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US DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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STATEMENT BY NICHOLAS BURNS, SPOKESMAN

PERU - BARUCH IVCHER CASE

The Baruch Ivcher case, in which a Peruvian media figure is being harassed and threatened with criminal prosecution for his TV station's reporting and commentary about Peruvian government officials and the Peruvian military, is an issue of concern for us. It appears that the Peruvian government is taking action to strip Mr. Ivcher of his Peruvian citizenship for political reasons. These actions raise fundamental questions of freedom of the press and freedom of expression. The need to respect freedom of expression and press is an essential element of democracy, and support for democracy is a cornerstone of US foreign policy. If there are any credible criminal or civil charges against Mr. Ivcher, we expect that they will be resolved in fair and open court proceedings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M. BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 21 DEC 2001 200102972

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