



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

23 March 1990

PERU: Guillermina ARMAS CUEVA
Raúl Bernardino ARMAS CUEVA

Amnesty International is concerned at the "disappearance" of hospital worker Guillermina Armas Cueva and her brother Raúl Bernardino, after their reported detention by soldiers.

At lam. on 8 March 1990, a group of soldiers reportedly entered 29-year-old Guillermina Armas' house in Huancayo, Junín department, and took her away together with her 18-year-old brother Raúl Bernardino. Guillermina is 8 months pregnant. Reports also indicate that Raúl Bernardino managed to send a written message to say that they were being held at the Cuartel 9 de Diciembre (9 December barracks) in Huancayo, and that he had been tortured.

Relatives of the detainees presented a writ of habeas corpus and went with a judge to the Cuartel 9 de Diciembre, but the authorities refused to acknowledge holding them in detention. A visit to the headquarters of the Political-Military Command of the area also failed to obtain acknowledgment of their detention. A new writ of habeas corpus was then presented, to the office of the provincial attorney. This time, the head of the Political-Military Command, General Manuel Delgado Rojas, sent a written reply reiterating that Guillermina and Raúl Bernardino were not being held in detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The armed forces in the emergency zones under political-military command (as in the case with Huancayo) persistently deny holding prisoners at any military installation in the areas under their command. Many suspects detained by the armed forces "disappear" indefinitely; others are released after days or weeks in secret custody without explanation or formal recognition by the armed forces that the detention ever took place. Sometimes suspects are turned over to the police after prolonged secret detention and interrogation at military installations. In these cases detentions are only acknowledged to have occurred as of the date they appear in police custody when public prosecutors are informed of them. The armed forces, as a rule, never acknowledge having held prisoners prior to the transfer to the police. This is a major contributing factor to the continuing practice of "disappearance".

Human rights violations in Peru take place in a context of increasingly violent activities by armed opposition groups, particularly "Sendero Luminoso", which has claimed responsibility for hundreds of execution-style killings of government officials as well as leaders of left-wing political parties who criticize the actions of this group.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" after detention of Guillermina and Raúl Bernardino Armas, (mention may be made that they are believed to be held at the Cuartel 9 de Diciembre);

urging that their legal situation be clarified;

- urging that while in detention they be humanely treated and granted access to their relatives and a lawyer.

APPEALS TO:

General Manuel Delgado Rojas
Jefe del Comando Político-Militar
Av. 13 de Noviembre 259
Huancayo, PERU

General Julio Velásquez Giacarini
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Lima, PERU

Telegrams: General Delgado, Jefe
Comando Militar, Huancayo, Peru

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa
Velasquez, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 25438 CONGREGI PE
21201 DIECOJ PE

Dr Agustín Mantilla Campos
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150-CORPAC
San Isidro
Lima 27, PERU

Telegrams: Ministro Interior Mantilla,
Lima, Peru
Telexes: 21133 PE OCM I
Faxes: + 51 14 415128

COPIES TO:

Comisión Andina de Juristas
Los Sauces 285
Lima 27
PERU

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 4 May 1990.