

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary detention / Harassment / Torture

15 April 1994

PERU	Francisco ALEJOS MORILLO)	
Tomás ESPINOZA CASTILLO)	arbitrary	
Zacarías ZAVALETA CASTILLO)	detention	
Roger CÓRDOVA CASTILLO)		
	Ermenegildo MORILLOS ALEJOS)	harassment
Olimpo ALEJOS MENDOZA)		
	Miguel LIÑAN MARIÑOS)	torture

In recent weeks the above named people have been subjected to various forms of human rights abuse. All, apart from Miguel Liñan, are leaders of the independent and legally registered *Federación Provincial de Rondas Campesinas de Sihuas*, FPRCS, Provincial Federation of Civil Defence Patrols of Sihuas, which operates in the province of Sihuas, in the department of Ancash.

Francisco Alejos, Tomás Espinoza, Zacarías Zavaleta and Roger Córdova were reportedly detained on 20 March 1994, by members of the army stationed at the military base in Sihuas. After 10 days in incommunicado detention, the four were transferred into the custody of the police on suspicion of being involved with the armed opposition. However, Amnesty International believes that the accusations are false, and that their detention has been motivated by political attempts to restrict their freedom to organize and run an independent civil patrol.

According to reports, during March Ermenegildo Morillos and Olimpo Alejos were repeatedly harassed and threatened by members of the military stationed in Sihuas. In view of this harassment, Amnesty International fears that they may be arbitrarily detained and tortured.

On 5 March 1994, Miguel Liñan, former leader of the *Comunidad Campesina de Tintayo*, Peasant Community of Tintayo, province of Sihuas, was detained by members of the army attached to the military base of Sihuas. According to reports, during his detention he was "golpeado salvajemente", "savagely beaten". He was released on 7 March and, by mid-April, was still under medical treatment for the injuries he sustained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The FPRCS is a legal and independent organization, its main purpose being to protect the interests of the local communities. In 1990 the leading members of the FPRCS were elected to office in the local municipal elections. Since then, members and leaders of the FPRCS have apparently been harassed by the security forces. In December 1993, a new army base was established in Sihuas, which, according to reports, started to harass members and leaders of the independent civil defence patrols. This harassment apparently is an attempt to bring the FPRCS and other independent organizations under the political control of the central government and army. In January 1993, the government issued a counter-insurgency decree which specified that all the independent civil patrols must adapt their organization and functions to the *Comités de Autodefensa*, Self-Defence Committees, run by the security forces.

The government of President Alberto Fujimori assumed power on 28 July 1990.

The government inherited a legacy of gross human rights violations dating back to January 1983. The President has repeatedly stated that his government is pursuing a policy of respect for human rights. However, Amnesty International has documented at least 600 "disappearances" and 228 extrajudicial executions. The organization has also documented at least 200 arbitrary detentions since May 1992. Many of these are prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience.

Human rights violations occur in the context of the government's counter-insurgency operations directed against the clandestine armed opposition group *Partido Comunista del Perú*, PCP, Communist Party of Peru, and the *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru*, MRTA, Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Amnesty International opposes the deliberate and arbitrary killing by the armed opposition of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the internal conflict, and of members of the security forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the reported arbitrary detention of Francisco Alejos Morillo, Tomás Espinoza Castillo, Zacarías Zavaleta Castillo and Roger Córdova Castillo;
- stating that Amnesty International believes them not to have any links with the armed opposition and that their detention was politically motivated;
- stating that Amnesty International believes them to be prisoners of conscience and requests their immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing concern at the repeated harassment of Ermegelindo Morillos Alejos and Olimpo Alejos Mendoza by members of the army, and asking the authorities to ensure their physical safety;
- expressing concern about the reported torture by members of the army of Miguel Liñan Mariños and requesting the authorities to order a prompt and full investigation, that the findings be made public, and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

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
Salutation: Señor Presidente/ Dear Mr President

2) Ministry of the Interior

General EP Juan Briones Dávila
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
 San Isidro, Urb. Corpac, Lima 27, PERU
Telegrams: General Briones, Ministerio del Interior, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI/21697
Salutation: Sr. General/Dear General

3) Ministry of Defence

General EP Victor Malca Villanueva

Ministro de Defensa

Ministerio de Defensa

Avda. Boulevard y Monterrico

Lima 33, PERU

Telegrams: General Malca, Ministerio de Defensa, Lima Peru

Faxes: 010 5114 359997 / 334470

Salutation: Señor General/ Dear General Malca

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Señores

CEAPAZ, Santa Cruz N°635,

Jesús María, Lima, PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office if sending appeals after 27 May 1994.