

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 46/003/2003

29 January 2003

UA 31/03 Fear for safety/beating and intimidation

PERU **Gloria Cano (f), human rights lawyer**  
**Staff of the human rights organization APRODEH, *Asociación por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos*, Association for the Defence of Human Rights**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of members of the human rights organization *Asociación por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (APRODEH), Association for the Defence of Human Rights, following an attack on one of their lawyers, Gloria Cano, outside their office in the capital Lima on 27 January 2003.

According to reports, Gloria Cano was surrounded by a group of about 20 unidentified individuals who then started to beat and verbally abused her. The assailants were reportedly supporters of former President Alberto Fujimori. Gloria Cano escaped the attack when some of her colleagues at APRODEH came to her aid. The assailants then attempted to force their way into APRODEH's office, threatening that this was only the beginning of a series of acts against APRODEH and its staff. Gloria Cano reported the incident to the police on the same day.

Amnesty International believes the attack against Gloria Cano and APRODEH is directly linked to the campaign launched by APRODEH on 23 January 2003 against impunity and corruption in Peru. The campaign's final aim is to obtain the extradition from Japan of former President Alberto Fujimori. Amnesty International believes that this assault is an attempt to intimidate APRODEH and force them to drop their campaign.

Gloria Cano is a well-known human rights lawyer who has represented the victims and relatives of several high profile cases of human rights violations committed during the government of former President Alberto Fujimori. The cases have included the massacre of 15 people, including a child, extrajudicially executed in Barrios Altos, Lima in 1991; and the killing of nine students and a teacher from La Cantuta University, Lima in 1992. Both massacres were perpetrated by the military death squad known as *Grupo Colina* (Colina group). The security forces stated that the victims were members of the armed opposition group, *Shining Path*.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In November 2000, former President Alberto Fujimori left office amid allegations of electoral fraud and corruption and sought refuge in Japan, where he has remained ever since. Peruvian authorities are requesting his extradition to Peru on charges of corruption and human rights violations, including the homicides and "disappearances" in relation to La Cantuta and Barrios Altos. The authorities accuse him of sanctioning the operations of the death squad, *Grupo Colina*.

This is not the first time APRODEH has been subjected to threats and intimidation resulting from their campaigns against human rights violations committed under the government of Alberto Fujimori. When APRODEH filed a complaint on behalf of the relatives of the victims of the 1992 La Cantuta University killings, they received several death threats and wreaths inscribed with the APRODEH's managers' names.

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

- expressing concern that human rights lawyer Gloria Cano was beaten, threatened and verbally abused by a group of around 20 people outside APRODEH's office;

- expressing concern for the safety of members of APRODEH and other non-government organizations campaigning for an end to impunity and for the extradition of Alberto Fujimori;
- expressing concern that the attack appears to be an act of intimidation against the staff of the human rights organization APRODEH to force them to drop their campaign against impunity and corruption and for the extradition of Alberto Fujimori from Japan;
- urging the authorities to investigate the attack against Gloria Cano and to bring the perpetrators to justice;
- urging the authorities to do everything in their power to ensure that such acts of intimidation against human rights defenders do not take place again and that human rights defenders can carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisals.

**APPEALS TO:**

Dr. Fausto Alvarado Dodero  
Ministro de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Scipión Llona 350  
Miraflores  
Lima 18, Perú

**Fax:** +511 422 3577

**Salutation:** Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Dra. Nelly Calderón Navarro  
Sra. Fiscal de Fiscal de la Nación  
Fiscalía de la Nación  
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n  
Lima 1  
PERU

**Fax:** +511 427 1792

**Salutation:** Sra. Fiscal/ Dear Attorney General

Ab. Alberto Sanabria  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n  
Urb. Córpac  
San Isidro  
Lima 27, Perú

**Fax:** + 511 224 2405

**Salutation:** Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

**COPIES TO:**

Canciller Alan Wagner Tizón  
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Jr. Ucayali 363  
Lima 1, Perú

**Tx:** 20467/20742 pe estado

**Fax:** + 511 311 2406

**Salutation:** Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

APRODEH  
Jirón Pachacútec, 980  
Jesús María  
Lima 11, Perú

**Fax:** +51 1 431 0477

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 12 March