

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 46/05/98

UA 96/98 **Family of Luisa Zanatta, an asylum-seeker in
the USA, under threat**

26 March 1998

PERU

The safety of members of Luisa Zanatta's family is in question after the former agent of Peru's *Servicio de Inteligencia del Ejército*, SIE, Army Intelligence Service, spoke out recently about human rights violations committed by members of the SIE.

Luisa Zanatta reported that: "*Mi hermana recibió una llamada de un hombre del Ejército que le dijo que si yo no me retractaba en mis denuncias iba a tener que lamentar las consecuencias*". " My sister received a phone call from a military man who told her that if I did not withdraw my accusations I was going to regret the consequences".

Luisa Zanatta, currently requesting asylum in the USA, has publicly revealed that members of the SIE are responsible for cases of torture and extrajudicial execution.

In a television broadcast on 16 March 1998, Luisa Zanatta revealed that the former army intelligence agent Mariela Lucy Barreto, murdered in March 1997, had been responsible for leaking information to journalists concerning the whereabouts of the victims of a massacre in 1992. This information led to the discovery of the victims killed by *Grupo Colina*, a military "death squad" (see Peru: La Cantuta killings and other human rights violations not yet fully investigated, AMR 46/03/94, March 1994). Those responsible for her death have not been brought to justice. Luisa Zanatta also revealed that intelligence agents considered to be traitors and those believed to have links to the armed opposition are systematically tortured.

Although the Minister of Defence has reportedly dismissed the allegations made by Luisa Zanatta they are consistent with those made by other former SIE officers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past year three female agents of the army intelligence service have revealed SIE intelligence. All have subsequently been targeted. Luisa Zanatta and her family have been threatened, Mariela Lucy Barreto was murdered in March 1997 (see above) and Leonor La Rosa Bustamente was tortured by members of the army attached to the SIE in connection with allegedly having leaked security plans (see UA 98/97, AMR 46/11/97, 11 April 1997). In 1997 she was admitted to hospital on two separate occasions in January and February as a result and, according to medical experts, it is possible that she may have been crippled for life.

In addition a pattern of attacks, threats and intimidation has emerged in recent months targeted at members of the SIE who have spoken out concerning human rights violations and corruption in the government and armed forces. This is in the context of accusations by critics of the government and many sectors of society that Peru is being ruled by "*un gobierno cívico-militar*", "an authoritarian civil-military government"

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Luisa Zanatta's family;
- calling on the authorities to ensure the full protection of Luisa Zanatta's family following her revelations on Peruvian television.

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General

Dr. Miguel Aljovín Swayne
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n
Lima 1
PERU

Telegrams: Attorney General, Lima, Peru

Faxes: + 511 426 4429

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/ Estimado Fiscal de la Nación

Minister of Defence

General EP César Saucedo Sánchez
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Av. Boulevards/n y Monterrico
Lima 33
PERU

Telegrams: Minister of Defence, Lima, Peru

Faxes: + 511 433 6906 (if someone answers, say "por favor, me puede dar tono de fax por Ministro de Defensa)

Salutation: Dear Minister of Defence / Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organisation

CNDDHH
Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467
Lince
Lima 14
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 7 May 1998.