

I am writing to express my grave concern on Genaro Rincon , human rights defender , and other defenders working against statelessness who were assaulted for their defending activities for statelessness in the country.

I am urging the Dominican authorities to initiate a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the attack against Genaro Rincon, make the results public and bring those materially and intellectually responsible to justice and to adopt measures to provide effective protection to Genaro Rincon and all other Dominican human rights defenders working against statelessness, in accordance with their wishes.

I also need to remind them to fulfil their obligation to protect human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders .

Lastly authorities publicly condemn racism, anti-Haitian rhetoric and all forms of discrimination, and refrain from using stigmatizing language against human rights defenders working on the right to nationality.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,