

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 46/27/00

UA 242/00

Fear for safety

16 August 2000

PERU

**Grover Ponce Mariños - student**  
**Isminovich González Cruz (f) - student**

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Two students have reportedly been threatened and harassed, as well as publicly accused on TV and in newspapers by the Minister of the Interior and congressmen of instigating violence during demonstrations against the reelection of President Alberto Fujimori. Amnesty International fears that both are in danger.

Students Grover Ponce Mariños and Isminovich González Cruz took part in the demonstrations known as the *Marcha de los Cuatro Suyos*, of 26-28 July. Although the organisers had called for peaceful protests, the third day of demonstrations was marred by violence. Six people died, and hundreds were injured. Several buildings were set on fire, including the National Bank, the *Jurado Nacional de Electores*, National Electoral Board, and the former offices of the Ministry of Education. The opposition and others have blamed the violence on government infiltrators.

Since then, Grover Ponce Mariños and Isminovich González Cruz have had their phones tapped, and their homes have been under surveillance. They are constantly followed by cars with tinted windows and no licence plates.

The national human rights organisation APRODEH, which has taken up the two students' case, has asked the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to order the government to provide protection for them.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On 28 May President Alberto Fujimori won a third term in office amid allegations of fraud. Critics have argued that this third term is illegal, because the Constitution only permits presidents two terms in office and because the other candidate, Alejandro Toledo of *Peru Posible*, boycotted the second round of elections.

Amnesty International has received reports of harassment and intimidation of political and social activists and members of civil society who oppose President Fujimori's reelection or who have taken part in demonstrations following the second round of elections in May. (See UA 220/00, AMR 46/24/00, 20 July 2000)

Allegations of fraud and irregularities in the recent presidential elections led the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly to send a high-level mission to Peru in June "to explore with the government of Peru and other sectors of the political community, options and recommendations aimed at further strengthening democracy in that country..." (OAS General Assembly, Resolution 1753). The mission recommended a number of measures, none of which have yet been implemented.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Grover Ponce Mariños, and Isminovich González Cruz;
- expressing concern that Robert Ponce Mariños and Isminovich González Cruz have been harassed and intimidated since the demonstrations known as *Marcha de los Cuatro Suyos* took place at the end of July;
- urging the authorities to take all the necessary measures to protect them as well as all other persons who took part in the demonstrations.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior  
Sr. Walter Chacón Málaga

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Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n  
Urb. Córpac, San Isidro  
Lima 27, Peru  
Fax: + 511 224 2405/+ 511 475 3419  
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Head of the National Police  
General PNP Fernando Dianderas Ottone  
Director Superior de la Policía Nacional de Perú  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n  
Urb. Córpac, San Isidro  
Lima 27, Peru  
Fax: + 511 225 2139  
Salutation: Sr. Director/Dear Head of the Police

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization  
APRODEH  
Jr. Pachacútec 980  
Jesús María  
Lima 11  
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