

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 10/93 (AMR 46/02/93, 14 January 1993) - Possible reintroduction of the Death Penalty

PERU: Possible reintroduction of the Death Penalty

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Following the concern expressed in UA 10/93 that the newly established Congreso Constituyente Democrático (CCD), Democratic Constituent Congress, was to debate a bill on the death penalty, Amnesty International has learned that, in February, a debate on the bill was initiated before a full session of Congress. However, the debate was suspended when the Government of Peru, in the context of claims to have re-established constitutional rule, sought to renegotiate agreements with the Government of the United States of America (USA) on economic aid to Peru.

After publication of the USA's State Department's 1992 report on human rights in Peru, the Government of the USA expressed concern about Peru's eligibility to receive economic aid, given the country's poor human rights record. The publication of the report led to the suspension of the debate. The possible reintroduction of the death penalty lay dormant until Thursday 10 June 1993, when a commission set up by the CCD to draft a new Constitution approved the imposition of the death penalty for "crimes of treason and terrorism".

Thank you to all those who sent appeals.

Please refer to UA 190/93, AMR 46/21/93, 14 June 1993, for further action on the possible reintroduction of the death penalty in Peru.