

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

23 July 1991

PERU:

Nicolás HUAMAN CHUMBES

Bonifacio CURI HUAMANI

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety and legal situation of the two farmers named above from the community of Santa Bárbara, in the district and province of Huancavelica, department of Huancavelica. They were reportedly detained by members of the armed forces on 18 July 1991.

The detainees are relatives of 14 men, women and children who were reportedly detained by members of the army on 4 July 1991 and whose bodies were found in an abandoned mine on 11 July 1991. The reports indicate that the father of one of the fourteen dead, found the bodies in an abandoned mine, and the following day denounced what he found to the community authorities, to the Provincial Attorney of Huancavelica and to a judge.

According to reports, on 18 July 1991, soldiers detained 23 members of the Santa Bárbara community when they approached the mine containing the bodies. The detentions took place as a judge and a provincial prosecutor were witnessing the removal of the bodies in the presence of members of the police force, including the *Policía Técnica*, members of the armed forces and journalists.

The detainees were taken to the army base in Huancavelica, where 21 of the 23 were subsequently released. Two of the farmers remained in detention and were transferred to the headquarters of the *Policía Técnica*, the investigative police in Huancavelica. Nicolás Huamán Chumbes, was later transferred to the Huancavelica prison. According to reports, those released were subjected to ill-treatment in detention. Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of Nicolás Huamán Chumbes and Bonifacio Curi Huamani who remain detained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International continues to receive reports of threats and attacks on those trying to make enquiries about their "disappeared" or dead relatives, as well as on witnesses of human rights violations. Most of these threats and attacks occurred in rural areas and were carried out by uniformed members of the security forces. The danger involved in reporting "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions often stops relatives from directly denouncing the facts to the authorities. This in turn contributes to a pattern of impunity which so often surrounds human rights violations in Peru.

Huancavelica is under state of emergency and under the political-military control of the Peruvian armed forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the detention of Nicolás Huamán Chumbes and Bonifacio Curi Huamani;
- asking that, should evidence be found of their involvement in criminal activities, they be charged and brought before a court, or otherwise that they be released;

- asking that all measures be urgently taken to guarantee their physical safety, including being given access to relatives, doctors and lawyers;
- asking for guarantees that they can exercise their legitimate right to press for an investigation into the death of their 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, Perú
Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ

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

COPIES TO:

Señores
 CEAPAZ
 Apdo. 11-0764
 Lima 11, Perú (Human Rights Organization)

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 September 1991.