

UA 135/98 Death threats / Fear for Safety

29 April 1998

PERU Delia Revoredo Marsano de Mur (f), currently in Costa Rica
Jaime Mur Campoverde, husband of above, also in Costa Rica
Michael de Vakei Revoredo }
Denise de Vakei Revoredo (f) } children of Delia Revoredo
Teresa de Vakei Revoredo (f) } (all adults)

Fears are growing for the children of Delia Revoredo, a prominent former judge and human rights advocate who recently fled Peru following repeated death threats, as they continue to receive threatening telephone calls.

At a press conference on 13 April 1998 Delia Revoredo, a former member of Peru's *Tribunal Constitucional*, Constitutional Tribunal, and currently Dean of the *Colegio de Abogados de Lima*, Lima Bar Association, announced that she was fleeing the country after repeated death threats were made to her and her family. She subsequently sought refuge in Costa Rica's Embassy, and applied for political asylum once in Costa Rica. Her husband, Jaime Mur, followed her there shortly afterwards. Her children remain in Lima, Peru's capital.

The threats began after Delia Revoredo publicly stated her opposition to President Alberto Fujimori standing for a third term of office. In 1996 she was one of seven judges elected by Congress to form Peru's Constitutional Tribunal, which monitors the state's adherence to the country's Constitution. In 1997 she and two other of the seven judges - Manuel Aguirre Roca and Guillermo Rey Terry - voted it unconstitutional for President Fujimori to stand for a third term of office in the presidential elections scheduled for 2000.

Peru's Congress, in which the president's party has an outright majority, subsequently passed a resolution dismissing her and the other two judges from the Constitutional Tribunal.

Critics of President Fujimori's administration claimed the removal of the three judges undermined the independence of the judiciary and was further evidence of the Executive's control over the legislature and the judiciary. In December 1997 Delia Revoredo was elected to the post of Dean of the Lima Bar Association. She publicly announced that she would be pursuing a policy in favour of the defence of human rights and the rule of law and against official corruption. It was in this context that she requested the *Consejo Nacional de la Magistratura*, National Council of Judges, to investigate several judges for alleged professional misconduct and corruption.

The fundamental law regulating the National Council of Judges is enshrined in Peru's Constitution. As a result of the move by the Lima Bar Association to have a number of judges investigated, Congress passed a law limiting the functions of the National Council of Judges. This move was interpreted by the members of the Council as undermining its independence and led to their resignation in protest.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Critics of Peru's government, of the army leadership and of the intelligence services continue to be subjected to harassment, abductions and attacks. The

victims include judges, journalists, politicians, human rights defenders, lawyers and dissidents within the security forces, and have all spoken out against human rights violations, corruption, and the disregard for democratic procedures by President Fujimori's administration.

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

- expressing concern that over the past weeks former judge Delia Revoredo Marsano de Mur, her children Michael, Denise and Teresa Vakei de Revoredo, and her husband Jaime Mur Campoverde, are reported to have repeatedly received threatening telephone calls, including death threats;
- expressing concern for the safety of Michael, Denise and Teresa Vakei de Revoredo, who remain in Peru, and requesting that all the necessary steps be taken to guarantee their safety;
- requesting a prompt and effective investigation into the acts of intimidation against the Revoredo-Mur family, including the death threats, that the findings are published, and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General

Dr. Miguel Aljovín Swayne
Fiscal de la Nación
Av. Abancay, Cuadra 5,
Lima 1
PERU

Telegrams: Fiscal Nación, Lima, Peru

Fax: + 511 426 2474

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Estimado Fiscal de la Nación

Minister of the Interior

General (EP) José Villanueva Ruesta
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
Lima 27, PERU

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Lima, Peru

Fax: + 511 224 2407 (if voice, say "me de tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Dear Minister/ Estimado Ministro

COPIES TO:

Lima Bar Association

Colegio de Abogados de Lima
Av. Santa Cruz 255
Esquina Jirón Santander
Miraflores,
LIMA, Peru

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 10 June 1998.