

# URGENT ACTION

## OPPOSITION POLITICIAN ARBITRARILY DETAINED

**Antonio Rivero, a supporter of the main opposition candidate in the recent Venezuelan presidential elections, was detained on 27 April and two days later charged for his involvement in protests after the election results were published.**

**Antonio Rivero** was detained on 27 April after he was called for a meeting with Interior Ministry officials at the premises of the Venezuelan Intelligence Service (Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia Nacional). For two days, he had no access to his lawyers and his lawyers did not know for what he was being held. On 29 April Antonio Rivero was charged with instigating hatred and conspiracy to commit a crime (*delitos de instigación al odio y asociación ilegal para delinquir*). According to his lawyer, the only evidence upon which the prosecutor based the accusations is a video where Antonio Rivero is speaking to people who were peacefully protesting against the results of the 14 April Venezuela's presidential elections.

Antonio Rivero has now been on a hunger-strike for ten days, since his detention on 27 April, in protest about his arrest, which he believes is politically motivated.

Days before his arrest, Antonio Rivero had been accused in the state media of being part of a plot to overthrow the recently elected government.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Call on the authorities to produce evidence that supports the charges or release him immediately;
- Call on the authorities to ensure that all people can freely exercise their right to freedom of expression and association;
- Call on the authorities to order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into any violence that has taken place in the context of protests around the presidential elections.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 JUNE 2013 TO:**

#### Attorney General of the Republic

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

**Salutation: Dra. Fiscal / Dear Prosecutor**

#### Minister of Justice and Interior

General Miguel Rodríguez Torres  
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 1111 (if someone answers say "me da tono de fax, por favor")

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/  
Dear Minister**

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

Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
Email: [ecupeve@amnesty.org](mailto:ecupeve@amnesty.org)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Acts of violence have been reported around the Venezuelan presidential elections, which were held on Sunday, 14 April. The two main contenders were Nicolas Maduro and Henrique Capriles. The results published by the National Electoral Council indicated Nicolas Maduro's victory by a narrow margin. In response to this result, Henrique Capriles demanded a recount. Amnesty International received reports of harassment and attacks against media workers, political and social activists, human rights defenders and other people who took part in political events or protests following the publication of the results.

Antonio Rivero is a retired army general and joined the political party Voluntad Popular, part of the coalition supporting Henrique Capriles, the main opposition candidate for the recent Venezuelan presidential elections.

Name: Antonio Rivero  
Gender m/f: m

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