

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/52/91
Distr: UA/SC

UA 276/91

Death Threat

12 August 1991

PERU:

Jorge CHAVEZ MORALES, journalist

Amnesty International is concerned about a death threat received by Jorge Chávez Morales, a journalist working for "La República", a Lima daily newspaper. The threat was contained in a letter delivered on 9 August 1991 to the "La República" newspaper.

La República has been particularly active in writing on human rights issues and the situation of violence in the country. Jorge Chávez had investigated and published information regarding the killing of journalist Luis Morales Ortega, which occurred in Ayacucho on 13 July 1991 (see UA 248/91, AI Index AMR 46/42/91, 19 July 1991). The letter delivered to "La República" was signed by a group calling itself "Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista", the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Command. Jorge Chávez is the first journalist in Lima to be threatened by this group.

Jorge Chávez reported the incident to the 4th Fiscalía Provincial en lo Penal, 4th office of the Provincial Prosecutor. He requested guarantees for his safety and said he would hold the Ministers of Defence and the Interior responsible should attempts be made on his life or that of his family.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since December 1982, when the department of Ayacucho was first placed under a state of emergency under the control of a political-military command, human rights defenders and journalists and others who have helped bring details of human rights abuses to local and international attention, have been targets of death threats and harassment from the armed forces or groups working with their acquiescence.

Journalists who have been victims of human rights violations include eight journalists who were killed in Uchuraccay, Huanta, Ayacucho department on 26 January 1983 in what appears to have been an extrajudicial execution; Jaime Ayala Sulca, a reporter for the Lima daily, La República, who "disappeared" after detention at the navy's provincial headquarters in the Huanta stadium on 2 August 1984 (see UA 205/84); and Hugo Bustíos Saavedra, a correspondent for the magazine Caretas, who was reportedly killed in November 1988 in Huanta by the armed forces, while investigating the murder of a woman and her son. He had received repeated death threats as a consequence of his press articles which criticised the army for human rights violations.

Threats, attacks and selective assassinations have been attributed to para-military groups operating under a variety of names, including the Comando Rodrigo Franco (CRF), Rodrigo Franco Command, and the Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista. The CRF was first heard of in July 1988, when anonymous communiques were released that said it was an independent group created to "revenge" actions by the armed group "Shining Path". It was reported to have ceased operations prior to the completion of the previous government's term of office in July 1990. Threats by a group calling itself Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista first emerged in June 1991, when two journalists Magno Sosa and Nesiás Taquiri were threatened with death in the city of Ayacucho, Huamanga Province, Ayacucho department, (see UA 210 AI Index AMR 46/30/91). The group

also threatened journalist Luis Antonio Morales Ortega, who was subsequently killed (see *UA 248/91, AI Index AMR 46/42/91, 19 July 1991*). Human rights organizations in Peru have expressed concern that the Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista may be active in Ayacucho with the direct support or the acquiescence of the armed forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

Sections are asked, where possible, to organize appeals from journalist associations.

- expressing concern at the death threat received by journalist Jorge Chávez Morales;
- asking for guarantees for the physical safety of Jorge Chávez Morales and his family;
- requesting that a full investigation be immediately initiated into the activities that are attributed to the Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista, and that the findings be made public and those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1. Presidente Alberto Fujimori [Salutation: Señor Presidente]

Presidente de la República
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, Perú

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO
Faxes: + 51 14 33 7020

2. General EP Jorge Torres Aciego [Salutation: Señor Ministro]

Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Boulevard
Monterrico
Lima 33, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ
Faxes: +51 14 33 4470

3. Señor Fernando Guillén Salas [Salutation: Señor Subsecretario]

Subsecretario de Política Multilateral
Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Jr. Ucayali 363
Lima 1, Perú

Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 20142/20165/20467 (Attn: Sr Subsecretario)
25435 PE ESTADO

4. General EP Victor Malca Villanueva [Salutation: Señor Ministro]

Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
San Isidro, Urb Corpac
Lima 27, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Interior Villanueva, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI
Faxes: +51 14 41 5128

COPIES TO:

Señores

Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH)

Apartado Postal 11-0247

Lima 11, Perú (National Commission for Human Rights)

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 23 September 1991.