

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

25 January 1991

PERU : Edwin RAMIREZ MORENO, aged 27

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" of Edwin Ramírez Moreno, a worker of the Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (ENTEL), the Peruvian Telecommunications Company. According to reports, Edwin Ramírez was seen around 16 January 1991 by persons released from the Puerto Inca riverside naval base in Ucayali department.

The detention of Edwin Ramírez Moreno has not been acknowledged by the authorities and a writ of habeas corpus presented on his behalf has been rejected.

Edwin Ramírez was apparently planning to travel to Pucallpa on a river tug. On 13 November 1990 he and his girlfriend went to the Harbour Master's Office of Contamana in the province of Ucayali, Loreto department, to request a travel authorization. He was reportedly told that he did not need such authorization but that he should leave his documents there and return for them later. When he returned at 7.30pm his girlfriend saw him entering the Harbour Master's Office but remained outside waiting for him. That was the last she saw of him.

A writ of habeas corpus presented on his behalf was rejected by the judge on the basis that the navy authorities admitted having seen Edwin Ramírez but claimed to have told him that he didn't need any authorization to travel to Pucallpa. The navy authorities deny having detained him.

Amnesty International is concerned that Edwin Ramírez may be tortured or "disappeared".

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of incommunicado and unacknowledged detentions in 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 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 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/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern that Edwin Ramírez was last seen entering the Harbour Master's Office on 13 November 1990 and requesting that his whereabouts be disclosed;
- asking that if detained he be humanely treated and given access to a lawyer, a doctor and his relatives;
- asking that he be promptly charged and brought before a competent court or immediately released.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

**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, PERU

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Perú**  
**Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ**  
**Faxes: + 51 14 35 9997**

Sr Jefe del Comando Político-Militar  
Frente Ucayali  
Pucallpa  
Departamento de Ucayali  
PERU

**Telegrams: Jefe Politico-Militar Ucayali, Pucallpa, Peru**

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
CEAS  
Apartado 363  
Lima 1, 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 8 March 1991.