

URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE SHOT AND KILLED

An opposition party candidate in the forthcoming municipal elections in Venezuela has been shot and killed. Concerns about violence in the context of the elections remain.

José Chirinos, councillor candidate for the municipality of Baralt, Zulia state in eastern Venezuela, was shot and killed on 26 November by two men on a motorbike as he left a local radio station after giving an interview. In his radio interview, José Chirinos spoke about his electoral pledges with opposition alliance Mesa de Unidad Democrática (MUD). The exact circumstances of his death are yet to be determined but the Attorney General's Office announced that an investigation will be opened.

Elections are planned for 8 December across hundreds of municipalities in Venezuela and risk of further violent attacks remains. Before, during and after the recent presidential elections of April 2013, Amnesty International received reports of killings and scores of people injured, as well as attacks and threats against media workers, human rights defenders, political activists and people who participated in political rallies.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Supporting the announcement that an investigation into the killing of José Chirinos will be opened and calling on the authorities to ensure that the investigation will be prompt and impartial and bring those responsible to justice;
- Calling on the authorities to send a clear message that violence will not be tolerated;
- Urging them to ensure that all people can freely exercise their right to freedom of expression and association without fear of reprisals.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 JANUARY 2014 TO:

Attorney General

Dra. Luisa Ortega Díaz
Fiscalía General de la República
Sede Principal del Ministerio Público
Esquinas de Misericordia a Pele El Ojo
Av. México, Caracas, Venezuela
Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve
Fax: +58 212 578 3239 (Say "me da tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Dra. Fiscal / Dear Prosecutor

Governor of Zulia state

Francisco Arias Cárdenas
Gobernador del Estado de Zulia
Avenida 3Y y calle 70
Colonia Bella Vista
Parroquia Olegario Villalobos
Maracaibo, Venezuela

Fax+ 58 261 792 2622
**Salutation: Señor Gobernador/
Dear Governor**

And copies to:

Americas Programme

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
Email: ecupeve@amnesty.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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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

When the presidential election took place last April scores of people suffered acts of violence and intimidation. According to Venezuela's Attorney General, at least seven people were killed, 61 were injured and 135 detained.

In April, Amnesty International issued a press release to call on the authorities that the right to freedom of assembly and expression are guaranteed for all without fear of reprisal, see <http://www.amnesty.org/en/node/37910>

Name: José Chirinos

Gender m/f: m

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