

FOR TRUE RECONCILIATION IN PERU

*Letter from international evangelical leaders in response to the pardoning of former dictator
Alberto Fujimori*

"Without justice there is no peace; peace is the effect of justice "(Isaiah 32:17)

Given the pardon granted by the Peruvian government to former President Alberto Fujimori, who had been sentenced to 25 years in prison for crimes against humanity during the internal armed conflict, we the undersigned, leaders of evangelical organisations and churches of various countries around the world, declare the following:

1. We express our deep concern that the improper granting of the pardon to Mr. Alberto Fujimori has caused not only a political crisis but also a setback in the process of authentic reconciliation that allows for the healing of wounds and the reparation of the victims.
2. We believe that this pardon does not contribute to the process of national reconciliation because it turns its back on the victims, and because it is the product of an apparent pact of impunity. We believe that without sincere repentance of the perpetrators and without meeting the expectation of justice and reparations for those whose rights were trampled, an authentic reconciliation cannot be achieved.
3. We join the voices and actions of people and organisations of civil society, including those of our brothers and sisters from a number of churches in Peru, who demand a true process of reconciliation based on justice, truth and respect for the dignity of all Peruvians, in particular the people and families who suffered the insanity of terror and violence.
4. We salute the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that will analyse the pardon granted to Alberto Fujimori, in the framework of a public hearing to be held on February 2 in San José, Costa Rica in order to monitor compliance with their rulings in the Barrios Altos and La Cantuta cases. We pray that the magistrates of the Court have the necessary wisdom to resolve this petition with justice, helping to correct the damage caused.

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