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Peru / Japan: Alberto Fujimori must be brought to justice for human rights violations

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Today the Peruvian government is submitting an extradition request to the Japanese authorities for former President Alberto Fujimori. Amnesty International is calling upon the Japanese government to stop turning a blind eye to Fujimori's responsibility for human rights violations committed in Peru during his presidency.

Amnesty International is urging the Japanese authorities to either return Alberto Fujimori to Peru -- where judicial proceedings have been started against him -- or to open an investigation in Japan into his responsibility for the human rights violations committed under his presidency.

"The Japanese government cannot -- and must not -- shy away from its obligation to cooperate in bringing to justice Peru's former president, Alberto Fujimori, currently in Japan, who has been indicted in Peru on human rights charges," Amnesty International said today.

"The widespread and systematic human rights violations committed in Peru during Alberto Fujimori's presidency amount to crimes against humanity, over which any state has the ability and responsibility to exercise universal jurisdiction. All states are under the obligation to prosecute and punish anyone responsible for such crimes and to cooperate in their detection, arrest and punishment," Amnesty International continued.

Throughout Alberto Fujimori's ten-year presidency (1990-2000), torture and ill-treatment were widespread in Peru, and hundreds of people "disappeared" or were extrajudicially executed. Members of Peru's armed forces, including Alberto Fujimori's intelligence adviser Vladimiro Montesinos and members of the "*Grupo Colina*", a death squad attached to the intelligence services during Fujimori's presidency, are currently in detention facing charges including human rights violations. However, Alberto Fujimori has yet to be brought before a court.

"By helping to ensure Alberto Fujimori is brought to justice, Japan will contribute to breaking the cycle of impunity which makes a mockery of truth and justice. Failure to do so can only lead to further human rights violations by showing that those responsible are not held to account," Amnesty International stressed.

Background

Alberto Fujimori, has been in exile in Japan since fleeing Peru in November 2000. In September 2001 a judge of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru ordered his detention on the basis that there is strong evidence suggesting that he had full knowledge of the existence of the *Grupo Colina*, the death squad attached to Peru's Intelligence Service - allegedly responsible for at least two cases of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions resulting in the death of 25 people.

Local Human Rights organizations as well as victims and relatives of human rights violations committed during his regime have been calling the Japanese authorities to return him to Peru to face trial.

Public Document

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