

URGENT ACTION

BOY KILLED DURING ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST

A 14-year-old boy was killed during an anti-government protest amid reports of excessive use of force by the security forces. There are concerns the violence will intensify if the authorities do not send a clear message that peaceful protest is permitted and that excessive use of force will not be tolerated.

On 24 February, 14-year-old **Kliverth Roa Núñez** was killed during a protest in the vicinity of the Táchira Catholic University in San Cristóbal, Táchira State. The investigative police have detained a National Police officer and charged him with the boy's death, apparently for having fired rubber bullets directly at protesters, some of whom had reportedly thrown stones and Molotov cocktails.

Between February and July 2014, 43 people died and almost 900, including 300 police officers, were injured during the pro and anti-government protests that swept the country, which began in San Cristóbal at the beginning of February 2014. One year later, 41 individuals, including 27 civilians remain in pre-trial detention and no one has been found responsible for those killed during the protests.

In recent weeks there have been concerns that the situation is deteriorating rapidly with reports of excessive use of force by the security forces during protests, the detention of the mayor of Caracas, a judge and a lawyer and the cases of at least four students who have been found dead in unknown circumstances.

Amnesty International is concerned that the violence will intensify and more lives will be lost if the authorities do not prioritize the protection and promotion of human rights and send a clear message that excessive use of force by the security forces will not be tolerated, and that dissent and those who protest will not be persecuted.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into Kliverth Roa Núñez's death, for those found responsible to be brought to justice and for his family to get redress;
- Urging them to ensure the rights to freedom of assembly, expression and association are respected and guarantee that people are free to peacefully express their views, including views critical of the authorities, without fear of losing their lives or their freedom;
- Urging them to send an unequivocal message that the security forces will maintain public order but will only use force when strictly necessary and never against peaceful protesters.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 APRIL 2015 TO:

President of Venezuela

Nicolás Maduro Moros
Final Avenida Urdaneta, Esq. De Bolero
Palacio de Miraflores
Caracas, Distrito Capital
Venezuela

Twitter: @NicolasMaduro

Salutation: Señor Presidente /

Dear President

Minister of Justice and Interior

Almirante en Jefa Carmen Teresa Meléndez
Rivas
Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones
Interiores, Justicia y Paz
Av. Urdaneta, Edificio Interior y Justicia
Caracas, Venezuela

Fax: 011 58 212 5061558

Email: mijcudecon@gmail.com

Salutation: Señor Ministro/

Dear Minister

And copies to:

Amnistía Internacional Venezuela

Apartado Postal 52121

Sabana Grande

Caracas 1050, Venezuela

Fax: 011 58 212 793 1318 ext. 116

Email: info@aiven.org

Also send copies to:

Charge de Affairs Maximilien Sanchez Arvelaiz, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
1099 30th St. NW, Washington DC 20007

Fax: 1 202 342 6820 | Phone: 1 202 342 2214 | Email: prensa.embveus@mppre.gob.ve OR despacho.embveusa@mppre.gob.ve

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! EITHER send a short email to uan@aiousa.org with "UA 45/15 " in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, OR fill out this [short online form](#) (press Ctrl + click on link) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the February to July 2014 events, see the following Amnesty International reports: *Venezuela: Human rights at risk amid protests* (<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/009/2014/en>); and *Venezuela: Briefing to the UN Committee Against Torture, 53rd session, November 2014* (<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR53/020/2014/en>).

Name: Kliverth Roa Núñez (m)

Issues: Extrajudicial killing, Freedom of expression, Impunity

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Country: Venezuela