

UA 149/00

Threats/i

PERU Oscar León Cubas (m), journalist  
Ricardo Torres (m)  
Leddy Mozombite Linares (f), journalist  
Jaime Pedroza Ruiz (m), journalist  
Miguel López (m), journalist  
Juana Martínez (f), journalist  
Ismael Soto (m), journalist  
Mary Ann Lynch (f), journalist

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the eight journalists named above involved in reporting on the elections in Peru.

Journalist Oscar León Cubas and his cousin Ricardo Torres were beaten up on 4 June 2000 apparently because of Oscar León Cubas's open criticism of President Fujimori's government and his support of the opposition party *Frente Independiente Moralizador*, FIM, Independent Moralist Front. Oscar León Cubas made his statements during his radio program *La Voz San Miguelina*, San Miguelina's Voice, at Radio Comas, Canta Province, Lima Department.

In the early hours of 4 June, Oscar León Cubas and his cousin Ricardo Torres were stopped by a car when they were leaving a party in Canta province. They were both taken out of the van in which they were traveling and beaten up. The assailants told Oscar León Cubas to stop damaging the government with his radio program.

Oscar León Cubas reported the incident to the police but he believes they are not interested in investigating the attack. The police only offered Oscar León Cubas and Ricardo Torres an appointment to see a forensic doctor 24 hours after the attack had taken place.

Amnesty International has also received reports that another journalist, Jaime Pedroza Ruiz, was beaten up and threatened on 24 May 2000 by two unknown persons who punched him on the stomach and told him to say to his colleagues at Radio Santa Rosa (Miguel López, Juana Martínez, Ismael Soto and Mary Ann Lynch) to: "*tener cuidado con lo que dicen*" ("watch what you say").

Five days later, Leddy Mozombite Linares, another journalist from the same radio station, was beaten up and threatened by four unknown people when she was leaving her work place.

During the recent presidential elections in Peru, Radio Santa Rosa has reported irregularities in electoral procedures carried out by President Fujimori's political party, *Perú 2000*.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During the past few months, in the run up to the elections, journalists who have openly criticized President Fujimori and the electoral process have been harassed, intimidated and threatened. Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, of which Peru is party, guarantee the right of freedom of thought and expression, the right to seek received and impart information and ideas of all kinds. However, it appears that the Peruvian authorities have made no commitment to comply with these rights.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) issued a report on 2 June 2000 after the second round of recent presidential elections in Peru in which President Fujimori was the only candidate. The runner-up Alejandro Toledo, the opposition's candidate, pulled out of the second round because it appeared it would be no fairer than the first. The ICHR states in its report that "the necessary conditions for the full exercise of the freedom to express political ideas by the opposition or criticism of the government through the media without reprisals, do not exist in Peru. The systematic use of intelligence services and security forces as instruments of harassment and persecution of journalists and members of the opposition with the alleged tolerance of the high authorities of the State as well as the passive and active collaboration of the judiciary, constitute a serious obstacle for the normal functioning of democracy in Peru".

In addition, the ICHR has expressed concern for the lack of judicial independence. The ICHR also calls for free and fair elections in compliance with international standards to which Peru is party.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern that journalists Oscar León Cubas, Ricardo Torres, Jaime Pedroza Ruiz and Leddy Mozombite Linares were reportedly beaten up and ill-treated because of their criticism of President Fujimori's government and irregularities in recent electoral procedures;
- expressing concern that journalists Miguel López, Juana Martínez, Ismael Soto and Mary Ann Lynch have been threatened;
- asking that all necessary steps be taken to guarantee the journalists' safety;
- requesting a prompt and effective investigation into the ill-treatment of Oscar León Cubas, Ricardo Torres, Jaime Pedroza Ruiz and Leddy Mozombite Linares, that the findings be published and those responsible brought to justice, and prompt and effective investigation into the threats received by Miguel López, Juana Martínez, Ismael Soto and Mary Ann Lynch;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all journalists are allowed to work without being intimidated harassed and/or threatened and that article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 13 of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, both of which guarantee the right of freedom of thought and expression, are respected at all times.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

Señor Alberto Bustamante Belaúnde

Primer Ministro

Palacio de Gobierno

Plaza Mayor

Lima 1, PERU

**Fax:+ 511 447 1628**

**Salutation:Dear Prime Minister/Sr. Primer Ministro**

Minister of the Interior and Police

General César Enrique Saucedo

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n

Urb. Córpac

San Isidro

Lima 27, PERU

**Fax: + 511 224 2405 /+511 475 3419**

**Salutation:Dear Minister/ Sr. Ministro**

Minister of Defense

General EP Carlos Alberto Bergaminos Cruz

Ministro de Defensa

Ministerio de Defensa

Av. Arequipa 291

Lima 1, PERÚ

**Fax: + 511 433 6906**

**Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr. Ministro**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos

Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467

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Lima 14, PERU

**Tel/fax: + 51 1 441 1533 (if voice, ask "me da tono de fax, por favor")**

**Fax: + 51 1 422 4827**

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 20 July 2000.