

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearances"

18 June 1991

PERU; Lionel SANCHEZ RIOS, aged 23
 Hugo ROMERO OVIEDO, aged 30
 Juvencio USHIÑAHUA VASQUEZ, aged 24
 Ronald NAVARRO CAMPOS, aged 21
 Francisco PACAYA BETANCOURT, aged 20
 José L. FLORES MACEDO, aged 25

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention by members of the army, of the above mentioned people in San Martin province, department of San Martín, Peru.

According to reports, Lionel Sánchez Rios, a trader and Hugo Romero Oviedo, an industrial worker, were detained on 30 May 1981, in Tarapoto. Juvencio Ushiñahua Vásquez, a peasant, was reportedly detained in the locality of Dos Unidos on 3 June 1991. Ronald Navarro Campos, Francisco Pacaya Betancourt and José Flores Macedo were reportedly detained in Morales on 6 June 1991. They were all reportedly detained by members of the army. According to witnesses, all detainees were taken to the Mariscal Cáceres military base in Tarapoto. The military authorities refused to acknowledge the detentions.

The cases were all denounced to the Fiscal Provincial (the Provincial Prosecutor) and to the Juez de Instrucción (Inspecting Judge) of San Martín.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the physical safety of the above mentioned people.

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 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;

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- 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, PERU

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
Monterrico
Lima 33, PERU

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

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

Telegrams: Jefe Político-Militar, San Martín, Peru

COPIES TO:

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

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 3 months.