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Peru: The trial of Fujimori – A crucial step towards justice

On the eve of the trial of Alberto Fujimori, Amnesty International said that the proceedings constitute a crucial step towards justice in Peru but warned that the country still has a long way to go.

Amnesty International hopes that the trial of the former President will be impartial and that it will help to allow further judicial investigations to be opened so that all human rights violations committed in Peru can be brought before the courts.

In particular, the organization said that, in the context of cracking down on crimes committed by *Sendero Luminoso*, Shining Path, and the *Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru*, Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, between 1980 and 2000, members of the Peruvian military and security forces systematically committed widespread breaches of international law, including disappearances, extrajudicial executions and torture.

Amnesty International also stressed the importance of having an effective programme for protecting surviving victims and relatives, witnesses and lawyers who are involved in the trial.

The organization maintained that the only way to ensure that the human rights violations committed in the past do not recur in the future is for justice to be done and, in order for that to happen, action needs to be taken to ensure that those involved in proceedings can do so without fear of reprisal.

Amnesty International said that truth, justice and reparations are essential to prevent any future recurrence of the human rights violations committed in the past.

Background Information

Alberto Fujimori is accused of being responsible for the killing of 15 people in Barrios Altos, Lima, in 1991 and the torture, disappearance and murder of nine students and one teacher from La Cantuta University in 1992. These crimes were attributed to the “Colina” Group, a death squad set up in 1991 within the Army Intelligence Services. The establishment of this group is believed to have been part of a counter-insurgency strategy allegedly implemented by Alberto Fujimori.

Former President Alberto Fujimori is also accused of having ordered the kidnapping and torture of critics of his government at the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Service where he lived during 1992.

During the ten-year presidency of Alberto Fujimori, Amnesty International documented hundreds of cases of disappearance and extrajudicial execution at the hands of the Peruvian security forces. During those ten years, torture and ill-treatment were also widely practiced by the security forces.
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