

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

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March 14, 1999

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ms. D. Margaret Drury
Office of the City Clerk
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

Thank you for your letter on Lori Berenson's imprisonment in Peru. I share your concern over this case, and I apologize for the delay in my response.

As you know, Ms. Berenson, an American citizen, was convicted of treason in Peru by a closed military tribunal and sentenced to life in prison, as a result of her alleged involvement in the Marxist terrorist group called the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

The Peruvian Government has consistently violated due process rights of defendants such as Ms. Berenson by trying them in military tribunals instead of civilian courts. Despite repeated protests from the U.S. Ambassador about Ms. Berenson's trial and conviction, little has been done by the Peruvian Government to correct this injustice.

Equally disturbing is Ms. Berenson's conviction of treason. Under international law, it is unlawful to prosecute a non-resident of a nation for treason, and Ms. Berenson's lawyers have also appealed her conviction on these grounds.

My office has repeatedly raised concerns over Ms. Berenson's imprisonment with the State Department and the White House. The case has also been raised by President Clinton, but the Peruvian Government has remained unwilling to release her or retry her.

I will continue to do all I can to see that justice is done in this case, and I thank you for writing me on this important

issue.

Sincerely,

E.M. Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy

EK:PL

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Consent Communication #1

A communication was received from
Senator Edward M. Kennedy, transmitting
continued concern relative to Lori
Berenson's imprisonment in Peru.

In City Council April 12, 1999

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