

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 27/01/99

UA 25/99

Death Threat/ Fear for safety/  
Possible extrajudicial execution

16 February 1999

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo and her two children  
Remberto José Oichardo Juan (25) and Alicia María  
Pichardo Juan (19)

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo and her two children, Remberto José Pichardo Juan and Alicia María Pichardo Juan, following reports that she has received death threats.

On 9 February 1999 Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo was visited by a high-ranking official of the *Departamento Nacional de Investigaciones (DNI)*, National Department of Investigation. They warned her that the DNI was prepared to kill her children if she went forward with the publication of a book she has written, in which she denounces state corruption in the Dominican Republic.

For the past three years, Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo, former General Prosecutor of the National District of the Dominican Republic (1992-1993), has been investigating state corruption and involvement in drug trafficking. She is reportedly about to publish a book based on her experience as a prosecutor in which she denounces corruption by high ranking government officials, including ex-President Dr. Joaquín Balaguer and Claudio de los Santos who worked for Balaguer for ten years until 1996.

Amnesty International is calling on the Government of the Dominican Republic to take all necessary measures to ensure the physical integrity of Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo and her two children.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In 1996 Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo filed a citizen's complaint from Miami (USA) against a deputy and special adviser to the President, Anibal Páez, as well as other government officials. She also made a number of statements to the media charging several state officials with corruption and involvement in drug trafficking. Following these denunciations, Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo was temporarily denied access to the Dominican Republic. The officials named in the complaint then filed a criminal suit against her for defamation. She was sentenced *in absentia* (because of ill-health), and her arrest was ordered. In spite of appeals by her lawyers, she was arrested. However, she was released approximately two hours later after a massive press campaign was launched in her favour.

Claudio de los Santos is currently under investigation for his alleged involvement in the "disappearance" in 1994 of journalist Narciso González (see Annual Reports 1995 to 1998) following his public criticism of President Balaguer and the elections.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo and her two children Remberto José Pichardo Juan and Alicia María Pichardo Juan;
- calling for all necessary measures to be taken to guarantee the safety of Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo and her children;

- calling for a thorough and independent investigation into the death threats;
- calling on the government to take all necessary measures to allow Dr. Josefina Juan de Pichardo to carry out her legitimate work.

**APPEALS TO:**

S.E. Leonel Fernández Reyna  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio Nacional  
Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic

**Telegrams: Presidente, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

**Telex: 202 0011 secpres**

**e-mail: *correspondencias@presidencia.gov.do***

**Salutation: Su excelencia / Señor Presidente**

Sr. Norge Botello( Minister of State of the Interior)  
Secretario de Estado del Interior y la Policía  
Edif. de Oficinas Gubernamentales 3°  
Avda Leopoldo Navarro a esq. México  
Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic

**Telegrams: Secretario del Interior, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

**Telephone:(001 809) 689 1979**

**Salutation: Señor Secretario/ Dear Secretary of State**

Sr. Eduardo Latorre (Secretary of State)  
Secretario de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores  
Avda. Independencia 752  
Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic

**Telegrams: Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

**Telephone: + 1 809 532 4121**

**Telex: 326 4192 or 346 0014 secrela**

**Fax: + 1 809 535 4172**

**Salutation: Señor Secretario/ Dear Secretary of State**

Mariano Germán Mejía (Attorney General)  
Procurador General de la República  
Centro de los Héroeos de Constanza  
Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic

**Telegrams: Procurador General, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

**telephone: + 1 809 533 3522**

**fax: + 1 809 532 2906**

**Salutation: Señor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

General José Anibal Sanz Jimanián (Chief of Police)  
Jefe de la Policía Nacional  
Cuartel General Leopoldo Navarro  
Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic

and to diplomatic representatives of Dominican Republic accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 March 1999.