

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety

PERU

Pamela Huaringa Félix (f)  
Her family

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Pamela Huaringa Félix, who is engaged in legal action against the police officers who allegedly gave her brother a fatal beating in November 2004, has received an anonymous phone call apparently intended to intimidate her into dropping the case against the police. Amnesty International believes that she and her family are in grave danger.

Ricardo Huaringa Félix was reportedly beaten by two police officers in the street near his house, 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". 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, but this decision was overturned in May, and the police officers remain charged with "torture leading to death". It was after this ruling that Pamela Huaringa first received threats.

On 11 November, she reportedly received a phone call from a man who claimed that he was a member of the staff of the legal office of the NGO that was providing legal representation to her family in their action against the police. The man told her to go to the Public Ministry offices that day as part of the judicial proceedings against the police. Later that day she received a second phone call, from an anonymous caller, who reportedly insulted her and told her, *ya estarás contenta, te saliste con la tuya* ("You must be happy, you've got your way"). This appears to have been a reference to the May court ruling. Pamela Huaringa phoned the lawyer working on the case and found out that there was no proceedings at the Public Ministry that day. The lawyer also told her that she had not asked anyone to call Pamela Huaringa.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of threats and intimidation of victims, their relatives, human rights defenders and others involved in legal action against the authorities over human rights violations. So far this year, 46 people involved in proceedings against perpetrators of human rights violations during the internal armed conflict (1980-2000) have been intimidated, harassed and threatened, according to a report presented to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights by the Peruvian umbrella organisation of human rights NGOs, the *Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos*.

The Peruvian Ombudsman, in a report published in September 2005, expressed serious concern that the authorities are not providing adequate protection to victims, their relative and witnesses to human rights violations.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Pamela Huaringa Félix, who has reportedly been threatened in an apparent attempt to make her withdraw from legal action against three police officers accused of torturing her brother;
- calling for a prompt, impartial and independent investigation into the threats, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to do everything on their power to guarantee the safety of Pamela Huaringa Félix, in accordance with her own wishes.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Rómulo Pizarro Tomasio  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n  
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

**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 4233876

**E-mail:** [comisedh@amauta.rcp.net.pe](mailto: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 30 December 2005.