

# LASA condemns the smear campaign and redbaiting against Ruth Borja Santa Cruz

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The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) strongly condemns the smear campaign and redbaiting against the distinguished Peruvian historian and archivist [Ruth Borja Santa Cruz](#), professor at San Marcos University and director of the Archivo Histórico in the Archivo General de la Nación. We reject the false accusations made against her which can threaten her work to preserve Peruvian memory archives and sites and could pose a danger to her. LASA condemns the use of fake news and sensationalist campaigns that impede rigorous academic and professional work.

[On May 26, 2024, Willax Televisión \(IP Noticias\) ran an eighteen-minute special report about the controversial potential move of the Archivo General de la Nación.](#) It included accusations that she has familial ties with the Shining Path, through a sister-in-law. The reporting failed to mention that Borja Santa Cruz and her former husband (whose sister is accused of having belonged to the Shining Path and who presumably died in the 1980s) have been divorced for fifteen years and she has never expressed any support for the Shining Path. Furthermore, it did not mention any of her academic and professional credentials, which include overseeing the creation of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Archive, the digitalization of the Confederación Campesina del Perú Archive, and her work at the National Archive. The report also left out her position as professor of history at San Marcos University and her BA and licenciatura from that university and her MA from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

Willax has long sought to silence independent journalists, human rights activists, and critics of conservative politicians by inventing or exaggerating ties with the Shining Path. These attacks can be dangerous to their victims and clearly undermine Borja Santa Cruz's academic freedoms. Some have reported death threats after Willax had fabricated their supposed "terrorist" connections and leading journalists face constant aggression. LASA expresses its support to this active member of the memory and history community in Peru.

- [Una guerra donde la víctima es la memoria](#)
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- [AGN alista su mudanza a terreno en Callao tras precarias condiciones en Palacio de Justicia](#)
- [Archivo General de la Nación será trasladado a zona industrial del Callao](#)
- [Documentos históricos del Archivo General de la Nación en peligro por goteras, fisuras y filtraciones en el sótano de Palacio de Justicia](#)

## About LASA

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the world's largest professional association constituted by individuals and institutions devoted to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. LASA currently has over 13,000 members from around the world and a committee that defends academic freedom and human rights.

If you wish to interview a LASA Executive Council member, you can contact the LASA communications office at (412) 648-7929 or send an email to [lasa@lasaweb.org](mailto:lasa@lasaweb.org).

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