

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/02/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 54/94      "Disappearance"

16 February 1994

PERU:                      **Hugo ZAPATA GUTIERREZ**

---

Amnesty International is gravely concerned by the reported "disappearance" of Hugo Zapata Gutierrez, on 15 December 1993, after he was allegedly asked to present himself at the *Base Militar Contrasubversiva de Uleumago*, Uleumago Counter-insurgency Military Base.

According to reports, in the evening of 15 December 1993, Hugo Zapata, a teacher, went to the base from his home in Villac, a hamlet located in the district of Uleumago, Junín province, department of Junín. At the time, Hugo Zapata was seen by a neighbour in the company of three men whom the neighbour was unable to identify, but who other residents in Villac identified as members of the local army-controlled civil defence patrol. As he left his home, Hugo Zapata told his neighbour that his presence had been requested at the Uleumago military base.

The following day the local authorities in Villac, having noted Hugo Zapata's failure to turn up at a ceremony being held at the school where he worked, approached the military base for information as to his whereabouts. The lieutenant in charge of the base denied that Hugo Zapata was being held there.

On 19 December the Villac authorities reported the "disappearance" to the local justice of the peace. On the same day Hugo Zapata's sister and wife did likewise before a provincial prosecutor attached to the *Fiscalía Especial de Defensoría del Pueblo y Derechos Humanos*, Special Office for the Defence of the People and Human Rights, in the city of Huancayo.

On 27 December Hugo Zapata's relatives, again went to the provincial prosecutor's office, and named three members of the local civil defence patrol and the lieutenant commanding the military base, as those responsible for the detention and "disappearance". The three patrol members were named on the basis of information received by the complainants, from residents in Villac who claimed that these patrol members were on duty at the time.

On 28 December the provincial prosecutor visited the Uleumago Counter-insurgency Military Base to investigate the "disappearance" of Hugo Zapata, but failed to clarify his whereabouts. By the end of January 1994 the authorities had failed to clarify Hugo Zapata's fate.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1983 Amnesty International has documented at least 3000 cases of people who were "disappeared", following their detention by members of the Peruvian security forces. The vast majority of these "disappearances" have never been thoroughly and independently investigated, and those responsible for them have not been brought to justice. During 1993 the number of reported "disappearances" fell drastically in comparison with previous years under the government of President Alberto Fujimori, and that of his predecessors, former presidents Belaúnde Terry (1980-1985) and García Pérez (1985-1990). However, Amnesty International has documented 49 cases of "disappearance" during 1993 which remained unresolved at the end of last year.

The pattern of systematic human rights violations in Peru, which includes "disappearances", extrajudicial executions, torture, and unfair trials, has unfolded over the years in the context of a prolonged counter-insurgency campaign against the clandestine *Partido Comunista del Perú (Sendero Luminoso)*, PCP, Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path), and the *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, MRTA*, Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. The PCP,

and to a lesser extent the MRTA, have carried out thousands of deliberate and arbitrary killing of civilians, and of members of the security forces who have laid down their arms, been injured, or captured by their armed units. Amnesty International is unreservedly opposed to and condemns these atrocities.

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

- expressing concern at the reported detention and "disappearance" of Hugo Zapata Gutiérrez on 15 December 1993, by members of a civil defence patrol and of the army stationed at the *Base Militar Contrasubversiva de Uleamayo*, in the district of Uleamayo, Junín department;

- asking that his whereabouts be disclosed, and that he either be brought before a judge and charged with a recognizable offence, or released immediately;

- urging that he be humanely treated and given access to an independent lawyer, a doctor, and his relatives.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

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

**Telegrams:** President Alberto Fujimori, Lima, PERU

**Telexes:** 20167 PE PALACIO

**Salutation:** Señor Presidente/Dear Mr President

2) Public Ministry's Attorney General

Dra. Blanca Nélida Colán Maguiño  
Fiscal de la Nación  
Fiscalía de la Nación  
Azangaro  
Lima, PERU

**Telegrams:** Fiscal de la Nación, Lima, PERU

**Faxes:** + 5114 33 44 57

**Salutation:** Estimada Señora Fiscal de la Nación/Dear Attorney General

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Organization:

FEDEPAZ

Av. Comandante Espinar 266

Oficina B

Lima 18, PERU

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 March 1994.