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Peru: Amnesty International received with sadness the news of the death of Dr Augusto Zúñiga Paz

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It is with great sadness that Amnesty International received the news that Dr. Augusto Zúñiga Paz, distinguished lawyer and human rights defender, passed away on 18 May. Amnesty International expresses its condolences to his family and loved ones.

Dr Zúñiga dedicated much of his life denouncing human rights violations committed by the security forces during the internal armed conflict in Peru (1980-2000), and to the fight against impunity. As a consequence of his courageous work to defend and protect human rights, Dr Zúñiga received several death threats, and in March 1991 he lost his left forearm when he opened a letter bomb sent to his home address. Dr Zúñiga survived this assassination attempt but was forced to seek asylum in Europe in the 1990s returning to Peru during the transition to democracy, where he continued his investigations into detentions and forced disappearances of people in Peru.

Dr Zúñiga is a fine example to follow for everyone committed to the protection and defence of human rights.

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