

# URGENT ACTION

## FATHER AND DAUGHTER BEATEN BY POLICE

**Daniel Antonio Núñez and his daughter Francis Daniela Núñez Martínez were beaten and threatened by police officers in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, on 30 January. There are concerns for their safety and that of their family.**

**Daniel Antonio Núñez** and his 16 year-old daughter **Francis Daniela Núñez Martínez** were beaten and threatened by seven police officers from the Caracas Investigative Police. The police had called them to testify as witnesses in relation to a shooting near their home, in Caracas, a day before, where a woman was killed.

According to their testimonies, at the police station they were taken to separate rooms. Daniel Núñez was handcuffed and questioned by four police officers about the shooting, but when he said he could not provide any evidence as he was inside his house at the time, the officers beat him and used a bag to suffocate him. They reportedly said: "you better talk..you are going to end up in trouble..you want to see how I bring your daughter and fuck her in front of you".

At the same time, Francis Daniela Núñez Martínez was also being questioned by three police officers without the presence of an adult or a member of the public prosecutor's office. She was asked to identify a neighbour who the police suspected had been responsible for the shooting. She was reportedly tied up with a belt and slapped on the face. When she said she had not seen anything, she was told: "So, what do we have to do for you to help us ... Are we going to have to plant some drug on you? I am going to smash your face in".

They were both allowed to return home, but their lawyers fear for their safety as the police have indicated that they may be asked again to identify the alleged perpetrator. The lawyers also fear possible reprisals from the police after the family reported the ill-treatment and threats they received to the public prosecutor's office on 3 February.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Expressing concern that Daniel Antonio Núñez and his 16 year old daughter Francis Daniela Núñez Martínez were ill-treated and threatened by members of the investigative police on 30 January 2011 in Caracas;
- Urging the authorities to provide Daniel Antonio Núñez, Francis Daniela Núñez Martínez and their family with effective protection in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on them to order an independent and impartial investigation into the ill-treatment and threats and bring those responsible to justice.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 MARCH 2011 TO:

#### Ministro de Interior y Justicia

Tareck El Aissami  
Ministerio del Poder Popular para  
Relaciones Interiores y Justicia  
Avenida Urdaneta Esquina de Platanal  
Edificio Interior y Justicia Despacho del  
Ministro, Piso 3, Caracas, VENEZUELA  
Fax: + 58 212 506 1685

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear  
Minister**

#### Attorney General

Dra. Luisa Ortega Díaz  
Fiscalía General de la República  
Avda. México, Manduca a Pelelojo,  
Edif. Sede Fiscalía General de la  
República, La Candelaria, Caracas,  
Venezuela  
Email: mp@fiscalia.gov.ve  
Fax: +58 212 509 7264/7345  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney  
General/Estimada Señora Fiscal General**

#### **And copies to:**

Human rights NGO  
Red de Apoyo  
Edif. Caroata, Nivel Ofic. 2,  
Ofic. 220, Parque Central, Caracas  
Venezuela  
**Fax: +58 212 574 1949 – 8005 (if  
voice answers say: " me da tono de fax,  
por favor"**  
**Email:  
programadefensa@redapoyo.org.ve**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**

