

PUBLIC

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18 June 2008

UA 174/08      Death threats/Fear for safety

PERU            **Juan Fidel Zamudio Bocángel (m)**  
**Gisela Bocángel (f), his mother**  
**Their family**

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Juan Fidel Zamudio Bocángel, who was tortured by police in 2005, was shot and seriously wounded on 12 June. A police officer was imprisoned for the 2005 torture in February 2008, and Amnesty International believes it was because of this that Juan Zamudio Bocángel was shot. He and his family are in grave danger.

In February 2005 Juan Zamudio Bocángel had returned home drunk very late at night after celebrating his birthday. He fell against the window of a police station and broke it. Police officers took him into the station and beat him severely. In July 2005 an investigation was opened, which led to one of the officers being convicted of torture on 15 February this year, and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Juan Zamudio Bocángel was walking from his family home to a relative's house at 5.30am on 12 June when he was shot from a moving car. He was hit in the legs, and is now in hospital awaiting surgery. This is the second time men have attempted to kill him: in April 2006, while the investigation of the police officer was in progress, he was shot in the back as he ran from three men who had attempted to force him into their car.

Juan Zamudio Bocángel's mother, Gisela Bocángel, has received numerous death threats. On 22 December 2006 she heard men shouting obscenities outside her house, and opened the door to see what was happening. She found two men, who shouted at her, "Abandon the case, don't turn up to court!" (*dejen el caso, no se presenten al juicio*). According to Juan Zamudio Bocángel's lawyer, Gisela Bocángel also received six threatening text messages, on 10 May 2007, two of which read, "You and your husband are going to die, watch your backs" (*Te vas a morir tú y tu marido cuídense las espaldas*); "Very soon you will know who I am, you are a bitch and you are going to die" (*Muy pronto sabrás quien soy eres una puta y te vas a morir*).

In April 2006, Juan Zamudio Bocángel requested and began to receive police protection for himself and his family, but found it inadequate. They continued to receive threats, so in January 2007 they petitioned the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to intervene. In May 2007 the IACHR asked the authorities to put in place the necessary measures to protect Juan Zamudio Bocángel and his family, and to confirm that the measures were being implemented effectively. As a result, the National Penal Court (*Sala Penal Nacional*) agreed to maintain the family's police protection, including a round-the-clock police guard outside the family home.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Juan Zamudio Bocángel, who was shot on 12 June, his mother Gisela Bocángel and their family;
- calling on the authorities to order an immediate, thorough and independent investigation into the threats and attacks against Juan Zamudio Bocángel and his family, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to take the necessary steps to protect and guarantee the safety of Juan Zamudio Bocángel and his family in accordance with their wishes.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Justice

Dra. Rosario Fernández Figueroa  
Ministra de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Scipión LLona N° 350  
Miraflores  
Lima, Peru

**Fax:** +51 1 422 3577

**Salutation:** Sra. Ministra

Minister of the Interior

Economista Luis Alva Castro  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto, s/n  
Corpacs  
San Isidro  
Lima, Peru

**Fax:** +51 1 225 7234

**Salutation:** Sr. Ministro

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights NGO

Comisión de Derechos Humanos – COMISEDH  
Av. Horacio Urteaga # 704  
Jesús María  
Lima, PERU

**Fax:** +51 1 423 3876

**Email:** [gcampos@amauta.rcp.net.pe](mailto:gcampos@amauta.rcp.net.pe)

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 July 2008.