

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/42/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 248/91 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

19 July 1991

PERU: Luis Antonio MORALES ORTEGA, 58-year-old journalist

Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the killing of journalist, Luis Antonio Morales Ortega in the city of Huamanga, Ayacucho department, in circumstances suggesting the involvement of the security forces.

According to reports, Luis Morales, who is Secretario de Asuntos Profesionales del Colegio Departamental de Periodistas de Ayacucho, Secretary of Professional Issues of the Ayacucho Department School of Journalists, was shot dead in the early hours of 13 July 1991, by two young men. According to witnesses, when Luis Morales saw a cream coloured car heading straight for him he tried to enter the house of a relative, but was shot dead while attempting to do so.

On 8 July 1991 Luis Morales had announced via Radio Wari that he had received death threats from a group calling itself the "Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista", the Antiterrorist Liberation Command, the same group that had recently threatened two other journalists, Magno Sosa Rojas and Necías Taquiri (see UA 210/91, AMR 46/30/91, 14 June 1991). Following those threats, Peruvian human rights organizations expressed concern that the "Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista" may be acting with the direct support or the acquiescence of the armed forces. Luis Morales also reported having his home broken into by three young men a few days before his death.

Luis Morales had also reportedly been threatened by another clandestine group, the so-called Comando Rodrigo Franco (CRF), Rodrigo Franco Command, several times in the past and had had his home attacked. He was well-known for his work in the human rights field, including his participation in the investigations into the killing of eight journalists in Uchuraccay, Ayacucho in 1983, and had held the position of Decano del Colegio de Periodistas de Ayacucho, Dean of the School of Journalists of Ayacucho.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since December 1982, when the department of Ayacucho was first placed under a state of emergency under the control of a political-military command, critics of the armed forces, human rights defenders and journalists who helped bring details of human rights abuses to local and international attention, have been targets of death threats and harassment from the armed forces or groups working with their acquiescence. In October 1990 the state of emergency in Huamanga province, including the city of Huamanga, was lifted. This meant a return to full constitutional guarantees and a reimposition of civilian authority.

Bombings and selective assassinations have been attributed to para-military groups operating under a variety of names, including the Comando Rodrigo Franco (CRF), Rodrigo Franco Command. The CRF was first heard of in July 1988, when anonymous communiques were released that said it was an independent group created to "revenge" actions by the armed group "Shining Path".

Journalists who have been victims of human rights violations include eight journalists who were killed in Uchuraccay, Huanta, Ayacucho department on 26 January 1983 in what appears to have been an extrajudicial execution; Jaime Ayala Sulca, a reporter for the Lima daily, La República, who "disappeared"

after detention at the navy's provincial headquarters in the Huanta stadium on 2 August 1984 (see UA 205/84); Hugo Bustíos Saavedra, a correspondent for the magazine Caretas, who was reportedly killed in November 1988 in Huanta by the armed forces, while investigating the murder of a woman and her son.

He had received repeated death threats as a consequence of his press articles which criticised the army for human rights violations.

page 2 of UA 248/91...

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- asking that a full and impartial investigation be initiated into the killing of Luis Antonio Morales Ortega, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;

- expressing concern about the activities of the so-called "Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista", and about allegations of links with the security forces, and requesting that a full and public investigation be conducted into this group.

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: 25483 PE COMGREGJ

General EP Victor Malca Villanueva
(Sr. Ministro)

Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
 San Isidro, Urb Corpac
 Lima 27, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Interior Alvarado, Lima, Perú

Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI

Fernando Guillen Salas
 Embajador
 Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Jr. Ucayali 363
 Lima 1, Perú

Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Perú

Telexes: (attn. Sr. Subsecretario) 20142; 20165; 20467

COPIES TO:

Señores
COMISEDH
Av. Horacio Urteaga 704
Lima 11, 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 30 August 1991.