

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 115/91 "Disappearances"

28 March 1991

PERU: Manuel PACOATYPE CHAUPIN
Martin CAYAHUA GALINDO
Marcelo CABANA TUCNO
Isaias HUAMAN VILCA

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the above men from the district of Chuschi, Cangallo province, Ayacucho department.

According to reports, on the night of 14 March 1991 some 25 hooded soldiers from the Pampa Cangallo military barracks entered a peasant community in the district of Chuschi and searched numerous houses. Their stated intention was to establish a Ronda Campesina, a Civil Defence patrol. When the community refused to take part in this patrol, the soldiers reportedly detained Manuel Pacotaype Chaupin, mayor of the district, Martin Cayahua Galindo and Marcelo Cabana Tucno, secretary and under-secretary of the Council and Isaias Huaman Vilca, a local community member. When relatives went to the Pampa Cangallo military barracks to enquire as to their whereabouts, the army authorities reportedly refused to acknowledge their detention.

According to Amnesty International's information the "disappearances" were denounced on 18 March to the Fiscal Superior Encargado de Derechos Humanos de Huamanga, Huamanga's Special Commissioner for Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the last nine years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of incommunicado and unacknowledged detentions from 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 political parties and members of peasant communities believed to have cooperated with the armed forces.

During the last few years the army has been establishing Rondas Campesinas, Civil Defence groups, in peasant communities in areas under state of emergency.

Many of the communities refuse to take part in these patrols and are frequently victimized by soldiers of the local barracks.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported detention of Manuel Pacoatype Chaupin,

Martin Cayahua Galindo, Marcelo Cabana Tucno and Isaias Huaman Vilca on 14 March 1991;

- expressing concern that their detention has reportedly been denied and that they may "disappear";
- requesting that their legal situation be clarified;

- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to a lawyer, a doctor and their relatives;

- asking that they 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, Perú

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Perú
Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO or 20331 PE SEC PRE
Faxes: +51 14 33 7020

General Adolfo Alvarado Fournier
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
 San Isidro, Urb Corpac
 Lima 27, Perú

Faxes: +51 14 41 5128
Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI
Telegrams: Ministro Interior Alvarado, Lima, Perú

General 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
Faxes: +51 14 33 4470

COPIES TO:

Señores
 Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)
 Avenida Abancay 210
 Of 1102
 Lima, Perú (Human Rights Association)

Telexes: 25104 PE APRODEH
Faxes: +14 32 69 15

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 9 May 1991.