

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

AI Index: AMR 46/002/2006 (Public)
News Service No: 010
16 January 2006

Peru: Amnesty International condemns threats made by Shining Path

Published

Amnesty International strongly condemns the threats made to Percy Tapia Vargas, representative of the Ombudsman's Office in Huancavelica, Peru.

"It is totally unacceptable that Shining Path continues to use violence and threatens people who are legitimately exercising their right to defend the fundamental rights of the population", said Nuria García, Amnesty International's Peru researcher.

Amnesty International notes the important work of the Ombudsman's Office in guaranteeing the protection and promotion of fundamental rights.

"It is time, for once and all, that Shining Path ceases all attacks against the population" concluded Ms García.

Background information

On 11 January 2006 Percy Tapia received two messages on his cellular phone which contained death threats, allegedly from members of Shining Path.

In spite of the defeat of Shining Path, small units continue operating in parts of Huallaga, the province of Huánuco in the department of Ayacucho, and in Satipo in the department of Junín. In December 2005, 13 policemen died in ambushes carried out by Shining Path members, in Aucayacu, province of Huánuco, and in the valley of the Apurímac-Ene river. In the same month, one armed confrontation between the army and Shining Path in Satipo, Junín, resulted in one dead and four wounded.

Shining Path was responsible for grave atrocities during the internal armed conflict in Peru (1980 – 2000). The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru, in its final report, found that Shining Path was responsible for nearly 54% of the crimes committed during the two decades of conflict, using extreme violence and unjustified cruelty against its victims.

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