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Peru: Amnesty International Expresses Regret About Loss of Life During Operation to End Hostage Crisis

Amnesty International -- which has campaigned for the safety, and the unconditional and immediate release of all 72 hostages -- expressed deep regret for yesterday's killings of one hostage, 14 members of the *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru*, MRTA, and two members of the Peruvian security forces.

At least five hostages were also injured during the operation carried out by around 200 members of the Peruvian security forces which took place on 22 April at 3:30 pm local time in Lima.

The surprise operation to storm the Japanese Ambassador's residence cut short attempts for a peaceful solution to the crisis. It took place amid growing reports of human rights violations in the country and a looming political crisis affecting President's Alberto Fujimori's Government

Since the beginning of the 126-day long hostage crisis -- after members of the MRTA broke into the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Perú and held all those present to force a series of demands of the movement -- Amnesty International has campaigned for the safe release of all those held by the MRTA, while reiterating its condemnation for the taking of hostages.

Amnesty International is sending a delegate to Lima in order to carry out relevant research about this episode. Meanwhile the organization is calling for full and impartial investigations into all the killings.

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