

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

23 April 1991

PERU:

Yone CRUZ OCALIO aged 24

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" of Yone Cruz Ocalio, after detention by members of the security forces.

According to reports farm-worker Yone Cruz Ocalio, the father of two children, was detained on 24 February 1991 by members of the police, in the presence of witnesses at the Estación Agropecuaria de Tulumayo, the Tulumayo Farming Station, located in Santa Lucía, Aucayacu, Leoncio Prado province, department of Huánuco. No reason was given for his detention. Yone Cruz was reportedly handed over to a military detachment stationed at Tulumayo.

On 6 March, the Provincial Prosecutor of Leoncio Prado, Tingo María wrote to the Commander of the Tulumayo Detachment asking him "to transfer citizen Yone Cruz Ocalio as soon as possible...to the respective judicial or police authority...so that proceedings may be initiated in accordance with (the) law".

According to reports, this letter was only replied to verbally, indicating that Yone Cruz was not being held in detention. His whereabouts remain unknown.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION** (Note to translator: This first paragraph is not the same as the usual paragraph eg UA 118/91, it has been slightly altered in lines 2, 5, 5 and 10.)

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of 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. Many of those detained "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.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" by members of the armed forces of Yone Cruz Ocalio after his detention in the presence of witnesses;
- asking that his detention be acknowledged and that while in detention he be humanely treated and given access to a lawyer, a doctor and his relatives;
- asking that he be promptly brought before a competent authority and charged, or be immediately released.

**APPEALS TO:**

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Ministerio de Defensa  
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General EP Victor Malca Villanueva  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
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**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
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Lima 11, Perú (Human Rights Organization)

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your Section Office if sending appeals after 4 June 1991.