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## Peru: Human Rights in Jeopardy

Revelations about army intelligence plans to intimidate critics of President Alberto Fujimori's administration, coupled with a wave of reports of human rights violations by the security forces, point to a worsening situation concerning the protection of human rights in Peru, concluded an Amnesty International delegation at the end of a visit to the country.

A series of media reports over the past weeks, including witness testimonies, about human rights violations by members of the *Servicio de Inteligencia del Ejército*, SIE, Army Intelligence Service, have added to fears that the effective protection of human rights in Peru is in jeopardy. The reports include accounts of the torture of SIE agents accused of leaking SIE plans to intimidate government critics.

Members of the SIE have also leaked information about the *Grupo Colina*, a "death squad" widely reported to have acted within the SIE. Responsibility for a string of "disappearances" and summary executions during the early 1990's, including the Barrios Altos and La Cantuta massacres, in which 25 people were killed, have been attributed to the *Grupo Colina*.

During its visit to Peru, between 5 and 20 April, the Amnesty International delegation reiterated previous appeals by the organization for the authorities to fully investigate these allegations, make the findings public and bring all those responsible to justice.

The failure to effectively protect human rights in Peru is compounded by the impunity surrounding thousands of unresolved cases of human rights abuses perpetrated by the security forces over past years.

"The two Amnesty laws passed in June 1995 which closed all investigations into human rights violations between 1980 and 1995 are not only a denial of truth and justice, but contribute to further abuses," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International also reiterates its concern for the safety and well-being of the 72 hostages now held for more than 120 days by the *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru*, MRTA, Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. The hostages are being held in the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, the capital.

The organization once again urges the MRTA and the authorities to work at all times towards a resolution of the hostage crisis aimed at the safe release of all 72 hostages.  
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