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19 May 2006

Further Information on UA 116/06 (AMR 46/010/2006, 04 May 2006) - Prisoners of conscience

PERU Herminio Palomino Soto (m)

Julia Natividad Rodríguez Suárez (f)

The case of Julia Rodríguez Suarez, who stands accused of membership of the armed opposition group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) will be heard in the Supreme Court on 22 May. Amnesty International fears that she will be detained when she appears in court, in which case she would be a prisoner of conscience.

Her lawyer had asked the Supreme Court to withdraw the warrant for her arrest, and issue instead an order to appear in court for her trial. The court said it would consider the request on 22 May.

On 10 May, the Supreme Court overturned the order to detain Herminio Palomino Soto, replacing it with an order to appear before the Supreme Court when his case is heard. It is not known when this will be, but he is now at liberty.

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

- stating that Julia Rodríguez Suarez has been unjustly accused of being a member of the armed opposition group Shining Path;
- stating that there is no evidence that she has ever used or advocated violence;
- expressing concern that a warrant for her arrest has been issued;
- stating that if she is detained on 22 May Amnesty International will consider her a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice
Dr. Alejandro Tudela Chopitea
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Scipión Llona 350
Miraflores
Lima 18, Peru

Fax: + 51 1 422 3577

Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:

Asociación Ministerio Diaconal Paz y Esperanza Oficina Nacional Jr. Hermilio Valdizan 681 Jesus Maria Lima, Peru

Email: lima@pazyesperanza.org

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 June 2006.