

COUNTRY: PERU_______
SUBJECT TITLE: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
DIRECTED AGAINST PEASANT COMMUNITIES

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Amnesty International has received reports that in June 1989 several peasant communities faced looting, rape and killings by military units engaged in counter-insurgency operations. The report suggest that in the course of several of these incidents soldiers had established themselves on the premises of local churches and that some of the reported human rights violations took place in the churches. In one of the cases described, soldiers are said to have wounded a 13-year-old girl with a bayonet after raping her in the church.

At least 14 peasants are reported to have been murdered during these incidents.

According to reports on 27 June 1989 a 27 strong army patrol led by a major and three other officers, entered the village of Pampamarca, in the Aucara district, Lucanas province, Ayacucho department. The villagers were assembled in the main square and made to stay there for two days. A military headquarters was established in the village church, from where orders and instructions were issued to the troops.

During these two days the following farmers $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

Estanislao Polanco Rojas Andres Huamani Polanco Francisco Ramos Bautista Maria Bautista Quispe Virgilio Barrientos Ramos Franco Ramirez Virginio Barrientos Polanco Clemente Chaupion Barrientos Esteban Barrientos Vega Ignacio Tito

According to reports, during these two days farmers' houses were looted by the soldiers and many of their livestock shot and used to feed the troops. Testimonies taken by local human rights groups revealed that peasants who refused to cooperate with the troops were killed as was apparently the fate of the farmers of the Santa Ana locality.

On 13 June an army patrol came to the Santa Ana locality, also in Lucanas. They were shooting and noisy. Most of the community escaped to higher ground, only the elderly remaining at home. The following four villagers were killed:

Domingo Quispe (over 95 years old) Crisóstomo Condori Quispe (58) Natividad Quispe (90) Alejandro Quispe Condori (60)

At dusk on 26 June the soldiers returned but this time they illuminated the place with flares (<u>bengalas</u>) and found the community asleep. They forced the villagers to gather in the the main square, treating them with violence. Women, children and the elderly were assembled in the local church. Testimonies received by Peruvian human rights organizations reveal that soldiers raped young women on the church premises. Three elderly men were killed (names not known by Amnesty International). Casimira Quispe Condori, a 14-year-old student was wounded in the back by a bayonet while in the church, after having been raped.

Amnesty International has been receiving reports of numerous army incursions in isolated rural areas where Shining Path guerrillas are supposed to have been active, apparently with the purpose of intimidating and frightening the communities. Soldiers remove people that are believed to have helped the guerrillas by giving them shelter or who may have information about them. They usually force the villagers to gather in the main square while they search their houses. All the reports describe soldiers looting and ransacking the villagers' homes, including their livestock and there are many accounts of the rape of women and young girls. As a matter of routine the military refuse to acknowledge any arrests made in the course of these counter-insurgency operations, even though they have been witnessed by the entire community. When farmers are killed, the military often report that they died fighting the soldiers.

In the case of isolated villages, it may take victims' relatives a long time to reach lawyers or human rights organizations to whom they can denounce the "disappearances", killings or other human rights abuses they have faced.

00/00/88), issued by Amnesty International in 00 MONTH, 1988. Anyone wanting further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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