

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 18/10/00

UA 238/00

Fear for

BOLIVIASacha LLORENTTI SOLIZ (m), human rights defender

Amnesty International is extremely concerned for the safety of human rights defender Sacha Llorentti.

On 7 August 2000 Sacha Llorentti received two telephone death threats on his mobile phone telling him that his days were numbered ("*Tus días están contados*") and insulting him.

Sacha Llorentti is the Legal Affairs Secretary, *Secretario de Asuntos Jurídicos*, for the leading human rights organization Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly, *Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos de Bolivia*. Amnesty International believes that these death threats are directly related to his role in filing judicial complaints about, and calling for independent investigations into, human rights violations committed during the "State of Siege", "*Estado de Sitio*", which was declared in April this year. This is an exceptional measure which may be invoked to preserve public order in cases of "internal commotion", "*conmoción interna*".

The government declared a "State of Siege" on 8 April, in response to protests against a waterworks project under in the city of Cochabamba which would have raised water rates. Several people were killed before the "State of Siege" was lifted on 20 April and there were reports of ill-treatment and the harrassment and illegal detention of minors. According to reports the government has announced investigations into these allegations.

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

- expressing concern at the two telephone death threats recieved by Sacha Llorentti on 7 August 2000;
- calling for immediate steps to guarantee the effective protection of Sacha Llorentti and allow him to continue with his legitimate human rights work;
- calling for a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the two telephone death threats recieved by Sacha Llorentti on 7 August 2000, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to publicly repudiate all harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, and to publicly recognize the important contribution that human rights defenders make to the protection of human rights and the promotion of a society which fully respects human rights.

APPEALS TO:

President

Excmo. Sr. Presidente

Gral. Hugo Banzer

Palacio de Gobierno

La Paz, Bolivia

Telegrams: Presidente, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 391216 / 392606 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Presidente/ Dear President

Minister of Government

Ministro de Gobierno

Sr. Guillermo Fortún

Ministerio de Gobierno

Av. Arce esq. Belisario Salinas
La Paz, Bolivia
Telegrams:Ministro Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes:+ 5912 442 589
Salutation:Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Minister of Justice
Ministro de Justicia
Dr.Juan Chahin
Ministerio de Justicia
Avenida 16 de Julio (El Prado), 1769
La Paz, Bolivia
Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes:+ 5912 392 982
Salutation:Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization
Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos, Cajon Postal 9282, La Paz, Bolivia

Human Rights Ombudsman
Defensoría del Pueblo, Casilla 10928, La Paz, Bolivia

Newspaper
Presencia, Av. Mariscal Santa Cruz 2150, La Paz, Bolivia

and to diplomatic representatives of Bolivia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 September 2000.