

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance" of Students

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PERU: Juan Gregorio FELIPE MAQUERA, 22
César Teobaldo VILCHEZ SIMEON, 24

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" of two university students after detention by members of the security forces .

According to reports, on the night of 21 May 1991 Juan Gregorio Felipe Maquera was detained by three policemen near the entrance of the Faculty of Dentistry of the San Marcos University in Lima. Two students who witnessed the detention said that Juan Gregorio Felipe Maquera was driven away in a police car.

On 21 May there were many reported detentions of university students in Lima, most of whom were taken to the Dirección Contra el Terrorismo, DIRCOTE, the police anti-terrorism division. However, when Juan Gregorio's brother, the legal adviser of the university and a representative of a Peruvian human rights organization, enquired about him at DIRCOTE, the authorities said that he was not being held there. Other sources indicate however, that he was seen inside the DIRCOTE premises and that he appeared to have been subjected to ill-treatment.

César Teobaldo Vilchez Simeón, a graduate in Economics at the Universidad del Centro and former President of the Students Federation, was reportedly detained together with several other people by members of the Policía Técnica, the investigative police, on the night of 24 May in the Tambo district of Huancayo, Junin department.

According to reports, all the detainees were driven away in a white van towards the city of Huancayo. The reports also indicate that in the course of the journey the other detainees were released but that César Teobaldo Vilchez Simeón was driven to the Oficina Regional de Inteligencia de la Policía Nacional, the Regional Intelligence Office of the National Police of Huancayo. His relatives reported the incident to the Provincial Attorney and presented a writ of habeas corpus. However, when the judge and the Provincial Attorney tried to investigate the case, they were not allowed to inspect the police premises where he was supposed to be held.

There are serious concerns about the physical safety of the two above- mentioned students.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (This is the same as UA 181/91)

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" after detention of Juan Gregorio Felipe Maquera and César Teobaldo Vilchez Simeón;

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

- asking that they be promptly brought before a competent authority and charged, or immediately released;

PLEASE ORGANIZE APPEALS FROM STUDENT UNIONS IF POSSIBLE

APPEALS TO:

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

General EP Jorge Torres Aciego
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Boulevard
Monterrico
Lima 33, Perú

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima,
Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres,
Lima, Perú

Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO
or 20331 PE SEC PRE

Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ

Dr Oscar de la Puente Raygada
Ministro de Educación
Ministerio de Educación
Parque Universitario
Lima, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Educacion, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 25803

COPIES TO:

Señores
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)
Avenida Abancay 210
Of 1102
Lima, Perú (Human Rights Association)
Sr. Rector
Universidad Nacional del Centro
Apartado 138
Huancayo,
Junin, Perú

Señor Decano
Facultad de Odontología
Universidad de San Marcos
Lima, 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 25 July 1991.