

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

30 May 1991

PERU: Darwin NAVARRO PAREDES (arrested 12 April)
Walter GUERRERO TANGO (arrested 18 April)
Hilter DEL AGUILA GARCIA (arrested 22 April)
Artemio PEZO RENGIFO (arrested 15 May)
Zeila MEZ SAJAMI (arrested 15 May)
Noé Agustín CARRANZA PULIDO (arrested 20 May)

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the above mentioned people in Tarapoto, San Martín province, department of San Martín.

According to reports, they were all detained by members of the army on the indicated dates in April and May 1991. According to witnesses, they were taken to the Mariscal Cáceres military base in Tarapoto.

The cases were all denounced to the Fiscal Provincial (the Provincial Prosecutor) and to the Juez de Instrucción (Inspecting Judge) of San Martín, who asked the Jefe del Comando-Político Militar (Head of the Political Military Command) of San Martín about the detentions. The latter claimed that the detainees had all been released. However, none of the "disappeared" people have been seen by their relatives since they were detained. Amnesty International believes them to be "disappeared" and is seriously concerned for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the last eight 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 the detainees are transferred from military to police custody, when public prosecutors are informed of the detention. 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 left-wing political parties and members of peasant communities believed to have cooperated with the armed forces.

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

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the six people mentioned above;
- urging that their whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;
- asking that they be immediately brought before a judge or released;
- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to lawyers, a doctor and relatives.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, Perú

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO, 20331 PE SEC PRE

General Jorge Torres Aciego
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Boulevard s/n
Monterrico
Lima 33, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima Peru
Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ

Sr. Jefe Político-Militar de San Martín
Cuartel Mariscal Cáceres
Morales
Tarapoto
San Martín, Perú

Telegrams: Jefe Politico-Militar, San Martin, Peru

COPIES TO:

Señores
Oficina Prelatural de Acción Social de Moyobamba
Apartado 385
Tarapoto
San Martín, Perú

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 11 July 1991.