

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 46/12/96

12 April 1996

Further information on UA 168/95 (AMR 46/15/95, 12 July 1995) - Fear for safety

PERUDr Gloria CANO LEGUA (f), human rights lawyer

Dr Gloria Cano Legua has received further threats and Amnesty International once again fears for her safety. Dr Cano is a human rights lawyer acting for one of the survivors of the Barrios Altos massacre, in which 16 people were reported to have been extrajudicially executed in November 1991, in Lima, the capital.

According to reports, on 25 March 1996 Dr Cano found a message recorded on her office telephone answering machine. The message, left by an unidentified woman, stated that she was calling on behalf of her "*secuaces en Chorrillos*", "followers in Chorrillos". The allusion to "Chorrillos" is a reference to the Peruvian army headquarters located in the district of Chorrillos, in Lima. The message went on to say that Dr Cano's "*secuaces*", "followers", "*querían hacer el amor*", "wanted to make love", and that "*su amigo estaba loco por hacer el amor y que los buscará*", "her friend was madly wanting to make love and they would be looking for her."

Three days later, on 28 March 1996, Dr Cano arrived at her office to find that someone had attempted to force the lock on her office door. Dr Cano also found that remains from the door frame paintwork had come away.

Dr Cano filed a complaint about the above incidents before the 6th Police Station in Lima ("*la 6ta. Comisaría*" de Lima).

On 3 April 1996 Dr Cano once again found a message recorded on her office telephone answering machine. This time the voice was that of a man. This message consisted of obscene references to "*querer hacerle el amor*", "wanting to make love to her", and other comments of a sexual nature.

Amnesty International believes the above threats to have been carried out by persons who possibly have links to the Peruvian security services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr Cano is a lawyer attached to the *Equipo de Defensa y Asesoría Campesina*, EDAC, Peasant Defence and Advice Team, a human rights organization attached to the *Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos*, CNDDHH, National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights. The CNDDHH brings together some 45 Peruvian human rights organizations. Dr Cano is also a lawyer who works for the *Asociación pro Derechos Humanos* (APRODEH), Association for Human Rights, also attached to the CNDDHH.

The Barrios Altos massacre, in which 16 people were killed, took place in a central neighbourhood in Lima in November 1991 (see UA 401/91, AMR 46/75/91, 15 November 1991). Those allegedly responsible, members of the *Grupo Colina*, an army "death squad" allegedly linked to the *Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional*, SIN, National Intelligence Service, have never been brought to justice. Under the terms of Peru's amnesty laws passed in June 1995, all unresolved cases of human rights violations perpetrated between May 1980 and June 1995, including the Barrios Altos massacre, were formally closed by law (see *Peru: Amnesty*

laws consolidate impunity for human rights violations, AMR 46/03/96, 23 February 1996).

However, Peruvian human rights defenders have continued actively working on the Barrios Altos massacre, including before the American Commission on Human Rights. It is in this context that they have been repeatedly threatened (see UA 146/95, AMR 46/10/95, 23 June 1995 and follow-up AMR 46/21/95, 3 October; UA 168/95, AMR 46/15/95, 12 July 1995; and UA 257/95, AMR 46/25/95, 20 November 1995). Amnesty International believes these threats to have been carried out by people who possibly have links to the Peruvian security forces. At the time the organization appealed to the Peruvian authorities to conduct prompt and thorough investigations into these threats, make the findings public, and bring the perpetrators to justice. However, to date, the organization has received no information from the authorities as to the investigations conducted, nor whether those responsible have been charged with a criminal offence.

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

- expressing concern that Dr Gloria Cano Legua is reported to have received further threats from people believed to be members of the Peruvian security forces;
- reminding the authorities that Dr Cano had been the target of similar threats in July 1995;
- calling for all the necessary steps to be taken to ensure the physical safety of Dr Cano;
- calling for the threats to be promptly and thoroughly investigated, the findings made public, and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- recommending that the authorities make public that they will not tolerate any actions which threaten the legitimate work of professionals or volunteers working for the defence and promotion of human rights.

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General

Dra. Blanca Nélica Colán Maguiño
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Av. Abancay, 5 cuadra, s/n
Lima 1, PERU

Faxes: +5114 262 474 (if voice, ask "me da tonode fax, por favor", you may then be asked who you are wishing to send the fax to. Reply: "Fiscal de la Nación")

Telegrams: Fiscal de la Nación, Lima, Peru.

Salutation: Sra Fiscal de la Nación/Dear Attorney General

Peruvian National Police

General PNP Ketín Vidal
Director General de la Policía Nacional del Perú
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 6 de Agosto s/n
Lima 27, PERU

Telegrams: General PNP Ketín Vidal, Policía Nacional, Ministro Interior, Lima PERU

Salutation: Sr. Director General/Dear Director General

COPIES TO:

Human rights organization

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos

Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467

Lince

Lima 14, 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 30 May 1996.