

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 46/021/2006

17 August 2006

Further Information on UA 293/05 (AMR 46/013/2005, 18 November 2005) and follow-up (AMR 46/014/2006, 24 November 2005) - Fear for safety

PERU **Pamela Huaranga Félix (f)**
Her family

Pamela Huaranga Félix has reportedly received anonymous phone calls, apparently intended to intimidate her into dropping the legal action against two police officers who allegedly gave her brother a fatal beating in Lima, in November 2004. Amnesty International believes she is in grave danger.

According to reports, on 9 August, Pamela Huaranga Félix received an anonymous phone call to her mobile phone. A man told her: "*Pamela, concha de tu madre, con todo y tu resguardo te vamos a matar*", ("Pamela, cunt of your mother, even with police protection we are going to kill you"). Pamela Huaranga Félix has had police protection since February 2006 after she received threatening phone calls in November 2005. Following this latest threat, Pamela Huaranga Félix immediately informed the police officer in charge of her protection, who answered her telephone when an apparent second threatening call was made later that day. The caller hung up on hearing the police officer's voice.

Later the same day, Pamela Huaranga Félix received another phone call whilst at her workplace, where she sometimes stays overnight. After the police officer protecting her left her alone, an anonymous caller telephoned her mobile phone and said, "*Ahora estás en tu casa y tu seguridad se ha ido*" ("Now you are alone at home and your police protection is gone"). Pamela Huaranga Félix reportedly had to seek treatment in the Emergency Unit of a local hospital following the anonymous phone calls. She reported these threats to the authorities on 15 August.

These renewed threats were received two weeks after the release from prison of two of the police officers accused of fatally beating Pamela Huaranga Félix's brother. The court ordered the release of the two men, as they had been held in pre-trial detention longer than the 18 months allowed by law. A third police officer who had been charged in relation to the beating is facing no further charges, after an investigation by the District Attorney concluded that he had no case to answer.

This is the latest in a series of acts of intimidation against Pamela Huaranga Félix. Amnesty International is not aware of the outcome of the investigations made into previous death threats.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In November 2004, Ricardo Huaranga Félix was reportedly beaten by two police officers in the street near his house in Lima, while a third police officer prevented neighbours from intervening, saying that Ricardo had been disrespectful to them. He died in hospital as a result of his injuries. An investigation was opened that month, and the police officers were charged with *tortura seguida de muerte*, "Torture leading to death", which carries a sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. In January 2005 the judge ruled that the police officers should be charged instead with the lesser offence of grievous bodily harm leading to death. Following an appeal by the victim's family, this decision was overturned four months later, and the police officers remain charged with "torture leading to death". When the trial started on 31 May 2006, the District Attorney accused the two police officers of the lesser offence of "torture", which carries a sentence of eight years' imprisonment. The victim's family have appealed against this decision.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Pamela Huaranga Félix, who has received threatening phone calls in an apparent attempt to make her withdraw legal action against two police officers accused of fatally beating her brother;
- noting that this is the latest in a series of acts of intimidation against Pamela Huaranga Félix;
- calling for a prompt, impartial and independent investigation into the death threats, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice, and asking them to inform you of the outcome of this investigation;
- urging the authorities to do everything in their power to guarantee the safety of Pamela Huaranga Félix, in accordance with her own wishes;
- ask to be informed of the outcome of the investigation into the previous death threats.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Dra. Pilar Elena Mazzetti Soler
Ministra del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto 160
Urb. Córpac, San Isidro
Lima 27, PERU

Fax: + 51 1 225 7234

Salutation: Dear Minister/Estimado Sr. Ministro

Attorney General

Dra. Adelaida Bolívar Arteaga
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n
Lima 1, PERU

Fax: +51 1 427 1792 / 426 2800

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

COPIES TO:

Human rights organisation

COMISEDH

Jr. Horacio Urteaga 704
Jesús María
Apartado Postal 11-0237
Lima, PERU

Fax: + 51 1 423 3876 (If someone answers, please ask for the fax: "El tono de fax, por favor")

Email: comisedh@amauta.rcp.net.pe

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 28 September 2006.