

PUBLIC

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UA 188/98

Threats / Fear for safety

3 July 1998

**PERUCésar Hildebrandt, journalist at TV Channel 13**

**Luis Ibérico, journalist**

**Francisco Soberón, human rights defender**

**Javier Diez Canseco, opposition parliamentarian**

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of the above-named people following recent threats.

On 18 June 1998 a fax was received at the editorial offices of TV Channel 13 which contained insulting and threatening language towards César Hildebrandt, the presenter of a current affairs television programme and prominent critic of President Alberto Fujimori's government, which stated that he was under close surveillance. It also stated that another journalist, Luis Ibérico, was being closely surveilled and implied that his safety was in jeopardy.

The following day the offices of the *Asociación pro Derechos Humanos* (APRODEH), Association for Human Rights, received a fax which accused its director, Francisco Soberón, and opposition parliamentarian, Javier Diez Canseco, of being accomplices of "*muchos terroristas*", "many terrorists". In addition, Francisco Soberón was accused of assisting police captain Julio Salas Cáceres and army intelligence officer Luisa Zanatta, labelled "traitors" in the fax, to flee the country after they had denounced cases of corruption and human rights violations by the Peruvian security forces. The fax concluded by stating: "*espero que dejes de meterte en defender a traidores etc. etc.*", "I hope you [Francisco Soberón] stop getting involved in defending traitors, etc. etc".

The threats against Luis Ibérico and César Hildebrandt, who was a target of previous anonymous threats (see Urgent Action 201/97, AMR 46/27/97, 8 July 1997), were made public on TV Channel 13 when César Hildebrandt read the fax on the programme he presents.

A complaint concerning the threats sent to Francisco Soberón and Javier Diez Canseco, also previously threatened (see Urgent Action 279/97, AMR 46/34/97, 20 August 1997 and follow-ups), has been filed before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Both faxes also made insulting reference to a number of other individuals who had in previous months publicly denounced cases of corruption, political persecution and human rights violations in Peru. Many of these people have featured in previous Amnesty International Urgent Actions and all of them, with the exception of Mariela Barreto Riofano whose dismembered body was found on the outskirts of Lima, the capital, in March 1997, have since fled the country in fear of their safety.

They include the following people: Luisa Zanatta (UA 96/98, AMR 46/05/98, 26 March 1998); Julio Salas Cáceres, his wife María Jesús García Sánchez and Baruch Ivcher, (follow-up to UA 279/97, AMR 46/37/97, 22 September 1997); Leonor La Rosa Bustamante and Mariela Barreto Riofano (UA 98/97, AMR 46/11/97, 11 April 1997 and follow ups); Delia Revoredo Marsano de Mur and her husband Jaime Mur Campoverde (UA 135/98, AMR 46/07/98, 29 April 1998) and journalist José Arrieta.

These faxes reflect a pattern of intimidation, including death threats, armed attacks, and short-term abductions, which have been directed at journalists, politicians, dissident members of the security forces, opposition politicians, and human rights defenders critical of President Alberto Fujimori's government, the intelligence services and the upper echelons of the Peruvian army. This pattern began to emerge with increasing force in October 1996 when a bomb was detonated outside the offices of a television and radio station in the city of Puno. Members of the army's intelligence services were subsequently found responsible for the attack by a military court. Since then, though the level of intimidation has remained constant, the authorities have singularly failed to bring those responsible to justice.

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

- expressing concern that César Hildebrandt, Luis Ibérico, Francisco Soberón and Javier Diez Canseco received faxes threatening them on 18 and 19 June 1998;
- calling on the authorities to take all the necessary steps to guarantee the safety of the above;
- requesting a full, prompt and independent investigation into the above acts of intimidation, that the findings be made public, and those responsible are brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to make public their unequivocal condemnation of such acts of intimidation and indicating that those responsible will be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General

Dr. Miguel Aljovín Swayne  
Fiscal de la Nación  
Av. Abancay, Cuadra 5,  
Lima 1  
PERU

**Telegrams: Fiscal Nación, Lima, Peru**

**Faxes: + 511 426 2474**

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

Minister of the Interior

General (EP) José Villanueva Ruesta  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150  
Lima 27, PERU

**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Lima, Peru**

**Faxes: + 511 224 2407 (if voice, say "me de tono de fax por favor")**

**Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado Ministro**

**COPIES TO:**

APRODEH

Jr. Pachacútec 980  
Jesús María, Lima 11  
Perú

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 14 August 1998.