



LAWYERS COMMITTEE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

333 Seventh Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10001-5004  
USA

Telephone (212) 845 5200  
Facsimile (212) 845 5299  
E-mail: [nyc@lchr.org](mailto:nyc@lchr.org)  
<http://www.lchr.org>

Washington, D.C. Office:  
100 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Suite 500  
Washington D.C. 20002-5625

Telephone (202) 547 5692  
Facsimile (202) 543 5999  
E-mail: [wdc@lchr.org](mailto:wdc@lchr.org)

February 7, 2003

Dr. Alejandro Toledo  
Presidente de la República  
Calle Palacio de Gobierno- Plaza mayor s/n-  
Cercado de Lima-Lima  
Perú

Dr. Fausto Alvarado Dodero  
Ministro de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Scipion Llona 350  
Miraflores  
Lima 18  
Perú

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization based in New York, I write to express serious concern about the recent assault on the lawyer Licda. Gloria Cano, and the offices of the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH). We urge you to take the necessary measures to ensure that these human rights defenders can operate free from threats and attacks, that there is a full and impartial investigation into the reported assault, and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Licda. Gloria Cano is a well known and internationally respected human rights lawyer who has represented many victims of human right violations committed under the government of Alberto Fujimori. APRODEH is a highly esteemed human rights organization which has often been the target of threats throughout its more than twenty year existence. On the morning of January 27, 2003, a group of some 20 people outside the offices of APRODEH assaulted Licda. Gloria Cano, as she attempted to enter. The group retreated only after several of Cano's colleagues came out from the offices to protect her, before unsuccessfully trying to force a way into the building. Members of the group reportedly threatened further attacks on the organization and its staff. It is widely believed that this attack was carried out by supporters of former president Alberto Fujimori, in retaliation for the recently launched "Campaña contra la Impunidad y la Corrupción," an APRODEH initiative which seeks his extradition from Japan.

Those behind the threats and assault appear determined to hinder APRODEH's work to seek accountability for human rights violations committed under the Fujimori government. The ability of victims of human rights violations to seek justice and reparation is vital for the healing and rehabilitation not only of the victims themselves but also of society at large. The damage

**Board of Directors**

**Chair,** William D. Zabel  
**President,** Tom A. Bernstein

M. Bernard Aidinoff  
Joseph L. Brand  
Raymond M. Brown  
Lynda Clarizio  
Craig Cogut

Mitchell F. Dolin  
Donald Francis Donovan  
A. Whitney Ellsworth  
Kenneth R. Feinberg  
R. Scott Greathead

Martina A. Hone  
Robert D. Joffe  
Lewis B. Kaden  
Kerry Kennedy Cuomo  
Harold Hongju Koh

Philip A. Lacovara  
Jo Backer Laird  
Li Lu  
R. Todd Lang  
Barbara A. Schatz

Steven R. Shapiro  
George Vradenburg III  
Sigourney Weaver

**Executive Director,** Michael Posner

National Council Chair, Talbot D'Alemberte

Washington, D.C. Council Chair, Daryl Libow

done where impunity is allowed to persist has been recognized as a serious threat to human rights, and international human rights standards provide for the need to combat impunity.

Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, to which Peru is a party, the government is obligated to address such threats and attacks. In addition, the Peruvian government should act in accordance with the U.N. Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1998. This Declaration provides that “everybody has the right...to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms....”

We applaud the government’s reported commitment to Fujimori’s extradition as part of this struggle for accountability in Peru and urge further action to protect human rights defenders from attack. We will continue to monitor the situation and would appreciate any information you can provide concerning steps taken to end these threats and attacks and to pursue the perpetrators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McClintock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Michael McClintock  
Director of Program

Cc: Sr. Alberto Sanabria  
Ministro del Interior

Dra. Nelly Calderon Navarro  
Sra. Fiscal de Fiscal de la Nacion

Ambassador Allan Wagner  
Embassy of Peru