



THE CARTER CENTER



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## CONDITIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN PERU, BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN

*Lima, Peru -- January 26, 2001:* An international pre-election delegation organized jointly by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and The Carter Center issued a 9-page statement at a press conference today in Lima. The six-member delegation included persons from five countries and was led by former President of Guatemala and present Vice President of the Congress of Guatemala, Ramiro de Leon Carpio.

***Former President of Guatemala, Ramiro de Leon Carpio said: “Peru is in the midst of dramatic, positive changes in its democratic development. The country is now presented with an exceptional opportunity to expose and dismantle the network of intimidation and corruption that subverted its democracy.” He added that: “Actions by citizens to take ownership of the process are needed not only to strengthen the mandate of government but also to confirm that safeguards are being put in place to ensure that the people’s will may never again be denied.”***

Among the positive developments noted by the delegation were: the new government as well as the electoral bodies have established a high degree of public confidence; investigations of the massive network of corruption of the Fujimori regime unveiled by video tapes and other materials are underway; actions are being taken to break the culture of impunity for human rights violations and election fraud; news media are operating openly; civic groups are mobilizing to monitor the election process; and the military has declared its political neutrality.

A number of important challenges to organizing the elections were identified by the delegation, which offered a series of corresponding recommendations, grouped under eight themes, including: cautioning that further changes to the electoral framework could make it difficult to meet the April 8 election date; urging that political parties and presidential candidates adopt a formal agreement on maintaining civility in the election campaign, urging broad citizen participation in the election process; and noting that dialogue about democratic reforms should continue after the elections.

***The text of the delegation’s statement can be found on the worldwide web at: [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org) and at [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)***