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SONIA PIERRE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MOURNS THE LOSS OF A GREAT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

We, in Amnesty International, are tremendously sad to learn that Sonia Pierre died of a heart attack on 4 December. She was only 48 years old and a prominent human rights defender in the Americas region, who tirelessly advocated for women's rights and for equal rights and respect for Haitian migrants and Dominicans of Haitian descent. She was the Executive Director of the human rights organization, the Movement for Dominico-Haitian Women (*Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas*, MUDHA).

For several years we worked with and for Sonia Pierre. Her courage, commitment, perseverance and dedication to overcome discrimination on racial and gender grounds will always be a great inspiration for all of us.

Despite the threats and harassment that she and her children suffered as a result of her work to end discrimination against the Haitian community in the Dominican Republic, she never lost her energy, focus and drive.

We have lost an exceptional woman and human rights defender but her memory is alive among all of us. Her memory encourages us to keep working for the full enjoyment of human rights for all without discrimination and for the recognition and protection of all human rights defenders in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the Americas.