

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death threat, attacks and intimidation

26 March 1992

PERU

Manuel Antonio CORDOVA POLO

Luz Gladys ROQUE MONTESILLO

Cynthia Themys Quesada MONTESILLO, aged 20 months

Elisa MONTESILLO CANDELARIO DE ROQUE

Inés SINCHITULLO BARBOZA

Amnesty International is concerned about the death threat reportedly made by members of the army against Manuel Antonio Córdova Polo, a Public Ministry provincial prosecutor in Huancavelica, Huancavelica department.

According to reports, on 19 February 1992 Dr Manuel Antonio Córdova Polo was visited in his offices in Huancavelica by three armed military personnel from the military base in Lircay, Angaraes, Huancavelica department. The soldiers reportedly threatened him with death. The threat followed Dr Córdova bringing charges of homicide against the political-military commander of Huancavelica and other officers for the arbitrary detention, on 4 July 1991, of 14 peasants from the community of Santa Bárbara, province of Huancavelica, and for their subsequent extrajudicial execution (see UA 260/91, AMR 46/45/91 of 25 July 1991 and AMR 46/46/91 of 29 July 1991).

The death threat followed on from previous acts of intimidation by members of the security forces directed at members of the Public Ministry's office in Huancavelica who are involved in investigating and denouncing the Santa Bárbara killings. In July 1991 two separate incidents were reported and denounced to the Public Ministry's Fiscal de la Nación, Attorney General.

On 10 July 1991 Cynthia Themys Quesada Roque, aged 20 months and the daughter of Luz Gladys Roque Montesillo, a Huancavelica provincial prosecutor, was injured by a gunshot allegedly fired by a member of the Policía de Seguridad, Security Police, a branch of the Policía Nacional del Perú, Peruvian National Police. At the time, Cynthia Quesada was being walked through the streets of Huancavelica by her grandmother, Elisa Montesillo Candelario de Roque. On 28 July 1991 the home of Inés Sinchitullo Barboza, legal assistant at the Huancavelica Public Ministry, was reportedly attacked with explosives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past nine years Amnesty International has documented a pattern of gross human rights violations in Peru, including the cases of at least 4,000 people who have "disappeared" after having been detained by the security forces. Thousands more appear to have been killed by government forces in extrajudicial executions. Torture and other ill-treatment have also been frequently reported. Throughout these years there have also been numerous reported cases of the intimidation of independent and official human rights defenders by members of the security forces or persons alleged to be working with their support. Public prosecutors, who have a human rights ombudsman function in Peru, have complained at the lack of cooperation from the heads of political-military commands in the emergency zones.

The vast majority of these human rights violations have been carried out against a background of widespread violent abuses by the armed opposition group Partido Comunista del Perú (Sendero Luminoso), PCP, Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path), including torture and mutilation, and the murder of thousands of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the armed conflict. Another armed opposition group, the Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, MRTA, Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, has also conducted a campaign of violence which has included the killing of defenceless civilians. Amnesty International has repeatedly condemned such abuses by the PCP and the MRTA.

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

- expressing concern at the death threats against Manuel Antonio Córdova Polo, the firearm attack on the family of provincial prosecutor Luz Gladys Roque, and the attack with explosives on the home of Inés Sinchitullo Barboza;
- requesting that these incidents be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators be brought to justice;
- urging that steps be taken to ensure that representatives of the Public Ministry in Huancavelica involved in investigating the Santa Bárbara killings in July 1991 can carry out their work without risk to their physical safety or that of their families.

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 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**

3) Undersecretary of Multilateral Policy:

Sr Guillermo Guillén Salas

Embajador
Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Jr. Ucayali 363, Lima 1, Peru

Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario, Ministerior Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 20142; 20165; 20467

**(attn. Sr. Subsecretario)
Salutation: Señor Embajador /
Dear Ambassador**

4) Attorney General:

Dr Pedro Méndez Jurado
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Edificio Torre de Lima, 7 Piso
Centro Cívico
Lima, Peru

Telexes: 20055 PE MINPLUB

**Salutation: Señor Fiscal de la Nación /
Dear Attorney General**

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 7 May 1992.