

Sirley Ávila León, an ex-delegate of the People's Assembly of Majibacoa. She joined the democratic opposition after she was driven out of her position for trying to keep a school open in her community. Official channels ignored her, and when she went to the international media she was removed from office.

Following escalating acts of repression by state security, the mother of two, aged 56, was gravely wounded in a machete attack on May 24, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. The enforcer was Osmany Carrión, who had been "sent by state-security thugs," Ávila León explains, for an act of aggression that "was politically motivated."

Ávila León suffered deep cuts to her neck and knees, lost her left hand, and could still lose her right arm. Although Carrión was the principal assailant in the coordinated attack, his wife forced Ávila León's hand into the mud to compound the injury with infection.

Sent home from hospital, Ávila León remained in this critical state without the proper medication. Five months have passed, and she still needs medical attention, completely incapacitated, demanding justice, and denouncing irregularities in the judicial process against her assailant. On September 2, 2015, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concurred that she was in a "serious and urgent situation, since her life and physical integrity are at risk."

On March 8, 2016 she arrived in the United States to give her testimony and obtain medical care from the Miami Medical Team.