

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 238/91 Fear of "Disappearance"

12 July 1991

PERU: Pedro ANDERSON RODRIGUEZ, 23-year-old student

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Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of Pedro Anderson Rodríguez, a 23-year-old student of the Instituto Superior Tecnológico de la Selva Central, the North Eastern Selva Higher Institute of Technology.

According to reports, he was abducted during a family meeting in the town of Tarapoto, San Martín province, department of San Martín, by armed men, believed to be soldiers. According to witnesses, he was beaten unconscious, stripped of his clothes and taken to the Mariscal Cáceres military base in Tarapoto. Witnesses were apparently warned not to take any action on behalf of Pedro Anderson Rodríguez.

Amnesty International believes that he may have been "disappeared" and is seriously concerned for his safety.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION** (note to translators, please refer to UA 217/91)

This incident has taken place within the context of a recent increase in the number of reports of human rights violations occurring in the department of San Martín.

For the last nine 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 for the safety of Pedro Anderson Rodríguez;
- urging that his whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;
- asking that he be immediately brought before a judge or released;

- asking that while in detention he be humanely treated and given access to lawyers, a doctor 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: 25483 PE COMGREGJ**

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

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

**Telegrams: Jefe Político-Militar, San Martín, Peru**

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)  
Avenida Abancay 210  
Of 1102  
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 23 August 1991.