

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Please bring this action to the attention of the person responsible for trade union outreach work.

UA 341/92 Extrajudicial Execution

5 November 1992

PERU: Josías RAMIREZ ANGULO, aged 36, trade union leader

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported extrajudicial execution by members of the army of Josías Ramírez Angulo, a leading trade unionist of the Sindicato de Trabajadores Municipales de Lamas, Lamas Municipal Workers Union. The organization is also concerned at the apparent failure by the head of the Huallaga Front Political-Military Command to order a corporal accused of the killing to appear before the Public Ministry's provincial prosecutor or the police in Lamas.

According to reports, shortly after midnight on 7-8 September 1992, Josías Ramírez was shot in the back as he was returning to his home in a central neighbourhood of Lamas, capital of the province of Lamas, San Martín department. The wife of the victim reported the killing to the police in Lamas. A similar report and request for an investigation was made by the executive secretary of the Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Human Rights Coordinating Committee and the Lamas Municipal Workers Union, to the Ministry of Defence and to the Attorney General's office respectively.

A death certificate issued by the local hospital authorities is reported to state that the victim had suffered "*múltiples lesiones por proyectil de arma de fuego*", "multiple wounds produced by firearm bullets". According to the Oficina Prelatural de Acción Social de Moyobamba, Social Action Office of the Moyobamba Prelature, investigations by the office of the Lamas provincial prosecutor concluded that a corporal attached to the Compañía Especial N. 115, del Comando Tarapoto, Special Unit N. 115 of the Tarapoto Command, led by an army captain codenamed "Cobra" was responsible for the killing.

According to reports the Lamas provincial prosecutor has written on four occasions to General Eduardo Bellido Mori, head of the Huallaga Front Political-Military Command requesting that the corporal report to the prosecutor's office or to the police. The head of the Command has apparently refused to order the corporal to comply with the request.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

President Fujimori and his government assumed power on 28 July 1990. The government inherited a legacy of gross human rights violations dating back to January 1983, including thousands of cases of "disappearance" and

extrajudicial execution. In his inaugural speech the President stated that his government would fully respect human rights. On a number of subsequent occasions President Fujimori and representatives of his government have repeated that pledge. However, according to the cases documented by Amnesty International, between 28 July 1990 and 31 July 1992 some 566 people allegedly "disappeared" after arrest and 151 were extrajudicially executed. Dozens of cases of torture, and of death threats and attacks on human rights defenders, have also been documented by the organization since July 1990.

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Human rights violations occur in the context of the government's counter-insurgency operations directed against the clandestine armed opposition groups Partido Comunista del Perú, (Sendero Luminoso), PCP, Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path) and the Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, (MRTA), Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Amnesty International opposes the deliberate and arbitrary killing by the armed opposition of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the internal conflict, and of members of the security forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the reported extrajudicial execution of Josías Ramírez Angulo by members of the army attached to the Tarapoto Command;
- urging the government to ensure that the military staff of San Martín complies with the requests of the provincial prosecutor in order to clarify the responsibility for Josías Ramírez's death;
- urging that a full, independent and impartial investigation be immediately ordered into the killing;
- urging that the results be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that all necessary steps be taken to prevent further such killings.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, PERU

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO

Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of Defence:

General EP Victor Malca Villanueva
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Boulevard s/n
Monterrico
Lima 33, PERU

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Villanueva, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

3) President of the Armed Forces Joint Command:

General Nicolás Hermoza Ríos
Presidente del Comando Conjunto de las
Fuerzas Armadas
291 Av. Arequipa

**Telegrams: Presidente del Comando Conjunto de las
Fuerzas Armadas, Lima, PERU**

Salutation: Señor General / Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Association:

Señores
CEAPAZ
Costa Rica 150
Lima 11
PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 December 1992.