

URGENT ACTION

FEARS FOR SAFETY OF MURDER VICTIM'S FAMILY

Luis Urbano, son of human rights defender José Luis Urbano, was murdered by police officers in the state of Anzoátegui, Venezuela, on 10 October. The safety of his family is at risk.

Luis Urbano died on 10 October, having been shot four times by police officers from the municipality of Sotillo in Anzoátegui state, in eastern Venezuela. Luis Urbano was a mechanic and the son of human rights defender **José Luis Urbano**, president of the NGO **Foundation for the Defence of the Right to Education** (Fundación Pro-defensa del Derecho a la Educación y la Niñez), known in Anzoátegui state for its work to denounce and defend children's human rights, including the right to education.

Witnesses confirm that police officers approached Luis Urbano on a public road while he was repairing his motorcycle in a working-class area of the city of Puerto La Cruz, in the municipality of Sotillo in Anzoátegui state. José Luis Urbano told Amnesty International that following a dispute with the officers they shot at Luis Urbano, who was then left in the street for around an hour with a bullet wound to the chest without receiving help from anyone. The same police officers then took Luis Urbano to a hospital, where he was admitted with four bullet wounds.

Human rights defender José Luis Urbano has been threatened on several occasions as a result of his work as president of the Foundation for the Defence of the Right to Education. In 2007 José Luis Urbano suffered from an attack in which he was held up and shot at. In 2008 Amnesty International issued an urgent action in light of different attacks against him. There are fears for the life and physical integrity of José Luis Urbano, and those of his family and other members of the Foundation.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to guarantee protection for Jose Luis Urbano, his family and all those who work with the Foundation for the Defence of the Right to Education, according to their wishes;
- Calling on them to order a comprehensive, impartial and independent investigation into the murder of Luis Urbano, to make the results public and to bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them of the right of human rights defenders to carry out their legitimate activities without illegal limitations or fear of reprisal, as stipulated in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 NOVEMBER 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and the Interior

Gen. (Ej.) Néstor Luis Reverol Torres
Ministerio del Interior y Justicia
Avenida Urdaneta Esquina de Platanal
Edificio Interior y Justicia Despacho del
Ministro
Caracas, Venezuela
Fax: +58 212 506 1685

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

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Her 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, embavenezuk@venezlon.co.uk, info@venezlon.co.uk, www.venezlon.co.uk

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

**AMNESTY
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

José Luis Urbano previously told Amnesty International that in the afternoon of 10 February 2007 he and his wife were driving to their home, in the centre of Barcelona, when a black Mitsubishi car pulled up next to theirs. Two men got out, and one stuck a gun through the window on José Luis Urbano's side. The other said, "Shoot him, it's the guy from Pro-defensa" (*métele, es el tipo de Pro-defensa*). José Luis Urbano managed to grab the barrel of the gun but the man fired and hit him in the stomach. In May 2008 José Luis Urbano received death threats via telephone. In September 2008 police officers attempted to force their way into José Luis Urbano's home. Additionally, in August 2010 José Luis Urbano was once again shot at by unidentified men.

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