

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 237/91     Fear of Torture/Fear of "disappearance"

12 July 1991

PERU:        Emilio ISHUIZA PASHANASI, aged 56  
              Oswaldo HOYOS RENGIFO, aged 20  
              Werlin GARCIA ISHUIZA, aged 18  
              Rildo MOZOMBITE, aged 23  
              José AGUILAR VEGA, aged 58  
              Hilda SHAPIAMA, (f), aged 16

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported detention of the six persons named above by members of the army on 24 June 1991.

According to reports, on the morning of 24 June 1991, while villagers were celebrating the San Juan feast day, an army helicopter carrying soldiers landed at the hamlet of El Pisal, Barranquita district, Lamas province, San Martín department. After searching their homes soldiers reportedly detained the above mentioned people and transferred them to the Morales military base. All six detainees are reported to be held in solitary confinement.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the last nine years, Amnesty International has received numerous reports of unacknowledged detentions or detentions in solitary confinement from Peru, some of which have led to torture and "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 contributory factor to the continuing practice of torture and "disappearances".

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 for the physical safety of the above mentioned people;
- asking that they be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and promptly brought to court or released;
  
- asking that all the necessary measures be taken to guarantee their physical safety and that they be given access to their lawyers, doctors and relatives.

**APPEALS TO:**

Presidente Alberto Fujimori  
(**Salutation: Sr. Presidente**)  
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  
(**Salutation: Sr. Ministro**)

Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Avenida Boulevard s/n  
Monterrico  
Lima 33, Perú

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGI**

Sr Subsecretario  
Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Jr. Ucayali 363  
Lima 1, Perú

**Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario**  
**Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes: (attn: Sr. Subsecretario) 20142; 20165; 20467**

General Mario Brito

(**Salutation: Sr. General**)  
Jefe del Comando Político Militar de San Martín  
Cuartel Mariscal Cáceres  
Morales  
Tarapoto, Perú

**Telegrams: Jefe Politico-Militar, San Martin, Peru**

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)  
Avenida Abancay 210  
Of 1102  
Lima, Perú  
(Human Rights Association)

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 23 August 1991.