

UA 290/98 Death threat/Fear for safety 9 November 1998

PERU Gustavo Mohme Llona (Congressman)

Gustavo Mohme Llona, a congressman and editor (*director*) of the Peruvian opposition newspaper *La República* has received a death threat. Amnesty International fears for his safety.

According to numerous sources, on the evening of 2 November 1998 Gustavo Mohme received a call on his mobile telephone while he was in his parliamentary office in Lima, the capital. The caller told him: "Listen, lay off publishing anything about the visit [to Peru] of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights. It won't be in your favour if you do so. Be careful, don't publish anything. Do so and you're a dead man" (*Mire, absténgase de publicar sobre la visita [al Perú] de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. Le va a pesar. Tenga cuidado, no publiquen nada o es hombre muerto*).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hours before the latest death threat received by Gustavo Mohme, a person identifying himself as "commander Camión", ("*comandante Camión*"), who claimed to be member of a group calling itself "5 April Command", ("*Comando 5 de abril*"), telephoned the offices of *La República* and read a text. The caller warned delegates of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) due to visit Peru not to do so. The caller went on to state: "We patriots are not going to permit them to interfere in our affairs" ("*Los patriotas no vamos a permitir que intervengan en nuestros asuntos*"). A delegation of the IACHR is visiting Peru from 9 to 13 November. According to reports, Carlos Ayala Corao, president of the IACHR, has requested the Government of Peru to ensure the safety of the delegation.

The latest death threat to Gustavo Mohme is in addition to previous threats to opposition parliamentarians Gustavo Mohme, Henry Pease, Javier Diez Canseco and Jorge del Castillo (see UA 257/95, AMR 46/25/95, 20 November 1995; UA 79/97, AMR, AMR 46/05/97, 20 March 1997; UA 21/98, AMR 46/01/98, 22 January 1998; and UA 188/98, AMR 46/11/98, 3 July 1998).

These threats reflect a pattern of intimidation directed at journalists, opposition politicians, dissident members of the security forces, and human rights defenders critical of President Alberto Fujimori's government, of the intelligence services and of the upper echelons of the Peruvian army. The pattern of intimidation began to emerge with increasing force in October 1996. However, repeated calls on the authorities to bring those responsible to justice have not led to any charges and convictions. In addition, despite previous appeals, President Fujimori has so far not made public an unequivocal condemnation of the pattern of intimidatory acts.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of congressman Gustavo Mohme Llona who received a death threat on 2 November 1998 at his parliamentary office in Lima, the capital;
- requesting that all necessary steps be taken to guarantee his safety;
- requesting a prompt and effective investigation into the death threat directed at Gustavo Mohme, that the findings be published, and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- calling on President Alberto Fujimori to unequivocally and publicly condemn all death threats and other forms of intimidation directed at critics of his government;
- reminding the government of Peru of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

APPEALS TO:

President

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Presidente de la República del Perú
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza Mayor, Lima 1
PERU

Telegrams: President Fujimori, Lima, Peru

Faxes: + 511 426 6770 (if voice answers, ask: "por favor, me puede dar tono de fax")

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

Attorney General

Dr. Miguel Aljovín Swayne
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n
Lima 1

PERU

Telegrams: Attorney General, Lima, Peru

Faxes: + 511 426 2474

Salutation: Sr. Fiscal de la Nación / Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Newspaper

Gustavo Mohme Llona

Director

La República

Jr. Camaná 320

Lima 1

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 21 December 1998.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression."

Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>