

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 53/010/2003

6 June 2003

Further Information on UA 130/03 (AMR 53/007/2003, 9 May 2003) and follow-up (AMR 53/009/2003, 15 May) - Death Threats/Fear for Safety

VENEZUELA

Miguel Díaz Loreto (m)
Dinorah María Díaz Loreto (f)
Jairo Alexis Díaz Loreto (m)
Bladimir Díaz Loreto (m)
Alexandra Gualdrón (f)

Killed: Enmary Cava (f)

On 26 May, Enmary Cava died in hospital in the town of Cagua, Aragua state. She had been in hospital in a critical condition after being shot six times by an unidentified man on 10 May. A female friend who was with her when she was shot is still in a critical condition in hospital.

On 27 May, a judge in the town of Cagua ordered the authorities to ensure the protection of Dinorah María Díaz Loreto, Alexandra Gualdrón and Jairo Alexander Díaz Loreto. However, it is not clear what measures will be taken and when they will begin. Amnesty International is concerned that no measures were ordered to protect Enmary Cava's injured friend, witnesses to the killings of Robert Díaz Loreto, Antonio Díaz Loreto and Octavio Ignacio Díaz, and other members of Enmary Cava's family including Miguel Díaz Loreto and Bladimir Díaz Loreto.

It is believed that the attack against Enmary Cava and her friend may be related to the increasing number of death threats received by Enmary Cava and members of her family, allegedly from agents of the Aragua State Police.

The family members had been pressing the local authorities to carry out an exhaustive investigation into the killings of brothers Robert Díaz Loreto, Antonio Díaz Loreto and their father, Octavio Ignacio Díaz. The three men were killed in suspicious circumstances by agents of the Aragua State Police on 6 January. Family members claim that the Aragua State Prosecutors Office has failed to carry out an exhaustive, impartial and prompt investigation into the killings and police have reportedly been unwilling to cooperate with the investigation.

According to reports, detention orders may be issued next week against seven police officials for the killings of the three men. Local human rights groups have, however, expressed concern that insufficient time has been given for collecting evidence against the officials, thus running the risk of acquittal on grounds of insufficient evidence.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing sadness at the death of Enmary Cava, whose family have received a number of death threats;
- calling on the authorities to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the fatal attack on Enmary Cava and on her friend, to publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;

- expressing concern for the safety of Enmary Cava's family including Dinorah María Díaz Loreto, Jairo Alexis Díaz Loreto, Bladimir Díaz, Miguel Díaz Loreto, and Alexandra Gualdrón;

- urging the authorities to take action to guarantee the safety of all members of Enmary Cava's family, Enmary Cava's friend, and witnesses to the killings of Robert Díaz Loreto, Antonio Díaz Loreto and Octavio Ignacio Díaz, in accordance with the wishes of those at risk;
- calling on the authorities to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the death threats and harassment experienced by these individuals, to publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to carry out an exhaustive and impartial investigation into the killings of Robert Díaz Loreto, Antonio Díaz Loreto and Octavio Ignacio Díaz, to publish the results and bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General

Fiscal General de la República,
Dr. Isaías Rodríguez
Avenida Universidad,
Esquina Pele el ojo a Misericordia, frente a Parque Carabobo,
Caracas, VENEZUELA

Telegram: Fiscal General de la República, Caracas, Venezuela

Fax: + 58 212 576 44 19

Salutation: Estimado Señor Fiscal General/Dear Attorney General

Local Governor

Gobernador de del estado Aragua
Sr. Didalco Bolívar
Palacio de Gobierno
Maracay, Estado de Aragua, VENEZUELA

Telegram: Gobernador del estado, Aragua, Maracay, Estado de Aragua, Venezuela

Fax: + 58 243 2377002 (it may be difficult to get through; please keep trying)

E-mail: didalco@gobernacion.arg.gov.ve

Salutation: Estimado Señor/Dear Sir

Local Police Chief

Comandante de la policía de Aragua
Comisario Angel Mercado
(no address available)

Telegram: Comandante de la policía de Aragua, Maracay, Estado de Aragua, Venezuela

Fax: + 58 243 235 1220

Salutation: Estimado Señor Comisario/Dear Sir

Human Rights Ombudsman

Defensoría del Pueblo
Dr. Germán Mundaraín
Bellas Artes comienzo Avenida México frente al Ateneo de Caracas
Plaza Morelos, Caracas, VENEZUELA

Telegram: Defensoría del Pueblo, Caracas, Venezuela

Fax: + 58 212 575 4467 (if a voice answers, say "tono de fax por favor")

Email: gmundarain@defensoria.gov.ve

Salutation: Estimado Señor/Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Commission for Human Rights, Justice and Peace for the State of Aragua

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Justicia y Paz del Estado Aragua
Calle Negro Primero, Oeste N 98, frente al Liceo 'Valentin Espinal', Cruce con Av. Ayacucho, Maracay
Estado Aragua, VENEZUELA

Fax: + 58 243 233 6363 (if a voice answers, say "tono de fax por favor")

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 July 2003.