

WHO IS LORI BERENSON?

Lori Berenson is

- a young **American woman who has been held as a political prisoner in Peru since 1995** (she was 26).
- a **human rights activist and a journalist** who went to Peru to learn about the culture and the living conditions of the poor there, which make up more than half of the population.

Her Story

Because of her interviews with people from all sides of the political spectrum and **her outspoken views** on the injustice afforded woman and the poor in Peru **she caught the attention of the repressive Fujimori dictatorship.**



Dragged off a bus in November of 1995, after taking notes at the Peruvian Congress, she was **arrested and detained. Initially**, she was convicted of treason by a military tribunal and **given a sentence of life in prison** (there is no parole in Peru). **In 2000**, when it became clear to the Peruvian government that there was no evidence for this **conviction it was overturned**, and the sentence thrown out , **but Lori was not released.** In 2001, **Lori was tried again** in a civil court (which was **double jeopardy**) though this was against the Peruvian constitution and several international

treaties Peru has signed. This Court **sentenced Lori to 20 years** for collaborating with terrorists, on the accounts of one man who was promised a reduced sentence for accusing Lori, and **no real evidence.** Thus Lori was robbed of her chance for a free and fair trial and of her freedom. She remains in jail to this day with her spirits still high, and a hope that one day she will be free. Her only crime is caring too much for the suffering of the Peruvian people.

She maintains her innocence of all that she has been accused.

So why is she still in Prison?

To find out more information about Lori and what you can do to help FREE LORI BERENSON, visit our website at:

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