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## OPEN LETTER TO PEDRO PABLO KUCZYNSKI GODARD, PRESIDENT OF PERU

Dear President Kuczynski,

We are writing in relation to various rumours and statements surrounding a possible pardon for former president Alberto Fujimori. As you are aware, in 2009 former president Alberto Fujimori was found guilty of murder, abduction and serious injuries, carried out by his subordinates against scores of people while he was Head of State, and was sentenced to 25 years in prison for crimes against humanity.

Amnesty International irrefutably proved that during the administration of Alberto Fujimori serious violations of human rights and crimes under international law were committed such as torture, murder and enforced disappearance which, given their widespread and systematic nature, constituted crimes against humanity.

Amnesty International believes that if an individual responsible for crimes under international law were to be granted a pardon, that decision – which would in practice affect the sentence imposed – would be a direct contradiction of the obligations of the Peruvian state in accordance with international law, and could be interpreted as an action to shield or protect that individual from their criminal responsibility for these crimes.

Amnesty International considers that a pardon which revokes the legal effect of a sentence for a crime under international law should be distinguished from the granting of a humanitarian measure which, as agreed in accordance with established standards and procedures, upholds the sentence imposed and implies the transfer of the convicted person who is seriously ill to a prison hospital, to house arrest or establishes another similar measure which does not make a mockery of the sentence imposed for the crimes committed.

In light of this, the organization wishes to emphasize that any pardon or clemency granted to former president Alberto Fujimori which annuls the sentence imposed in 2009 for crimes against humanity would show contempt for the verdict and sentence passed and ratified by the Supreme Court, would violate Peru's obligations under international law and, furthermore, would undermine the fight against impunity which is far from over in the country.

In addition, it is crucial to point out the Peruvian government's duty to respect the international obligations to which it is a state party. It is therefore the state's responsibility to keep moving forward in the fight for truth, justice and reparation for the crimes against humanity committed during the internal armed conflict.

There are still ongoing criminal proceedings in the Peruvian justice system against former president Alberto Fujimori for the execution of six residents of Pativilca, a town to the north of Lima, carried out by state authorities. The possibility that the former president could benefit from a humanitarian measure, based on serious illness, should not hinder the ongoing trials and investigations against him for human rights violations and crimes under international law.

In this regard, Amnesty International expresses the importance of listening to the families of the victims and that, as president of the Republic of Peru, you consider their requests. We urge you to reply as soon as possible to the request for meetings with various victims' family members made several months ago. We also ask that you channel all the government's efforts into guaranteeing truth, justice and reparation for the victims.

Yours sincerely,

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