

# URGENT ACTION

## PROTECTION URGED AFTER KILLING AND THREATS

**Jesús de la Rosa Santana might have been extra-judicially executed by police officers in front of his wife and children. His brother, Francisco de la Rosa Santana, is in hiding after receiving death threats from the police. His life and the lives of his family are at risk.**

On 28 June, Jesús de la Rosa Santana was killed at his home in San Juan de la Maguana, 192 Km west of the capital Santo Domingo. His wife, Andreina Berroa Cabrera, has stated that more than ten armed police, dressed in plain clothes, surrounded their home and without warning they forced the door open and entered the house. A police officer dragged Jesús de la Rosa Santana outside of his home and shot him twice in the head in the presence of his wife and children. According to her report, the police then placed a gun in Jesús de la Rosa Santana's hand and squeezed his finger over the trigger twice. They also stole 11,000 Dominican pesos (aprox. USD\$300) from Jesús de la Rosa Santana's pockets. When his wife pleaded with the officers they told her to shut up or "we can kill you as well".

Andreina Berroa Cabrera was then hand-cuffed and taken to the police station where she was detained without charge for several hours. During her detention the police officers who had been present at her house informed her that what happened to her husband was the result of an "exchange of gunfire" and that they "are the ones who make the law".

The wife of Jesús de la Rosa Santana's brother, Francisco de la Rosa Santana, went to hospital where the police had taken Jesús de la Rosa Santana's body following the shooting. She was arrested by the police and taken to a police station in San Juan de la Maguana, where the police told her that they were looking for Francisco and that if they found him, he will share the same fate as his brother. She was released without charge a few hours later. Francisco de la Rosa Santana has been in hiding since the killing of his brother. Jesús de la Rosa Santana's killing has been reported to the police authorities. Amnesty International is unaware if an investigation has been initiated.

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

- urging the authorities to act immediately to ensure the safety of Francisco de la Rosa Santana and his family, in accordance with their wishes;
- calling on the authorities to immediately and independently investigate the killing on 28 June of Jesús de la Rosa Santana by police officers, publish the results of the investigation and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to ensure all police officers identified as being involved in the killing are immediately suspended from duties until the judicial investigation is satisfactorily concluded;

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 AUGUST 2010 TO:

#### Chief of Police

Mayor General Ingeniero Rafael  
Guillermo Guzmán Fermín  
Jefe de la Policía Nacional  
Oficina del Jefe de la Policía Nacional  
Palacio del la Policía Nacional  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Fax: +1 809 685 4510**

**Salutation: Estimado Jefe de la  
Policia Nacional/Dear Chief of  
Police**

#### Minister of the Interior

Sr. Franklin Almeyda Rancier  
Secretario de Estado del Interior y la  
Policía  
Ave. México, Esq.  
Leopoldo Navarro, Edif. Oficinas  
Gubernamentales,  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Fax: +1 809 685 6599**

**Salutation: Estimado Señor  
Secretario/Dear Sir**

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

Comisión Nacional de los Derechos  
Humanos (National Commission of  
Human Rights)

Av. Ortega y Gasset, 200, 2do nivel de  
la Fundacion Tropico (Cristo Rey)  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Email: cndhrd@hotmail.com**

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

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned by continued reports of fatal shootings by members of the security forces in the Dominican Republic, some of which may amount to unlawful killings. According to the Dominican non-governmental organization, the National Human Rights Commission (Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos), 3,000 people have been killed by the police in the last 10 years. According to the police the vast majority of these incidents are the result of “exchanges of gunfire” (“intercambios de disparos”) between police and armed criminal suspects. Eyewitness reports frequently contradict such claims, however, and Amnesty International believes that a large proportion of these fatal shootings may be unlawful. It is very rare for a police officer to be found guilty of unlawful killing. As there is no independent body to investigate allegations of abuse by members of the security forces, those responsible are rarely brought to justice.

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