

# URGENT ACTION

## BLANCO RELEASED ON BAIL, STILL FACES TRIAL

**Richard Blanco** was released on 6 April. He still faces trial, and is obliged to present himself in court every 15 days. He cannot leave the country without the court's permission, and cannot speak to journalists about the trial. He has declared that he will be a candidate in the elections to the National Assembly in September.

**Oswaldo Álvarez Paz** and **Judge María Lourdes Afiuni** are still in prison. Oswaldo Álvarez Paz was arrested on 22 March, and Judge María Lourdes Afiuni on 10 December. TV station owner **Guillermo Zuloaga** and opposition member of parliament **Wilmer Azuaje** are still facing prosecution on charges that appear to be politically motivated.

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

- Urging the authorities to bring Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni and Oswaldo Álvarez Paz to trial in proceedings that meet international fair trial standards, or else release them immediately;
- Urging the authorities to drop charges that are fabricated, or not recognizably criminal offences, brought for political reasons against its critics.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 MAY 2010 TO:

#### Minister of Interior and Justice

Sr. Tarek El Aissami  
Ministerio del Poder Popular para  
Relaciones Interiores y Justicia  
Av. Urdaneta, Edif. Sede MIJ, Piso 1,  
Carmelitas, Caracas, Venezuela  
**Fax: +58 212 506 1557**

**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

**Fax: +58 212 509 8504**

**Email: [mp@fiscalia.gov.ve](mailto:mp@fiscalia.gov.ve)**

**Salutation: Señora Fiscal General/  
Dear Attorney General**

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

Amnesty International Venezuela  
CCS182576 Av Venezuela,  
Edif. Venezuela PB Local 5,  
Casillero 936  
El Rosal, Caracas 1060  
Venezuela

**Email: [info@aiven.org](mailto:info@aiven.org)**

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

This is the second update of UA 346/09. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/009/2009/en>  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/004/2010/en>

Further information on UA: 346/09 Index: AMR 53/005/2010 Issue Date: 09 April 2010

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