

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 46/08/00

UA 79/00

Threats and intimidation / Fear for safety

7 April 2000

PERU

Jorge Farfán Martínez [m], human rights lawyer

---

Amnesty International fears for the safety of human rights lawyer Jorge Farfán Martínez after reports that a police communication, indicating that his activities as a human rights defender were being monitored, was passed to the bishop who oversees the organization for which he works, in an apparent attempt to threaten and intimidate him.

Jorge Farfán Martínez works for the *Centro de Desarrollo Rural "Villa Nazareth"*, Centre for Rural Development "Villa Nazareth", a human rights organization funded by the Diocese of Chulucanas, Piura Department.

According to reports, on 3 April a police communication which was passed to the Bishop of Chulucanas accused Jorge Farfán of organizing a demonstration to protest at legal procedures initiated in the province against civil defence patrols.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The threat to Jorge Farfán's safety reflects a long-term pattern of intimidation, death threats, armed attacks and abductions of human rights defenders, journalists, opposition politicians, jurists and dissident members of the security forces. Despite numerous complaints filed before the authorities they have failed to bring those responsible to justice or to publicly condemn such crimes.

The *Centro de Desarrollo Rural Villa Nazareth* is a member of the *Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos* (CNDDHH), National Coordinating Body for Human Rights, an umbrella organization established in the 1980's in response to systematic human rights abuses perpetrated by the security forces and the armed opposition. The CNDDHH, which brings together some 61 independent human rights organizations in the country, has played a prominent role in bringing the serious human rights situation in Peru to the attention of its government and the international community.

On 9 April, President Fujimori will run for a third term in presidential elections, considered to be unconstitutional.

There have been increasing reports of harassment, intimidation and threats to journalists, human rights defenders and government opponents in the run up to these elections.

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

- expressing concern that the human rights work of Jorge Farfán Martínez, a lawyer working for the *Centro de Desarrollo Rural Villa Nazareth*, appears to be being illegally monitored by police;
- expressing concern that a police communication passed to the Bishop of Chulucanas, in the Diocese of Chulucanas, Piura Department, appears to be an attempt to intimidate Jorge Farfán Martínez;
- calling on the authorities to take all the necessary steps to guarantee his safety;
- calling on the authorities to make public their unequivocal condemnation of such acts of intimidation by police;
- urging the authorities to immediately initiate a full and impartial investigation into the case and to make the findings public.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

President

Presidente Alberto Fujimori  
Presidente de la República del Perú  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Plaza Mayor  
Lima 1, PERU

**Telegrams:**      **Presidente, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes:**        **20167 pe palacio / 20331 pe sec pre**  
**Faxes:**          **+ 511 426 6770 (if voice, say “me da tono de fax por favor”)**  
**Salutation:**     **Sr. Presidente/ Dear President.**

Minister of the Interior

General (EP) José Villanueva Ruesta  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150  
Lima 27, PERU  
**Telegrams:**      **Ministro Interior, Lima, Peru**  
**Faxes:**            **+ 511 447 1628**  
**Salutation:**      **Dear Minister / Sr. Ministro**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization (non-governmental)  
Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos  
Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467  
Lima 14  
PERU

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 18 May 2000.