

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 46/015/2003

UA 215/03

Death threats/Fear for safety

16 July 2003

PERU

Andrés Béjar Torreblanca (m) - *Constelación* radio station owner
Franklin Béjar Miranda (m) - *Constelación* radio station owner
Luis Mamani (m) – *Radio Sicuani* station reporter

Amnesty International is concerned at an increasing trend of threats and intimidation against those who oppose local government authorities in Canchis Province, Cusco Department. There are concerns for the safety of those named above, who have received death threats apparently as a result of their involvement with local radio stations.

In February, Luis Mamani, a reporter at *Radio Sicuani*, a radio station in Sicuani, the capital of Canchis Province was reportedly threatened, as well as physically and verbally abused by the Mayor of the Municipality of Canchis, in an apparent attempt to silence his criticism of the Mayor's administration. On 3 July, Luis Mamani's mother, received an anonymous phone call at home. An unknown male voice reportedly asked her if Luis Mamani lived there. When she confirmed that he did, the caller became abusive and threatened her son whom he warned, should "take care" ("*que se cuide*"). The caller then hung up.

On 15 May, the offices of *Constelación* radio station in Sicuani Town were broken into. Transmission equipment was stolen, which prevented the radio station from broadcasting. The theft was reported to the police and on 25 May Andrés Béjar, the station's owner publicly condemned the incident when he was invited to speak at another local radio station. The following day, Andres Béjar found a note at his home containing a death threat against him and his associate Franklin Béjar. The letter reportedly contained the words "leave it or ... blood and horror" ("*Déjelo o... sangre y horror*") and a picture of a dead person.

Both incidents were reported to the Sicuani police, but up to date it is not known whether an investigation has been conducted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Andrés Béjar Torreblanca, Frankling Béjar Miranda and Luis Mamani who have been threatened;
- asking the authorities what measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat themselves, they are going to take to guarantee the safety of those at risk;
- urging the authorities to investigate the threats and acts of intimidation, to make the results of their investigation public and to take those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to protect the right of journalist to do their job without fear of reprisals and to send a clear message that acts of intimidation against journalists and any attempt to restrict the right to freedom of expression and information will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Sr. Alberto Sanabria

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n

Urb. Córpac

San Isidro

Lima 27

Perú

Telegram: Ministro del Interior, Lima, Peru

Fax: + 51 1 224 2405 (if someone answers, say "me da tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Attorney General

Dra. Nelly Calderón Navarro la Nación

Fiscalía de la Nación

Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n

Lima 1

Perú

Telegram: Fiscal de la Nación, Lima, Peru

Tele/Fax: + 51 1 428 0969

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

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDDHH) National Human Rights Coordinating Body

Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467

Lince

Lima 14

Perú

Tel/fax: + 51 1 441 1533/422 4827

Church Based Human Rights Organization

Vicaría de la Solidaridad de Sicuani

Livia Tapia Ríos

Prelatura de Sicuani

Dr. Hipolito Unanue No.236

3er Piso - Plaza Armas

Casilla 46

Cusco

Perú

Fax: +51 84 35 2542

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 27 August 2003.