

PUBLIC

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Death threat/Fear for safety

14 June 2000

PERU

Jesús Agreda Paredes , human rights defender
and his family

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Jesús Agreda Paredes , President of the *Asociación de Defensa de Derechos Humanos*, Human Rights Defence Association, ADDEH, Tacna Department.

Early in the morning on 12 June 2000, Jesús Agreda Paredes 's wife received an anonymous phone call: "*Dígale a su esposo que no se meta en el caso de Pachía, porque si no lo vamos a matar*", "Tell your husband that he must not get involved in the Pachía case, otherwise we'll kill him."

The death threat is believed to be related to ADDEH-Tacna's work on the case of Nelson Díaz Marcos, who died in Pachía town after being tortured in police custody. ADDEH-Tacna later filed criminal charges against two police officers on counts of torture and death in custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights defenders in Peru are constantly harassed, intimidated and threatened. The Peruvian authorities have taken few, if any, steps to stop such attacks, bring those responsible to justice and ensure human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear.

In June 1999, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted a resolution stating their intention to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which the UN passed on 9 December 1998. The UN agreed to "recognize and support the work carried out by Human Rights Defenders and their valuable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in the Americas". The resolution called on state members to provide "Human Rights Defenders with the necessary guarantees and facilities to continue freely carrying out their work of promoting and protecting human rights", as well as to adopt "the necessary steps to guarantee their life, liberty, and integrity".

If the Peruvian authorities are serious about allowing human rights defenders to carry out their work, they must abide by the letter and spirit of international human rights standards. By doing so they would be sending a clear signal that intimidation of human rights defenders will not be tolerated.

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

- expressing concern about the death threat received by Jesús Agreda Paredes ;
- expressing concern for the safety of Jesús Agreda Paredes and his family;
- urging the authorities to take effective steps to protect Jesús Agreda Paredes and his family;
- calling on the authorities to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the death threats and bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior
General César Enrique Saucedo
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n
Urb. Córpac
San Isidro
Lima 27
PERÚ

Fax:+511 224 2407

Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr.Ministro

Attorney General
Dr. Blanca Nélide Colán
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n
Lima 1
PERU

Fax: + 511 426 4620/5011/5010

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

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental human rights organisation
Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, CNDDHH
Jr. Túpac Amaru 2467
Lince,
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 26 July 2000.