

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

26 September 1990

PERU: Emilio LOBATON PALOMINO, aged 51  
Timoteo PINCO TELIO, aged 56  
Dina TELLO MELGAR, aged 13  
Bernardino MELGAR QUISPE, aged 38  
Delia MELGAR QUISPE, aged 15  
Irene MELGAR QUISPE, aged 19  
Julia MENDOZA GOMEZ, aged 21  
Evaristo HUAMANCUSI BARBOZA, aged 48  
Victoria ESPINOZA CCONISLLA, aged 20

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the above-mentioned peasants from the community of Pongullo, district of San Pedro de Cachi, Huamanga province, Ayacucho department.

According to reports, they were all detained by members of the Committee of Civil Defence (a type of defence patrol administered and controlled by the military zone commander) and soldiers from the Castropampa military base on 22 September 1990. They are believed to be held at the Castropampa base in Huanta province, Ayacucho.

When relatives went to the military base, the authorities denied any knowledge of the detentions. A denunciation has been made to the Provincial Prosecutor of Ayacucho.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of "disappearances" from Peru. Most of them have occurred in rural areas and have been preceded by detentions carried out by uniformed members of the security forces, who 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 they are transferred from military to police custody, when public prosecutors are informed of them. 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 "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: Telexes/telegrams/faxes/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" after detention of Emilio Lobaton Palomino, Timoteo Pinco Telio, Dina Tello Melgar, Bernardino Melgar Quispe, Delia Melgar Quispe, Irene Melgar Quispe, Julia Mendoza Gomez, Evaristo Huamancusi Barboza and Victoria Espinoza Cconislla.
- urging that their whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;
- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to lawyers and relatives.

**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  
 Faxes: +51 14 33 1945

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  
 Faxes: + 51 14 35 9997

Jefe Político-Militar de Ayacucho  
 General Petronio Fernandez Dávila

Telegrams: Jefe Político-  
 Militar Fernandez,

Cuartel Militar BIM 51 "Los Cabitos"  
 Huamanga  
 Ayacucho, Perú

Ayacucho, Peru  
 Telexes: 64734 PI 32  
 64735 PE PIP

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
 COMISEDH  
 Apartado Postal 11-0247  
 Lima 11, Perú

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 7 November 1990.