human rights organisation following a series of threatening emails and telephone calls.

On 18 April, an anonymous phone call was made to the offices of COFAVIC in which the caller said "*Digale a la Doctora (Ortega) que no se aparte del camino,..[o] sangre va correr*" (Tell the doctor if she steps out of line,.. blood will run). Prior to this and in subsequent days, threatening emails were also sent to COFAVIC.

Between 11 and 13 April, President Hugo Chávez was briefly overthrown by a section of the military, following an anti-government demonstration in the capital Caracas. During the 48 hours of political turmoil, at least 45 people were killed and over 100 were wounded. By 13 April protests led to the return to power of the constitutionally elected President and his government.

COFAVIC and other human rights organizations have worked to document the many human rights violations which occurred during the three days. Along with other national and international human rights organizations, COFAVIC have publicly called for independent and impartial investigations to be carried out, in order to clarify all levels of responsibility for the violence and bring to justice those responsible.

On 19 April the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued protection measures on behalf of Liliana Ortega and other members of COFAVIC, requiring the Venezuelan authorities to take steps to guarantee their safety.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern at the threats against Liliana Ortega and other members of COFAVIC;
- calling on the authorities to take steps, in accordance with the wishes of those at risk, to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation of the threats against COFAVIC, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities that the UN *Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties* recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic

Hugo Chávez Frías

Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Palacio de Miraflores

Esquina de Bolero

Av. Urdaneta

Caracas, Venezuela

**Telegram: Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Fax: + 58 212 806 3233**

**Salutation: Señor Presidente/ Dear President**

Minister of the Interior and Justice

Ramón Rodríguez Chacín

Ministro del Interior y Justicia

Ministerio del Interior y Justicia

Avenida Urdaneta Esquina de Platanal

Edificio Interior y Justicia

Despacho del Ministro, piso tres

Caracas, Venezuela

**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior y Justicia, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Faxes: + 58 212 506 1557/1558**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/ Dear Minister**

Attorney General

Dr. Isaías Rodríguez

Fiscal General de la República,

Avenida Universidad

Esquina Pele el ojo a Misericordia

Frente a Parque Carabobo

Caracas, Venezuela

**Telegrams: Fiscal general de la República, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Faxes: + 58 212 576 4419**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Rodríguez/ Dear Dr Rodríguez**

Human Rights Ombudsman

Defensoría del Pueblo

Dr. Germán Mundaraín

Bellas Artes comienzo Avenida México frente al Ateneo de Caracas,

Plaza Morelos

Caracas, Venezuela

**Telefax: + 58 212 575 4467 (If a voice answers, say "Por favor, me puede dar tono de fax").**

**Email: gmundarain@defensoria.gov.ve**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Mundaraín/ Dear Dr Mundaraín**

**COPIES TO:**

COFAVIC,

Apdo Postal 16150

La Candelaria

Caracas 1010-A

Venezuela

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 June 2002.