

**ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON LILIAN TINTORI, WIFE OF IMPRISONED
VENEZUELA OPPOSITION LEADER LEOPOLDO LÓPEZ, FAILS**

*After Some 10 Shots Ring Out, Opposition Leader Luis Manuel Díaz,
Six Feet (Two Meters) From Tintori Killed by Pro-Government Supporters*

Altagracia de Orituco, Venezuela – On Wednesday evening, a rally led by Lilian Tintori in support of liberty and democracy turned violent. As Tintori finished speaking, she heard gunshots and immediately dropped to the floor of the stage. Luis Manuel Díaz, a leading member of the Venezuelan Opposition Party, *Acción Democrática*, was hit by several shots and killed just six feet (two meters) from Tintori.

Unfortunately, this was not the only outbreak of violence from the rally that day. Before arriving in Guarico State, Tintori and her team had been warned that that supporters of the opposition who were waiting at the campaign rally side had already been assaulted and been beaten by groups that have been identified as government supporters. Additionally, when Tintori and her team arrived in Guarico State in two separate planes, one of the planes had a brake malfunction and caught on fire. Fortunately, no one was injured, but an aviation expert consulted believes that this malfunction could have been the result of foul play.

Terrible acts of violence have been directed against Tintori, other human rights defenders, and opposition political candidates to intimidate them and impede their efforts to secure a free and fair election in Venezuela. Just last week while entering San Carlos in Cojedes State, Tintori and her team were attacked by a mob of more than 100 people wearing t-shirts and with pro-government slogans and pictures of Cilia Flores, the wife of Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro, who is running for parliament in that constituency. The mob surrounded her car with motorcycles and in trucks and was armed with hammers, knives, and guns. Tintori and her team were harassed, heckled, and threatened until the driver was able to turn the car around and escape. Additionally, throughout Tintori's travels, members of the Venezuelan government intelligence organization, SEBIN, have followed her.

In October of this year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights extended precautionary measures to Tintori and her family and demanded that the Venezuelan government take the necessary action to protect her. "It is obvious that the Government of Venezuela is directly violent attacks against Lilian Tintori, other human rights defenders, and opposition politicians," said Jared Genser, Leopoldo López's international counsel. "The international community must speak loudly and in a single voice to President Maduro that these attacks immediately end, that the forthcoming election be free and fair, and that election monitors from

the EU and OAS be admitted to the country,” he added. Genser further noted that more than 70 political prisoners remain imprisoned in Venezuela, including Leopoldo López who is serving a more than 14-year sentence for allegedly using subliminal messages to inspire people to violence. President Barack Obama, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, European Parliament, and countless other world leaders have demanded his immediate release.

According to recent polls, the Venezuelan opposition is expected to perform strongly in the upcoming parliamentary elections because the current ruling party suffers low popularity as a result of the country’s dramatic social, economic and political decline. These polls indicate that 80 percent of the country wants change and that opposition candidates have 63 percent support while government candidates have 33 percent. Should the opposition not perform well in the election, then it can only be assumed that the results are fraudulent. Nevertheless, there is little space for independent media in Venezuela, serious questions have been raised about the voter rolls, countless opposition candidates have been disqualified from running for office, and no credible independent election observers are being given access to the country. Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, recently wrote a public letter to the Venezuelan government demanding that they accept electoral observation. As the elections draw closer, President Maduro has started hinting that he may resort to force should the opposition succeed in the polls, going so far as to say “Let’s be prepared for blood and massacre, and to defend our homeland and to win no matter how, and no matter at what cost.” These comments are deeply concerning and must also be challenged by the international community.

Contact:

Jared Genser (English)
jgenser@perseus-strategies.com
+1 202 320 4135

Juan Carlos Gutierrez (Spanish)
juangutierrez@delgadogutierrez.com
+58 412 33 217 44