

UA 76/99

Death thro

**PERU**Lola Flores (f) human rights defender  
Esteban Ríos  
Other members of the Moyobamba Human Rights Committee

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of all members of the *Comité de Derechos Humanos de Moyobamba*, Moyobamba Human Rights Committee, after committee member Lola Flores received death threats, and her husband Esteban Ríos was shot and wounded.

The Moyobamba Human Rights Committee is a non-governmental human rights organization based in the town of Moyobamba, San Martín department. In February 1999 Lola Flores apparently took up the case of a man who had been ill-treated by a drunk policeman in the district of Zoritor, on the outskirts of Moyobamba. When she went to the police station to file a complaint a policeman reportedly threatened to shoot her, boasting that "*no pasaría nada*", "nothing would happen", if he did.

On 13 March 1999 Esteban Ríos was approached by two men in balaclavas who questioned him about his wife's work with the Moyobamba Human Rights Committee and beat him round the head with a stick. When he tried to defend himself they shot him twice. He was too badly wounded to be treated locally, and had to be taken to hospital in the capital, Lima.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Members of the Moyobamba Human Rights Committee, in particular Lola Flores, have been receiving death threats since 1998. Human rights activists across Peru have frequently been threatened with death in recent years. Amnesty International has repeatedly asked the Peruvian authorities to investigate these death threats impartially and independently and to ensure that all human rights defenders can do their work without intimidation. However, the authorities do not appear to have taken effective steps to end repeated intimidation of human rights defenders.

In December 1998 the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, of which Article 5 states that everyone has the right "To form, join and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations or groups." Amnesty International urges the Peruvian authorities to ensure that this Declaration is fully implemented so that promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected in Peru.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Lola Flores, her husband Esteban Ríos and all members of the Moyobamba Human Rights Committee, after Lola Flores received death threats and Esteban Ríos was shot on 13 March 1999;
- requesting that all necessary steps be taken to guarantee their safety;
- requesting a prompt and effective investigation into acts of intimidation against Lola Flores, Esteban Ríos and members of the Moyobamba Human Rights Committee, that the findings be published, and that those responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

President

Presidente Alberto Fujimori  
Presidente de la República del Perú  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Plaza Mayor  
Lima 1, PERU

**Tx: 20167 pe palacio**

**or 20331 pe sec pre**

**Faxes: +511 426 6770**

**Telegrams: Presidente de la República, Palacio de Gobierno**

**Salutation: Dear President/Sr. Presidente**

Minister of the Interior

Señor José Villanueva Ruesta  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n  
Urb. Córpac  
San Isidro  
Lima 27, PERU

**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos  
Av. Tupac Amaru 2467  
Lince, Lima 14  
PERU

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 26 May 1999.