

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/30/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 210/91

Death Threats

14 June 1991

PERU: Magno SOSA ROJAS, 24
 Necías (Necho) TAQUIRI

Amnesty International is concerned about the death threats against two journalists of the city of Huamanga, in the province of Huamanga, Ayacucho department.

On 10 June 1991, at 11.30 am, workers of Radio Wari, in the city of Huamanga, were reportedly forced by a paramilitary group to transmit a message threatening journalists Magno Sosa Rojas and Necías (Necho) Taquiri with death. The message was made in the name of a group calling itself the "Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista", Antiterrorist Liberation Command.

Magno Sosa Rojas is a correspondent of the SÍ magazine in Ayacucho, works for Agence France Press and is the director of a news programme called "Propósito", Purpose, at the Satélite radio station in the city of Huamanga. Necías "Necho" Taquiri is director of the news programme "Alternativa", Alternative, at the Wari radio station in Huamanga.

The death threat that Radio Wari was forced to transmit to Magno Sosa Rojas included the following sentence:

"... le decimos al rata, delincuente, terrorista, enmascarado de periodista, al maldito perro Magno Sosa Rojas, ... que morirá como perro degollado..., estamos milimetrando sus pasos, sus días están contados ... y como los terrucos lo han hecho, nosotros colgaremos su negra cabeza de uno de los postes de nuestro heroico pueblo ..."

"... we tell this rat, delinquent, terrorist, disguised as a journalist, ... this bloody dog, Magno Sosa Rojas, that he will die like a beheaded dog ..., we are following his steps very closely, his days are numbered, and just as the terrorists did, we will hang his black head from one of the posts in our heroic town ..."

With regards to Necho Taquiri the transmission stated:

"... este perro si no deja de estar desinformando a la población a través de Alternativa, correrá la misma suerte que el tipificado de periodista Magno Sosa ... a estos dos, les decimos que para nosotros matarlos es como matar a una rata o ratón."

"... if this dog doesn't stop disinforming the population through Alternativa, the same fate will befall him as that of the one known as journalist Magno Sosa ... to both of them we say that for us to kill them is like killing a rat or a mouse."

Both journalists are known locally for their professional integrity and have denounced human rights violations carried out by the security forces of Ayacucho.

Peruvian human rights organizations have expressed concern that the "Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista" may be acting with the direct support or the acquiescence of the armed forces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since December 1982, when the department of Ayacucho was first placed under a state of

emergency, critics of the armed forces, human rights defenders and journalists who have helped to bring details of human rights abuses to local and international attention, have been targets of death threats and harassment from the armed forces or groups working with their acquiescence.

page 2 of UA 210/91

Bombings and selective assassinations have been attributed to special armed forces units operating under a variety of names, including the Comando Rodrigo Franco (CRF), Rodrigo Franco Command, which was first heard of in July 1988, when anonymous communiques were released that said CRF was an independent group created to "revenge" actions by the armed group "Sendero Luminoso", "Shining Path".

Journalists who have been victims of human rights violations include eight journalists who were killed in Uchuraccay, Huanta, Ayacucho department on 26 January 1983 in what appears to have been an extrajudicial execution; Jaime Ayala Sulca, a reporter for the Lima daily, La República, who "disappeared" after detention at the navy's provincial headquarters in the Huanta stadium on 2 August 1984 (see UA 205/84, AMR 46/32/84, 14 August 1984); and Hugo Bustíos Saavedra, a correspondent for the magazine Caretas, who was reportedly killed in November 1988 in Huanta by the armed forces, while investigating the murder of a woman and her son. He had received repeated death threats as a consequence of his press articles which criticised the army for human rights violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the death threats that workers at Radio Wari in Huamanga were forced to transmit to the above mentioned journalists;
- asking for an immediate investigation and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking for guarantees for the physical safety of the two journalists;
- requesting guarantees that journalists working in the emergency zone can carry out their work without being subjected to death threats or other forms of harassment.

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

Dr Pedro Méndez Jurado
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalía General de la Nación
Edificio Torre de Lima, 7 Piso
Centro Cívico
Lima, Perú
Telegrams; Fiscal General Mendez, Lima,
Peru
Telexes: 20055 PE MINPUBL

General EP 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

COPIES TO:

Señores
CEAPAZ
Apdo. 11-0764 (Human Rights
Lima 11, Perú Organization)

Diario "La República" Gustavo Mohme Llona
Jr. Camana 320
Lima 1, Perú (daily newspaper)

Asociación Nacional de Periodistas del Perú
1080 Apartado 2079
Lima, Perú

(journalists association)

and to diplomatic representatives of Perú in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 26 July 1991.