Join the Committee to Free Lori Berenson

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[ ] Please accept the following contribution made payable to **Free Lori Berenson** $_____

tax-deductible contributions of $50 or more can be made to the ***PROTEUS FUND:*
INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

Thank you for your support. Please return to the Committee's Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Join the Student Call to Free Lori

All interested students, faculty, and campus organizations should join a nation-wide Student Call to Free Lori Berenson. Please use this flier to help us:

1. **Build campus coalitions** and pass resolutions calling for Lori's release

2. **Raise awareness** through vigils, educational events, fundraising events, and demonstrations

3. **Sponser a campus action** on November 13, Lori's Birthday

4. **Participate in community actions** November 30, the anniversary of Lori's arrest

5. **Create a link to ww.freelori.org** from school websites

6. **Contact the national organizer** to find out how to get involved: lmfurst@freelori.org

7. **Make copies of this flier** and share with other students

Committee to
Free Lori Berenson
A young woman held political prisoner in Perú.

National Office:
110 Maryland Avenue NE, #112
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 548-8480
Fax: (202) 544-9613
Email: lmfurst@freelori.org
web site: ww.freelori.org

Free Lori Berenson!

A young woman
dedicated to social justice and committed to non-violence

Spoke out against injustice
and violations of human rights for others.

Charged with Collaborating with Terrorists.
Though no evidence exists, guilty of caring too much and exposing an unjust government, now enduring

An unjust 20 year jail sentence
though she continues to maintain her innocence and refuses to falsely implicate others in order to set herself fre.

Lori playing guitar in 1992 as a student at T.MI

Lori's Story

On November 30, 1995, Lori Berenson was arrested by Peruvian anti-terror police. She was forcibly taken off a bus in downtown Lima. At the time, she was working as a freelance journalist, preparing articles for two U.S. publications. She was 26 years old.

That was her last day of freedom

Although Lori has always been committed to non-violence, she was accused of being a leader in a Peruvian revolutionary guerrilla movement called the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). She had no chance to defend herself against preposterous charges. She was "convicted" of treason and was sentenced to life in a maximum-security prison by a hooded anonymous Army officer.

She remains in prison to this day

Lori has been held in a number of different prisons in Peru spending several years at a high altitude prison under extremely harsh, inhumane and life-threatening conditions.

Recent Events

On August 28, 200, the Supreme Military Council of Peru finally admitted that it lacked any evidence to support the charges against Lori and nullified her conviction. Rather than set her free, Peru immediately remanded her case to the Civilian Terrorism courts where she underwent a second "trial" even though this **constituted "double jeopardy" under Peruvian law.**

On June 20, 2001 the court declared that she was not a member of the MRTA and did not participate in any violent act. Lori was found guilty of assisting the MRTA and sentenced to 20 years even though there was no witness testimony or documents to support this verdict. Unfortunately, this trial demonstrated what the U.S. Department of State and many human rights groups have stated, that the Special Civilian Courts for Terrorism in Peru do not meet international standards of openness, fairness, and due process. **Among the due process violations are the following:**

- **Presumption of guilt-** In public statements the chief judge implied Lori must prove her innocence to the court, in direct violation of the Peruvian Constitution and international law requiring that she be considered innocent until proven guilty.
- **Insufficient means and time for preparation of defense–** the defense was notified of the charges only four days before the public trial.
- **Prejudgment of and bias against Lori-** the chief judge declared Lori guilty two years before the trial began, and the three-judge panel made repeated claims that Lori was guilty as soon as the public trial began.
- **Use of tainted evidence–** The prosecution relied on witness statements made under torture, or threats of torture and were repeatedly hostile to those who did not state what they expected to hear.

Lori dancing with her father in December 199

In February of 200, the Supreme Court of Peru upheld the sentence of 20 years.

Lori has always maintained her innocence on all charges against her. In a letter to the human rights community in August 1998 she wrote, "I have never been a member of the MRTA; I have never participated in the planning of a violent act, neither with the MRTA nor anybody else; neither have I promoted violence, and, what is more, I do not believe in violence and it would not be possible for me to participate in violence."

Lori has been declared a political prisoner by Amnesty International. The United Nations High Commission on Human Rights has stated that Lori has been arbitrarily detained.

Thanks to the urging of supporters in the U.S., the majority of the House of Representatives and 44 Senators have signed letters supporting Lori's release.

President Bush urged a humanitarian resolution to Lori's case and Secretary of State Powell expressed his concern to Peruvian President Toledo.

Please join the thousands of supporters throughout the world who want to help bring Lori home to her friends and family.