

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Threats

21 November 1990

PERU: Javier DIEZ CANSECO

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Javier Diez Canseco, Senator of the Partido Unificado Mariateguista, (a member party of Izquierda Unida, United Left) and well-known defender of human rights.

At 2am on 16 November 1990 an explosive was thrown at his house; no-one was hurt, but the blast caused material damage. Prior to this, the Senator had been receiving threats against his and his family's lives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Senator Diez Canseco is actively involved in defending human rights. In August of this year he helped torture victim, Fidel Intusca Fernandez publicize his case in the Peruvian media (see UA 365/90, AMR 46/57/90, 13 September). He is a member of the Senatorial Commission in charge of the investigation into the massacre which took place in April 1990 in Chumbivilcas (see UA 228/90, AMR 46/40/90, 4 June), and the alleged mass killing of 18 peasants found on 18 October in a mass grave in San Pedro de Cachi (see UA 389/90, AMR 46/59/90, 26 September, and follow-up AMR 46/71/90, 15 November). He has been active in the Commission which sought to reopen investigations into the responsibility of the government headed by ex-President, Alan García for the extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" of some 250 inmates being held in three Lima prisons (see AI Report "Disappearances", Torture and Summary Executions by Government Forces after the Prison Revolts of June 1986, AMR 46/03/87).

Senator Diez Canseco and his family are also reported to have received threats against their lives on previous occasions, including as a result of his work as President of the Comisión Investigadora de las Intervenciones Telefónicas, the Commission to Investigate Telephone Interventions.

Human rights defenders have been increasingly targeted over recent years for their work on behalf of victims of human rights violations. Their work has been obstructed by arrests, death threats, "disappearances" and, in some cases, extrajudicial executions. Amnesty International is not always in a position to establish responsibility for each individual attack on human rights defenders, as the identity of the perpetrators is rarely acknowledged. However, on the basis of available evidence, the organization concludes that many such abuses are carried out by members of the Peruvian security forces or civilians working under their command.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the death threats received by Senator, Javier Diez Canseco and the attack with explosives against his house;
- asking that a full investigation be initiated to identify those responsible for both the attack and the threats and that the findings be made public;
- asking the government to guarantee the physical safety of Javier Diez Canseco and his family.

APPEALS TO

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, Perú

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Perú
Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO or 20331 PE SEC PRE
Faxes: + 51 14 33 1945

General Adolfo Alvarado Fournier
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
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San Isidro, Urb Corpac
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PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 January 1991.