

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Torture/Fear of Harrasment

19 March 1991

PERU: Juan Apolinario GONZALEZ, aged 37

Amnesty Intenational is concerned at reports that trade union leader Juan Apolinario González was subject to torture while in detention at a police station.

According to reports, Juan Apolinario González was detained on 10 March 1991 by members of the security police in Paramonga, one of the neighbourhoods of the city of Lima. He was reportedly forced inside a police vehicle and beaten, and was told that he was to be charged with breaking the windscreen. He was then transferred to the headquarters of the Security Police where he is reported to have undergone further beatings, had his head submerged in water, and electricity applied to his body in an attempt to obtain a confession as to his responsibility for the breaking of the police vehicle's windscreen. On 11 March he was reportedly transferred to the headquarters of the Policía Técnica, the investigative police, where he underwent an official medical examination prior to being released on 12 March.

Juan Apolinario González denounced the torture to the Fiscal Provincial Mixto de Barranca, the Provincial Prosecutor of Barranca and on 14 March 1991 he presented a complaint to the Fiscal Supremo en Derechos Humanos y Defensoría del Pueblo, Human Rights Attorney General and People's Defender. Peruvian trade unions and human rights organizations are concerned that because of his denunciation and his complaint about his treatment Juan Apolinario González may become a victim of harassment by the police.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Juan Apolinario González is a trade union leader at the paper factory Sociedad Paramonga, in Lima, which has been on strike since the end of February.

Amnesty International has received frequent reports of trade union leaders being imprisoned and subjected to torture for political reasons. In most of the cases the people are released for lack of evidence, but remain in very poor physical condition as a result of injuries consistent with having been tortured. In many of the cases received by Amnesty International trade union leaders are warned not to denounce their treatment at the hands of the security services. Amnesty International is concerned that Juan Apolinario González may be rearrested and subjected to further ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS; Telexes/Telegrams/Faxes/Airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported torture that trade union leader Juan Apolinario González was subjected to by the Security Police;
- asking that a thorough and impartial investigation into the torture allegations be immediately initiated, the findings be made public, and those responsible be brought to justice;

- asking for guarantees for his physical safety.

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APPEALS TO

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PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after
30 April 1991.