

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: AMR 46/009/2006**

**UA 105/06**

**Fear for safety/Threats**

**27 April 2006**

**PERU**

**Juan Zamudio Bocángel (m)  
Gisela Bocángel (f) his mother  
Other family members**

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An attempt has been made on the life of alleged torture victim Juan Zamudio Bocángel. His mother Gisela Bocángel has been threatened and there are concerns for the safety of the whole family following an increasing campaign of intimidation against them.

Juan Zamudio Bocángel was followed by three unknown men in a car as he made his way home with some friends in the Comas District of Lima on 8 April. The men reportedly called him by his name and tried to force him into the car. Juan Zamudio Bocángel's friends helped him to escape, but not before he was shot in the back and the bullet penetrated his lung and liver. Juan Zamudio Bocángel was hospitalised for five days and is still recovering.

On 19 April, Gisela Bocángel was followed by three unknown men in a car with covered number plates, whilst she was on her way home on foot. One of the men reportedly opened the back door of the car and asked her to come nearer. She refused and walked away. Prior to this incident, Gisela Bocángel had received several threatening anonymous phone calls over the past few months.

Both incidents were reported to the authorities in April. However, to Amnesty International's knowledge no investigation has been opened and the Bocángel family has not been granted any protection. The campaign of intimidation against them apparently started after the investigation into the allegation of torture made by Juan Zamudio Bocángel was extended to include four more police officers.

Juan Zamudio Bocángel was allegedly tortured by police officers at La Pascana police station in the Comas District on 19 February 2005. As a result, he lost consciousness and had to be taken to a hospital in Coma, where he spent three days recovering. He filed a complaint in March 2005. Seven police officers are under investigation and the threats and acts of intimidation appear to be an attempt to make him drop the complaint against those accused of torturing him.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In the last few years, Amnesty International has documented scores of cases of torture and ill-treatment by the police (See AI report: *Torture and Ill-treatment. Time to put words into practice*, AMR 46/005/02, June 2002). Victims who report this crime, their relatives, lawyers and human rights defenders involved in legal actions against the alleged perpetrators are often threatened and intimidated. Amnesty International has called on the authorities to investigate these threats and protect the victims. However, to date, to the organization's knowledge no perpetrators have been brought to justice.

Legislation criminalising torture passed by the Peruvian Congress in 1998 has remained largely ineffective and alleged perpetrators continue to be charged with lesser offences. To Amnesty International's knowledge only in six cases have perpetrators been convicted under Peru's torture legislation. Since 1998, the Peruvian Ombudsman has reportedly received over 400 complaints of torture by the police, including more than 40 cases in which the victims have died. The Public Ministry has only opened an investigation in 120 of these cases.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Juan Zamudio Bocánel, his mother Gisela Bocánel, and other relatives following the recent attempt on his life and the increasing campaign of intimidation against them;
- calling for a prompt, impartial and independent investigation into these incidents, for the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- requesting that the outcome of the investigation be made public;
- urging the authorities to do everything in their power to guarantee the safety of Juan Zamudio Bocánel and Gisela Bocánel, in accordance with own wishes.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Rómulo Pizarro Tomasio  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n  
Urb. Córpac, San Isidro  
Lima 27, PERU

**Fax:** +51 1 225 7234

**Salutation:** Dear Minister/Estimado Sr. Ministro

Attorney General

Dra. Flora Adelaida Bolívar Arteaga  
Fiscal de la Nación  
Fiscalía de la Nación  
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n  
Lima 1, PERU

**Fax:** +51 1 427 1792

**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General/Sra. Fiscal de la Nación

**COPIES TO:**

Human rights organisation

COMISEDH  
Jr.. Horacio Urteaga 704  
Jesús María  
Lima  
PERU

**E-mail:** comisedh@amauta.rcp.net.pe

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 8 June 2006.