

FREE LORI BERENSON: A AMERICAN WOMAN HELD AS A POLITICAL PRISONER IN PERU

Who Is Lori?

Lori Berenson is a US citizen currently being held as a political prisoner in Cajamarca Prison in Peru. After serving nearly five years in harsh Peruvian jails high in the Andes, her conviction of treason against Perú and her life sentence were overturned. In June 2001 she was cleared of charges of being a terrorist, but convicted of collaboration, and sentenced to twenty years in prison by a civilian terrorism court which, according to the U.S. State Department, "fails to meet international standards of openness, fairness, and due process."

Why Was Lori in Peru?



Lori traveled to Perú in November 1994 and became intrigued with the rich indigenous history, culture, and also interesting political atmosphere. In April 1992, Perú had witnessed a "self-coup" and political upheaval as President Alberto Fujimori attempted to bring peace and order to the chaotic nation with strong leadership and repressive anti-terrorism laws. Lori traveled throughout the country learning about the culture and meeting many poor Peruvians (not difficult to find in a country that has had poverty rates of over 50%). After half a decade of hands-on experience with and study of poverty and the plight of Latin America, Lori was able to obtain assignments from two U.S. publications, Modern Times and Third World Viewpoint, to work as a free-lance journalist. She secured appropriate press credentials in Lima. At the time of her arrest she was researching articles about the effects of poverty on women in Perú.

What Can I do?

Please write or call to tell the following that Lori has been in prison for far too long without a fair trial . Ask that they do everything in their power to secure Lori's release. :

President George W. Bush 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The White House Washington D.C. 20500 202-456-1111 (press 0 for a hot-line operator)	Secretary of State Colin Powell US Department of State Washington, DC 20520 202-647-4000 (ask for comment line, press 3)	Your Senators (202) 224-3121 and Representatives: (202) 225-3121
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The Committee to Free Lori Berenson, Laura M. Furst, National Organizer:
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