

file Peru

Dear Keiko:

citizens
As the people of Peru face decisions of profound importance for the future of your country, I wanted to let you know that you and your ~~countrymen~~ are in my thoughts and prayers. I am hopeful that Peru will emerge with a strengthened commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and I deeply appreciate the efforts you have made to promote this objective.

I remember fondly our conversations at previous Conferences of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Today, I write to ask you for your help in resolving an issue that matters a great deal to me personally -- the case of Lori Berenson. I understand this issue was discussed at length in the recent meeting between your father and Mr. Berger, President Clinton's National Security Advisor.

As you know, this young American woman has been imprisoned in Peru under difficult conditions for nearly five years. Her incarceration at high altitudes and in virtual isolation has taken its toll on her health and well-being. Her family has suffered greatly from being separated from their daughter, and from the strain of watching her health deteriorate. As a mother of a daughter not much younger than Lori, I can only imagine their pain.

I realize that this matter is beyond the purview of your immediate responsibilities, but I appeal to you to do all you can to encourage her release on humanitarian grounds. As First Ladies, it is often our role to encourage humane and compassionate solutions to difficult problems. I ask that you do so in this case, so that Ms. Berenson can be reunited with her father and mother as soon as possible.

I regret that it will not be possible for me to participate in the Conference of Spouses of Heads of State that you will chair in Lima in October, but I wish you and all the participants every success in this important meeting.

Sincerely,

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pls type up for
love to sign -