

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 318/98 (AMR 46/23/98, 23 December 1998 and AMR 46/01/99, 20 January 1999) - Cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

PERU Lori Helene Berenson (f), aged 29

Lori Helene Berenson's solitary confinement came to an end on 30 January 1999.

Lori Berenson's parents said "thanks to the public pressure of the two [Urgent Action] appeals [...] Lori's total isolation ended".

Lori Berenson was placed in solitary confinement on 7 October 1998 after being transferred to Socabaya Prison, Arequipa, because of poor health. Amnesty International is monitoring her medical condition and treatment.

Lori Berenson, a US citizen, was convicted of the terrorism-related crime of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Peruvian military court in January 1996, for her alleged links to the armed opposition group *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru* (MRTA), Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Party. Amnesty International believes she did not receive a fair trial.

Political prisoners who refuse to renounce their beliefs are often denied rewards for "good behaviour" and the organization suspected the Peruvian authorities singled her out for punishment.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"

Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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