

UA 264/99

Fear for

PERU Juan Sausa Seclen, journalist
His family

Journalist Juan Sausa Seclen was threatened with death on 28 September 1999 by an anonymous caller who told him that if he did not stop criticising the *Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional* (SIN), National Intelligence Service, and the army, he and his family would "disappear". Amnesty International fears for the safety of Juan Sausa and his family.

Juan Sausa is a correspondent for one of Peru's main newspapers, *La República*, in the city of Jaen, province of Jaen, Cajamarca department. He had been working closely with *La República's* investigative team, who recently discovered that one of the bodyguards of the mayor of Jaen's is a member of a "death squad" linked to the SIN. Members of this "death squad", known as *Grupo Colina*, were charged with the "disappearance" and killing in 1992 of nine students and a professor from *La Cantuta* university.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For many years investigative journalists in Peru who uncover stories of human rights violations and corruption, or who are perceived as opposing the government, have been harassed, intimidated or threatened with death. For years the SIN has been seen as responsible these human rights violations. However, the Peruvian authorities have failed to ensure that these threats are stopped and that journalists can carry out their work without fear of intimidation. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." The Peruvian authorities should ensure that this right is upheld at all times and in all circumstances.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Juan Sousa Seclen and his family, who were threatened with death on 28 September 1999, in the city of Jaen, department of Cajarmaca;
- asking the authorities to take all necessary steps to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a prompt and effective investigation into this incident, with the findings made public, and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior
General César Enrique Saucedo
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n
Urb. Córpac
San Isidro
Lima 27
PERU

Fax: + 511 224 2407

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Lima, Peru

Salutation: Estimado Ministro/Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Fernando de Trazegnies Granda

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

Jr. Ucayali 363

Lima 1

PERU

Fax: + 511 427 3860

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru

Salutation: Estimado Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Vicaria de Jaen

Orellana 313

Apdo. 66

Jaén - Vía Chiclayo

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 17 November 1999.