

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/26/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 187/91 Extrajudicial Executions and "Disappearances"

4 June 1991

PERU:

Extrajudicial Executions

Juan FLORES VELA	17 April
Dorlis MONTALVAN VARGAS	13 May
Lorenzo VASQUEZ FERNANDEZ	"

"Disappearances"

Romelio RENGIFO DIAZ	13 May
Mauro RENGIFO DIAZ	"
Normando RENGIFO DIAZ	"
Esther MONTALVAN PINEDO	"
Ana MONTALVAN RUCEBA	"
Hernán PIZANGO VASQUEZ	"
María Etelvina BRAVO PEÑA	"
Darwin LAVI RENGIFO	"
Nicolás LABAJOS LOPEZ	"

Amnesty International is concerned about reports of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions in the department of San Martín during the months of April and May 1991.

Eleven people were reportedly detained in the presence of witnesses on 13 May by combined forces of the army and the Dirección de Operativos Especiales de las Fuerzas Policiales, (DOES), the special operations unit of the police. Some were reportedly detained in their homes and others on the street in the district of Habana, Moyobamba province. Nine of those detained have subsequently "disappeared".

According to reports, the bodies of two of the detainees, Dorlis Montalvan Vargas and Lorenzo Vásquez Fernández, were subsequently found on 29 May at Puente Río Negro in the city of Rioja, Moyobamba province. Amnesty International is thus seriously concerned for the safety of those who have "disappeared".

Another body has been found in Tarapoto province in circumstances which suggest he was extrajudicially executed. Juan Flores Vela, a teacher from the "El Huaico" area of Tarapoto, was reportedly detained by members of the army at his home on 17 April. His body was found a few hours later not far from his home.

All of the above cases have been denounced to the Attorney General and to the Provincial Prosecutors of Moyobamba and Tarapoto.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These incidents have taken place within the context of an increasing number of reports of human rights violations occurring in the department of San Martín.

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of incommunicado and unacknowledged detentions from Peru, some of which have led to "disappearances". Most of them have occurred in rural areas and have been carried out by uniformed members of the security forces, who often 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 the detainees are transferred from military to police custody, when public prosecutors are informed of the detention. 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 torture and "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 ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing fears for the safety of the nine people listed above as "disappeared", after their detention on 13 May;
- urging that their whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified and that they be immediately brought before a judge or released;
- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to lawyers, a doctor and relatives;
- expressing concern about the reported extrajudicial execution of the three people listed above;
- asking that full and impartial investigations be initiated, the results be made public and those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

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

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

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

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 25483 PE COMGREGJ

Jefe Político-Militar de San Martín
Cuartel Mariscal Cáceres
Morales
Tarapoto
San Martín, Perú

Telegrams: Jefe Politico-Militar, San Martin, Peru

COPIES TO:

Señores
Oficina Prelatural de Acción Social de Moyobamba
Apartado 385
Tarapoto
San Martín, Perú

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 July 1991.