

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

27 November 1990

PERU:

Juan CAMACHO CASTRO (aged 19)

Rubén CAMACHO CASTRO (aged 13)

Jesús DONAIRES CHACON (aged 28)

Margarita ESCALANTE QUINTANA (aged 28)

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the above four people, who include a thirteen-year-old boy.

According to reports, on 12 November 1990 the above four people were detained by soldiers in the city of Abancay, Apurimac department. The reports indicate that the detainees were taken to the Abancay army headquarters (Cuartel de Abancay). When relatives tried to obtain information on their whereabouts, military authorities refused to acknowledge the detentions.

Relatives of the above and human rights groups have denounced the "disappearance" to the Provincial Attorney and to the General Attorney in Lima respectively.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of "disappearances" from Peru. Most of them have occurred in rural areas and have been preceded by detentions carried out by uniformed members of the security forces, who refuse to acknowledge the detentions.

Many of those detained by the armed forces "disappear" indefinitely; others are released after days or weeks in secret custody, during which time they may be subjected to torture. Sometimes their detention is acknowledged, after prolonged secret detention and interrogation. In these cases detentions are only acknowledged to have occurred as of the date they are transferred from military to police custody, when public prosecutors are informed of them. The armed forces as a rule never acknowledge having held prisoners prior to their transfer to the police.

This is a major contributing factor to the continuing practice of "disappearance".

Human rights violations take place in a context of increasingly violent activities by armed opposition groups, especially "Sendero Luminoso", which has claimed responsibility for hundreds of execution-style killings of government officials, leaders of left-wing political parties and members of peasant communities believed to have cooperated with the armed forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telexes/Telegrams/air-mail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the four people mentioned above;
- urging that their whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;
- urging that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to lawyers, doctors and relatives.

APPEALS TO;

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

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Perú
 Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO or 20331 PE SEC PRE

General Jorge Torres Aciego
 Ministro de Defensa
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Avenida Boulevard
 Monterrico
 Lima 33, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Perú
 Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ
 Faxes: + 51 14 35 9997

General Adolfo Alvarado Fournier
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
 San Isidro, Urb Corpac
 Lima 27, Perú

Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI
 Telegrams: Ministro Interior Alvarado, Lima, Perú
 Faxes: +51 14 41 5128

COPIES TO:

Señores
 Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH)
 Apartado Postal 11-0247
 Lima 11, Perú (National Commission for Human Rights)

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 8 January 1991.