

25 April 2000

Further information on EXTRA 34/00 (AMR 18/01/00, 11 April 2000) and follow-up (AMR 18/03/00 14 April 2000) - Fear of ill-treatment / Legal concern / death threats

BOLIVIA Released: Felipe Quispe Huanca, Fred Nuñez, Angel Claure, Francisco Partis, Emilio Rodríguez, Filomeno Rivera, Felipe Flores, Juan Yapura, Edwin Huanca, Bartolome Flores, David Goitia Benito, Franz Guzmán, Noel Guzmán Wilfredo Apaza

Death threats: Osvaldo Rioja and Jhenny Osinaga, TV journalists
Gloria Eyzaguirre and Jaime Buitrago, newspaper journalists

All those arrested after anti-government protests which led the government to declare a "state of siege" have now been released, apparently without charge. However, Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of the journalists named above, who have received death threats believed to be connected with their coverage of the demonstrations and reports into corruption.

Journalists Osvaldo Rioja and Jhenny Osinaga received anonymous telephone death threats after their TV network, *Periodistas Asociados Televisión* (PAT), Associated Journalists Television, broadcast footage of an army officer firing at the crowd during a demonstration in Cochabamba on 8 April.

The national newspaper *Presencia* has been publishing reports into government corruption. On 13 April News Editor (*Jefa de Información*) Gloria Eyzaguirre and reporter Jaime Buitrago received anonymous death threats against themselves and their families. The same day an anonymous caller told the editor's office that a bomb had been planted in the building. Both these threats have been publicly denounced.

Investigations have reportedly begun into the killing of five people, including an army officer, during the demonstrations, which took place in La Paz Department and the cities of La Paz and Cochabamba. The army has reportedly begun an investigation into why an army officer in civilian clothes was shooting at the crowd in Cochabamba on 8 April, when 17-year-old Hugo Daza was shot dead. Amnesty International will be monitoring these investigations closely.

The "state of siege" was lifted on 20 April after the government reached an agreement with peasant and trade union organisations.

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

- expressing concern at the reported death threats against journalists at PAT and *Presencia*;
- asking the authorities to guarantee their safety;

- urging an immediate, independent and exhaustive investigation into these death threats, and asking for information on any investigation already underway.

APPEALS TO: Please note that the Bolivian cabinet resigned on 24 April. A new cabinet will be appointed shortly. For the time being please send your appeals without the minister's name.

Fax numbers may be difficult to get through to. If voice answers say: "me puede dar tono de fax por favor".

Excmo. Sr. Presidente, Gral. Hugo Banzer
Palacio de Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia
Telegrams: Presidente, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes: + 5912 332055 / 391216
Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

Sr. Ministro de Gobierno,
Ministerio de Gobierno, Av. Arce esq. Belisario Salinas
La Paz, Bolivia
Telegrams: Ministro Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes: + 5912 371352 / 371334
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Sr. Ministro de Justicia,
Ministerio de Justicia, Palacio de Comunicaciones, Piso 6
Avenida Mariscal Santa Cruz, La Paz, Bolivia
Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes: + 5912 356530
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes: + 59 12 371155

Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos, Cajón Postal 9282, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes: + 5912 335715

TV Network Pat: Calle Posnaski 1069, Zona Miraflores, La Paz, Bolivia
Faxes: + 5912 222183
Newspaper Presencia: Casilla de Correo 3276, La Paz, Bolivia
Fax: + 5912 391040

and to diplomatic representatives of Bolivia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 May 2000.