

**PRIORITY**

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 46/65/91**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 339/91**

**Possible Extrajudicial Execution**

**11 October 1991**

**PERU: Melissa Alfaro, newspaper editor, aged 23**

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the killing of Melissa Alfaro, the editor of the weekly newspaper Cambio in Lima.

According to reports, on 10 October 1991 a letter bomb addressed to Carlos Arroyo, the Director of Cambio, was delivered by a young man to the newspaper's offices in the Lince district of Lima. Melissa Alafro was apparently killed instantly when the letter bomb exploded in her face.

Cambio, sold widely in Lima, has often denounced alleged human rights abuses by the security forces.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since a pattern of human rights violations began in Peru in 1983, human rights defenders, journalists and others who have helped bring details of human rights abuses to local and international attention, have been targets of death threats and harassment from the armed forces or para-military groups thought to be working with the acquiescence of the authorities.

In March 1991, lawyer and human rights defender Augusto Zúñiga (accent on u, tilde on n) Paz lost his arm on opening a letter bomb at the offices of the Comisión de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH), the Commission for Human Rights in Lima.

Several journalists have recently received threats from a group calling itself Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista, the Antiterrorist Liberation Command, which first emerged in June 1991, when two journalists, Magno Sosa and Nesias Taquiri, were threatened with death in the city of Ayacucho, Huamanga Province, Ayacucho department, (See UA 210/91, AI Index AMR 46/30/91, 14 June). The group also threatened journalist Luis Antonio Morales Ortega, who was subsequently killed (See UA 248/91, AI Index AMR 46/42/91, 19 July). A journalist working for "La República" in Lima, Jorge Chavez Morales, also received a threat in a letter signed by the same group (see UA 276/91, AI Index AMR 46/52/91, 12 August). Human rights organizations in Peru have expressed concern that the Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista may be acting with the direct support or the acquiescence of the armed forces.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/and airmail letters:**

- urging that a thorough and impartial investigation be immediately ordered into the killing of Melissa Alfaro by a letter bomb delivered to the offices of Cambio and that the findings be made public;
- urging that the perpetrators be brought to justice;
- urging that concrete steps be taken with the utmost urgency to guarantee the personal security of all who work for Cambio newspaper and other journalists in Lima and the interior of the country.

**APPEALS TO**

Presidente Alberto Fujimori                      **Señor Presidente**  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Gobierno  
 Plaza de Armas  
 Lima 1, Perú  
**Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO**

General EP Jorge Torres Aciego                      **Señor Ministro**  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa  
 Avenida Boulevard s/n  
 Monterrico  
 Lima 33, Perú  
**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Perú**  
**Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ**

Embajador Fernando Guillén Salas                      **Señor Embajador**  
 Subsecretario de Política Multilateral  
 Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
 Jr. Ucayali 363  
 Lima 1, Perú  
**Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario, Ministerio Relaciones**  
**Exteriores, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes: 20142/20165/20467 (Attn: Sr Subsecretario)**  
**25435 PE ESTADO**

**COPIES TO:**

Hrma. Pilar Coll  
 Secretaria Ejecutiva  
 Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos  
 Capac Yupanqui, 2151  
 Depto. 204  
 Lima, 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 22nd November 1991.