

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/008/2003

09 June 2003

Further Information on UA 126/03 (AMR 28/007/2003, 09 May 2003) - Fear for safety/death threats

ECUADOR **Teresa Gladys Pita Bravo (f), mother of Elías Elint López Pita**
Teresa Lourdes López Pita (f), her daughter
Arturo Patricio Lasso (m), her son-in-law, and their family

Amnesty International has learned that Teresa Gladys Pita Bravo, her daughter Teresa Lourdes López Pita, her son-in-law Arturo Patricio Lasso and their family are now receiving police protection. The protection measures were ordered by the *Procuraduría General de la Nación*, Public Prosecutor's office in the capital Quito on 28 May.

Teresa Gladys Pita Bravo received a number of anonymous death threats in late April 2003. It is thought that these were related to the "disappearance" of her son, Elías Elint López Pita, in November 2000. In February 2002, eight police officers were sentenced to between three and six years' imprisonment for the abduction of Elías Elint López Pita. On 28 April 2003, three of the police officers had their prison sentences extended in connection with the "disappearance" of a key witness in Elías Elint López Pita's case, but the other five police officers remain at large. The unknown individuals responsible for the death threats against Teresa Gladys Pita Bravo have not yet been brought to justice.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor this case. No further action from the UA Network is requested at present.