



**STOP POLICE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**



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Hundreds of people are shot and killed every year by members of the Dominican National Police. Despite claims by the authorities that shootings by police are the result of “exchanges of fire”, there is strong evidence that many of those shot did not pose a threat to life and that in some cases police shot to kill. Reports of torture and other ill-treatment in police custody are widespread and people living in marginalized communities are regularly arbitrarily detained following mass police round-ups.

Behind this picture of pervasive human rights abuses lie endemic corruption in the police, inadequate oversight and flawed investigations into alleged police abuses. There is no doubt that police in the Dominican Republic face serious challenges – violent crime is rife. However, there is evidence that their hardline policing methods are leading to an increase in violence.

There is an urgent need for comprehensive police reform to ensure respect for human rights and effective policing in the Dominican Republic.

## TAKE ACTION NOW

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS POSTCARD TO THE DOMINICAN PRESIDENT.

*Image:* A police officer arrests two men in San Juan de la Maguana, 2011. © Amnesty International  
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Dear President,

I am writing to you to express my concern at the high incidence of human rights abuses committed by the National Police. Every year, hundreds of Dominicans are victims of arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, or unlawful killings. Many of those responsible for these abuses are not brought to justice.

You have publicly acknowledged that the Dominican people have felt “terrorized” by their own security forces. However, your government’s repeated call for “zero tolerance” of state corruption and attempts at police reform have so far had little impact in curbing abusive police behaviour.

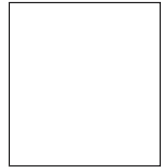
I therefore respectfully urge you and your government to take immediate measures to develop and implement effective human rights based police reforms to ensure that Dominicans have the professional, responsive and accountable police force they deserve.

Yours respectfully,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**His Excellency Leonel Antonio Fernández Reyna**  
**President of the Dominican Republic**  
**Palacio Nacional**  
**Avenida México esquina Doctor Delgado**  
**Gazcue**  
**Santo Domingo**  
**Dominican Republic**

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*Image:* Police officers on patrol during demonstrations in the Capotillo and Cristo Rey neighbourhoods of Santo Domingo, July 2003. The protests were sparked by a rise in the cost of basic foods following an agreement between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). © EFE/Orlando Barria

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom. [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)