

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for Physical Safety

23 June 1992

PERU:

	Gustavo GORRITI ELLENBOGEN, journalist
his wife:	Esther DELGADO DE GORRITI, aged 35
and their daughters:	Galia GORRITI DELGADO, aged 6
	Dafna GORRITI DELGADO, aged 1

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of journalist Gustavo Gorriti Ellenbogen and his family having just received the following information.

According to reports, on the evening of 5 June 1992 an anonymous phone call was made to the Gorriti household in which the caller threatened to kill Gustavo Gorriti and his family.

At that very moment Gustavo Gorriti was speaking live on television from Channel Two, which on the night of 4-5 June had suffered a bomb attack in which a journalist and two other people were killed, and at least twenty wounded. Only hours after this bomb attack Channel Two begun transmitting again, presenting witnesses' testimonies and messages of solidarity from other journalists. Gustavo Gorriti made a presentation in which he referred to the role of the press in defending freedom and democracy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 5 April 1992 President Alberto Fujimori broadcast a surprise speech to the nation in which he announced the immediate dissolution of Congress and stated that the country was to be ruled by a transitional executive-led Government of Emergency and National Reconstruction. He also announced a reform of the Constitution, and of Congress, the judiciary and the Public Ministry, all of which have a responsibility for investigating human rights violations.

Following the announcement the executive closed down the judiciary and the Public Ministry for a period of four weeks. Over 120 judges and public attorneys in Lima and Callao were dismissed from their posts.

Numerous detentions, many of them of political activists and critics of the government, have been made in Lima and elsewhere since 5 April. In the early hours of 6 April Gustavo Gorriti was detained at his home by members of the Servicio de Inteligencia del Ejército, the army's intelligence service, and taken to an army barracks where he was held incommunicado for 21 hours. He was later transferred to the Policía Técnica, the investigative police, until 7 April when he was released without charges.

Gustavo Gorriti was one amongst at least 60 parliamentarians, journalists, lawyers, trade unionists and political activists, who were held under house arrest or in centres of detention following President Fujimori's speech on 5 April. All except one were subsequently released without charges.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the death threats received by Gustavo Gorriti Ellenbogen and his family;

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- requesting that all the necessary measures be urgently taken to guarantee their safety;

- asking for a full and impartial investigation into the threats and that those responsible be 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: Señor 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 27, PERU

Telegrams: Ministro Interior Briones, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI/21697

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence:

General EP Victor Malca Villanueva
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Boulevard s/n
Monterrico
Lima 33, PERU

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Villanueva, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Association:

Señores

Centro de Estudios y Acción para la Paz

(CEAPAZ)

Costa Rica 150

Jesús María

Lima 11, PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 August 1992.