

**PERUGeneral Rodolfo ROBLES ESPINOZA, retired army officer and human rights defender
Nelly Montoya (his wife), José Robles Montoya, Rodolfo Robles Montoya and Jaime Robles Montoya (his sons)**

Amnesty International is very concerned for the safety of outspoken defender of human rights and former army officer General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza and his family who earlier this month were threatened with death and intimidated.

On 2 October 1999, the family received a number of telephone death threats at their home in the capital, Lima. According to reports, the calls accused the general of taking part in an "international campaign against the *Servicio de Inteligencia del Ejército*, Army Intelligence Service" and of being a traitor. They vowed to carry out their threats within the year.

On 5 and 6 October a number of vehicles also appeared outside their home and were seen watching and filming the family's house.

At the end of September 1999, General Robles testified before the Interamerican Commission of Human Rights in Washington DC, USA, about a case involving a teacher and ten students from La Cantuta University abducted and killed in July 1992.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 5 May 1993, General Robles issued a public statement accusing a "*destacamento especial*", "special detachment", within the Army Intelligence Service of having abducted and killed a professor and 10 students from La Cantuta University in July 1992. Before the statement went public General Robles sought refuge in a foreign embassy and later went into exile in Argentina. Before fleeing he had received a phone call telling him he would be killed.

In exile, a Peruvian military court charged him with insubordination, disobedience and other military offences relating to his public accusations in connection with the La Cantuta University case. General Robles returned to Peru on 16 June 1995, a day after President Alberto Fujimori promulgated an amnesty law closing all investigations and judicial proceedings linked to past human rights violations. The law had the effect of bringing about the immediate release of officers serving prison terms for their part in the killings at La Cantuta University. Since his return General Robles has asked to be reinstated in the army.

Amnesty International has issued two previous Urgent Actions on behalf of General Robles, who has been a longstanding and outspoken defender of human rights organizations in Peru and critical of human rights violations. The first was in 1995, after he and his family were threatened with death (see UA 146/95) and in 1996, after he was arbitrarily detained and charged with "*los delitos de Ultraje a las Fuerzas Armadas y otros*", "the crimes of Insulting the armed Forces and other [military offences]" (see UA 277/96). Amnesty International declared him to be a prisoner of conscience. He was released two weeks later.

Human rights activists in Peru are frequently threatened with death. Amnesty International has repeatedly asked the authorities to investigate these death threats impartially and independently and make sure that human rights defenders

are able to work without being intimidated. The authorities, however, do not appear to have taken effective steps to achieve this.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza, his wife, Nelly Montoya, and their three sons, José Robles Montoya, Rodolfo Robles Montoya and Jaime Robles Montoya, who have been threatened with death and intimidated at their home in Lima;
- asking the authorities to take all necessary steps to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a prompt and effective investigation into the threats against General Robles and his family, with the findings made public, and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister

Señor Alberto Bustamante Belaúnde
Primer Ministro
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza Mayor
Lima 1, PERU

Telegrams:Primer Ministro, Lima, Peru

Faxes:+ 511 4266770 (if voice answers please say: "tono de fax por favor")

Salutation:Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Interior

General César Enrique Saucedo
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n
Urb. Córpac
San Isidro
Lima 27, PERU

Telegrams:Ministro Interior, Lima, Peru

Faxes:+ 511 4753419

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Fernando de Trazegnies Granda
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Jr. Ucayali 363
Lima 1, PERU

Telegrams:Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru

Faxes:+ 511 4261123

Salutation:Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization

Asociación pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)
Jr. Pachacutec 980
Lima 11, PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of PERU accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 December 1999.