

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE REQUIRES MEDICAL CARE

Prisoner of conscience Rosmit Mantilla was scheduled to undergo surgery on 31 October, however, despite a court order, agents of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service have taken him back to prison, where he was placed in a punishment cell while his health continues to deteriorate.

Rosmit Mantilla, an activist for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, and a member of the opposition party Popular Will (Voluntad Popular), has been detained since 2 May 2014 in Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (Servicio de Inteligencia Bolivariano Nacional, SEBIN) facilities in Caracas, without there being any reliable evidence proving any of the charges alleged against him. He is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.

On 31 October, Rosmit Mantilla had been transferred to the Tamanaco Institute of Urology Clinics in Caracas to undergo operations for multiple bladder stones, recurrent gallbladder attacks and gastric wall thickening. However, despite the issue of a court order approving immediate medical intervention, SEBIN agents did not allow the surgery to go ahead and took him back to their headquarters.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on his return to SEBIN, Rosmit Mantilla was taken to a punishment cell where he remains without electricity. Rosmit Mantilla's relatives told Amnesty International that they were able to visit him on 6 November for 30 minutes. According to them, he is still in pain, gaunt and depressed due to his situation. They also said that there is a guard permanently in front of his cell and other visitors and detainees are forbidden from talking to him. There are fears for his safety and physical and emotional integrity, as he requires immediate medical attention.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the Venezuelan authorities to release Rosmit Mantilla immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience who has not used or advocated violence and is being held without sufficient evidence against him;
- Calling for Rosmit Mantilla to be transferred to a health centre of his choice in order to receive the treatment prescribed by doctors who evaluated him and as ordered by the judge;
- Demanding that Rosmit Mantilla be protected from any kind of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment while in detention;
- Urging the law enforcement authorities to comply with their obligation to respect release orders and other measures to uphold the dignity of people in detention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 DECEMBER 2016 TO:

Vice President

Aristóbulo Iztúriz Almeida
Vicepresidencia de la República
Esq. Carmelitas, Avenida Urdaneta,
Caracas, Venezuela.
Twitter: @psuvaristobulo

**Salutation: Dear Vice President /
Señor Vicepresidente**

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.gob.ve

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

Ombudsman

Dr. Tarek William Saab
Defensor del Pueblo
Av. Urdaneta - Frente a El Universal
Centro Financiero Latino, Piso 27
Caracas, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 5077025

Email: contacto@defensoria.gob.ve
**Salutation: Dear Ombudsman / Señor
Defensor**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY ROCÍO MANEIRO, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 1 Cromwell Road SW7 2HW, 020 7584 4206 or 020 7581 2776, Fax 020 7589 8887, despacho.londres@mppre.gob.ve, embavenezuk@venezlon.co.uk, info@vprezlon.co.uk, <http://reinounido.embajada.gob.ve/>

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 20/16. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr53/3303/2016/en/

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE REQUIRES MEDICAL CARE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rosmit Mantilla is an activist for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, and a member of the opposition party Popular Will (Voluntad Popular). Rosmit Mantilla was arrested on 2 May 2014, and again three days later, on 5 May 2014. Since then, he has been unjustly detained in SEBIN's facilities in Caracas, without there being any reliable evidence proving any of the charges alleged against him.

The Public Prosecutor has accused Rosmit Mantilla of public incitement, public intimidation, obstruction of roads, burning of public and private buildings, violent damage and conspiracy, in the context of anti-government protests that took place between February and July 2014.

The protests were held against and in favour of the government between February and July 2014, and resulted in at least 43 deaths and 878 people injured, including members of the security forces. In addition, 3,300 people were arrested, the vast majority of whom were released, although some of them face prosecution for their alleged involvement in violence during the protests.

Leopoldo López, the leader of Popular Will, was sentenced to nearly 14 years in prison on 10 September 2015, based on unfounded accusations of inciting violence during protests against the government in February 2014, after an unfair trial, with clear political motivation and a judicial system lacking independence. As with Rosmit Mantilla, Amnesty International believes Leopoldo López is a prisoner of conscience and is demanding his immediate and unconditional release.

Further information on UA: 20/16 AI Index: AMR 53/5111/2016 Issue Date: 8 November 2016