

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 154/92 "Disappearance"

12 May 1992

PERU: Jesús NORIEGA RIOS, aged 40
 Pedro LOPEZ GONZALEZ, aged 40
 Denis CASTILLO CHAVEZ, aged 23
 Gilmer LEON VELASQUEZ, aged 23
 Roberto BENITEZ VELASQUEZ, aged 45
 Carlos BENITEZ VELASQUEZ, aged 23
 Carlos TARAZONA MORE, aged 30
 Jorge TARAZONA MORE, aged 26

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the above eight men from the hamlet of Huaca, district and province of Santa in the department of Ancash. The eight men were reportedly detained in the hamlet by members of the Peruvian National Police (PNP) on 4 May 1992.

According to witnesses' reports, the eight men were forced into a police vehicle by members of the PNP who were carrying out an operation in the area.

Relatives of the detainees, in their efforts to obtain information as to their whereabouts, were told at several police stations that the men were not detained. Relatives lodged a complaint about the alleged "disappearances" at the office of the fiscal provincial, provincial attorney, in Chimbote, capital of Santa province. They also filed a habeas corpus before a judge in Chimbote.

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 30 April 1992 some 392 people who were "disappeared", remained unaccounted for. A further 169 people were reportedly 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" of the eight men named above, from the hamlet of Huaca, district and province of Santa, in the department of Ancash, following their reported arrest by members of the Peruvian National Police;
- urging that their whereabouts be immediately clarified;

- asking that they be brought before a judge so that they may be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or be immediately released;

- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to an independent lawyer, doctor, relatives and a representative of the Public Ministry;

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- urging that the government immediately and regularly make available a completed and updated register of people detained after the 5 April 1992.

APPEALS TO:

1) President

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1 PERU

Telegrams: Presidente Alberto Fujimori, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO

[Salutation: Señor Presidente/Dear President]

2) Minister of the Interior

General EP Juan Briones Dávila
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
San Isidro
Urbanización Corpac
Lima 27, PERU

Telegrams: General Briones, Ministro Interior, Lima, PERU

Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI; 21697

[Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister]

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Señores
COMISEDH
Apartado 11-0247
Lima
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 23 June 1992.