

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

25 April 1991

PERU:

Néstor ROJAS MEDINA

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance". of Néstor Medina Rojas after his detention by members of the police.

According to reports received by Amnesty International, Néstor Rojas Medina, aged 20, was detained on 26 January 1991 by members of the police in the town of Tocache, Tocache province, San Martín department. The reports indicate that the detainee was taken to a police station in Tocache, and that he was later transferred to the Tocache Military Base, where his detention was denied. His relatives denounced the case to the relevant authorities and asked parliamentary representatives to obtain information of his whereabouts, but no further information has been received. However, on the basis of recent information from the Tocache police, members of the Rojas Medina family have concluded that Néstor Rojas continues to be held by the military.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 competent authority. 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" of Néstor Rojas Medina after his arrest by members of the Tocache police, and detention in the Tocache military base;

- asking that his detention be acknowledged and that while held 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

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 EP 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

Jefe del Comando Político-Militar del Alto Huallaga
General de Brigada EP Hans Chacón
Base Militar de Uchiza
Uchiza
Tocache
San Martín, Perú

Telegrams: Jefe Comando Político-Militar Chacon,
Tocache, San Martin, Peru

COPIES TO:

Señores
Confederación Campesina del Perú
Casilla Postal 5110
Lima 100, Perú

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat
or your section office if sending appeals after 6 June 1991.