

Peru: Pamela Huaringa Félix (f)

Concern: Fear for safety/Access to justice

Pamela Huaringa Félix has been repeatedly threatened apparently to intimidate her into dropping her legal action against the police officers who allegedly fatally beat her brother in November 2004.

Her brother, Ricardo Huaringa Félix, was reportedly beaten by two police officers in the street near his house, while a third police officer prevented neighbours from intervening, saying that Ricardo had been disrespectful to them. He died in hospital as a result of his injuries.

The police officers were charged with "torture leading to death" which carries a sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. However, when the trial started in May 2006, they were charged with the lesser offence of "torture", which carries an eight-year prison sentence. The victim's family appealed against this decision.

Pamela Huaringa Félix has been actively fighting for justice since her brother died. She was reportedly abducted in November 2005 by two men who held her prisoner for six hours and beat her. The men covered her face, forced her into the boot of a nearby car and drove to a garage. They opened the boot and beat her with a blunt instrument while she was still inside. She was left that evening near a shanty town on the outskirts of Lima.

In August 2006, two of the police officers accused of fatally beating Pamela Huaringa Félix's brother were released as they had been held in pre-trial detention longer than the 18 months allowed by law. Two weeks later Pamela Huaringa Félix received anonymous phone calls including one that threatened, "...even with police protection we are going to kill you." To date, none of the perpetrators have been brought to justice and Pamela has not received adequate protection.

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of threats and intimidation of people involved in legal action against the authorities over human rights violations.

Please write to the authorities:

- Calling on the authorities to do everything in their power to guarantee the safety of Pamela Huaringa Félix, according to her wishes.
- Calling for a thorough investigation into the death threats made against her and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

Please send appeals to:

Attorney General
Dra. Adelaida Flora Bolívar Arteaga
Fiscal de la Nación
Fiscalía de la Nación
Av. Abancay, cuadra 5 s/n
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