

PUBLICAI Index: AMR 46/26/00

**EXTRA 64/00 Fear for safety/fear for life
25 July 2000**

PERU Participants in mass demonstrations on 26-28 July

Demonstrators at a mass protest against the reelection of President Alberto Fujimori risk being beaten or even killed by the security forces. Three days of protest will culminate on 28 July, when President Fujimori is sworn in for his third term in office.

This is the largest of a series of protests since President Fujimori was restored to power, which have seen a massive mobilization of peasants, students, trade unionists, human rights defenders and other sectors of civil society calling for a strengthening of democracy in Peru. Scores of demonstrators and police were injured during protest marches in late June, and Amnesty International is concerned that the security forces may clamp down on the forthcoming demonstrations in such a way that people may be killed.

President Fujimori's electoral victory was tainted by allegations of ballot-rigging during the first and second rounds of the presidential election, in April and May 2000. Many citizens consider his third term in office to be unconstitutional.

Amnesty International has received reports of harassment and intimidation of political and social activists and members of civil society who opposed President Fujimori's reelection or took part in demonstrations following the second round (for example see News Service AMR 46/11/00, 26 May 2000 and UA 220/00, AMR 46/24/00, 20 July 2000).

Amnesty International recognizes the duty of the Peruvian authorities to uphold law and order. However, the organization reminds the authorities that in so doing they must at all times and in all circumstances respect the demonstrators' right to life and to freedom of peaceful assembly. In exercising their duties, the security forces must ensure that, if called upon to use force, they use only the minimum force necessary to maintain law and order.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Allegations of fraud and irregularities in the Peruvian presidential elections led the OAS General Assembly to send a high-level mission to Peru in June to explore "with the government of Peru and other sectors of the political community, options and recommendations aimed at further strengthening democracy in that country..." (OAS General Assembly, Resolution 1753). The mission has recommended a number of measures, including a National Plan for the protection of human rights.

Local human rights organizations in Peru and the Peruvian Ombudsman have raised concerns at reports that the security forces have used excessive force against protesters during demonstrations. The reports included information regarding violence against peaceful demonstrators, excessive use of tear gas bombs to disperse protesters, and intimidation and ill-treatment of those who opposed President Fujimori's reelection.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in

Spanish, English or your own language:

- emphasizing that the right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly is guaranteed by Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Articles 13 and 15 of the American Convention on Human Rights, to which Peru is party, and urging the authorities to uphold these rights;
- recognizing the duty of the Peruvian authorities to maintain law and order;
- expressing serious concern that demonstrators participating in mass marches on 26 to 28 July may be at risk of human rights abuses by Peruvian security forces;
- calling on the authorities to comply with UN international standards, including the 1979 UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

APPEALS TO:

Señor Alberto Bustamante Belaúnde

Primer Ministro

Palacio de Gobierno

Plaza Mayor

Lima 1, PERÚ

Fax:+ 511 447 1628

Salutation: Sr. Primer Ministro/Dear First Minister

General César Enrique Saucedo

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n

Urb. Córpac

San Isidro

Lima 27, PERÚ

Fax:+ 511 224 2405 /+511 475 3419

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental human rights organisation

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos

Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467

Lince

Lima 14

PERU

COPIES 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 28 July 2000.