

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 135/94      Death threats / Fear for safety

6 April 1994

PERU              Mariano PALIZA MENDOZA, journalist

and staff of the *Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos*, APRODEH, Association for Human Rights

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Mariano Paliza Mendoza, a journalist who works for the independent human rights organization APRODEH. Mariano Paliza is the director and presenter of the APRODEH human rights radio programme "*Acción Urgente*", *Urgent Action*, which is broadcast on *Radio Cadena*. Amnesty International is also concerned for the safety of the rest of the staff who work for APRODEH.

According to reports, Mariano Paliza is reported to have recently received several death threats. On 25 March 1994 *Radio Cadena* received an anonymous phone call asking for Mr Paliza. As he was not there, the caller warned that he better stop insulting the Government, "*otherwise he would be bombed tonight at 11*" ("*porque si no le vamos a poner una bomba alas 11 de la noche*"). On 28 March there were four other phone calls asking for Mr Paliza. On the first of them he heard a voice saying "*vas a morir*", "*you will die*". The last of these calls was answered by a female journalist who received the same message.

The death threats have been reported to the Office of the Public Ministry's Attorney General.

*Acción Urgente* is one way through which APRODEH has actively defended human rights in Peru. It offers air space to relatives of victims of human rights abuses and organizations that defend the country's human rights. For the last few weeks the programme has reportedly been disrupted by persistent electronic interference, with the apparent purpose of stopping its transmission.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*Acción Urgente* has been particularly outspoken on the La Cantuta case in which one lecturer and nine students were extrajudicially executed by members of the *Servicio de Inteligencia del Ejército*, Army Intelligence Service, (See Peru: La Cantuta killings and other human rights violations not yet fully investigated, AMR 46/03/94, March 1994); the detention and torture of ten peasant leaders from San Ignacio, (See Peru: Torture of community leaders, AMR 46/58/92, December 1992), and on a number of journalists victimized for their defence of human rights.

President Alberto Fujimori and his government assumed power on 28 July 1990. The government inherited a legacy of gross human rights abuses dating back to January 1983, including thousands of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. The President has repeatedly stated that his government is pursuing a policy of respect for human rights. However, between 28 July 1990 and 31 March 1994, Amnesty International has documented at least 600 "disappearances" and 240 extrajudicial executions.

Human rights violations occur in the context of the government's counter-insurgency operations directed against the clandestine armed opposition groups *Partido Comunista del Perú*, (*Sendero Luminoso*), Communist

Party of Peru, (Shining Path) and the *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru*, Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Amnesty International unequivocally opposes the deliberate and arbitrary killing by the armed opposition of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the internal conflict, and of members of the security forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause.

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

- expressing concern that Mariano Paliza Mendoza, director of the *Acción Urgente* radio programme, has been subjected to a bomb threat and other death threats, the latest of which occurred on 28 March 1994;
- pointing out that the bomb threat against Mariano Paliza is also a threat against the staff of APRODEH;
- calling on the Minister of the Interior to take all the necessary steps to ensure that Mariano Paliza and staff and of APRODEH are given adequate protection;
- urging the Attorney General to ensure that a prompt and thorough investigation into the allegations is conducted, the findings made public, and the perpetrators brought to justice;

**APPEALS TO**

1) President:

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

**Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru**

**Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO**

**Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear President**

2) Minister of the Interior

General EP Juan Briones Dávila  
 Ministro del Interior  
 Ministerio del Interior  
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150  
 San Isidro  
 Urb. Córpac  
 Lima, PERU

**Telegrams, Ministro del Interior, Lima, Perú**

**Faxes: 5114 334457**

**Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Public Ministry's Attorney General

Dr. Blanca Nélica Colán Maguiña  
 Fiscal de la Nación  
 Fiscalía de la Nación  
 Avda. Azángaro  
 Lima, PERU

**Telegrams, Fiscal de la Nación, Lima Perú**

**Faxes: 5114 334457**

**Salutation: Sra Fiscal de la Nación / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Association

Señores

APRODEH

Jirón Pachacutec 980

Jesús María

Lima, 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 25 May 1994.**