

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**"Disappearances"**

**2 October 1992**

**PERU:**

**Sonia AQUINO OROSCO, aged 24, female, teacher  
Cirilo RODRIGUEZ LANDA, aged 52**

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Amnesty International has just learned of the reported "disappearances" of Sonia Aquino Orosco and Cirilo Rodríguez Landa in Ayacucho department.

On 29 August 1992 Sonia Aquino was reportedly detained at the primary school where she taught in Esgana, San Miguel, La Mar province by members of a civil defence patrol and members of the armed forces stationed at the military base in Tambo, La Mar province. She was reportedly taken to the "Los Cabitos" military base in the city of Ayacucho. The military authorities are denying knowledge of the detention. A formal denunciation was made to a public prosecutor in Ayacucho city.

On 31 August 1992 Cirilo Rodríguez Landa reportedly "disappeared" as he passed through the market in Ayacucho city. Relatives believe that he may have been detained by members of the Policía Técnica, the investigative police. He had previously been detained by the police and then freed. Authorities have denied the detention. A formal denunciation was made to a public prosecutor in Ayacucho city.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

President Fujimori and his government assumed power on 28 July 1990. The government inherited a legacy of gross human rights violations dating back to January 1983, including thousands of cases of "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. In his inaugural speech the President stated that his government would fully respect human rights. On a number of subsequent occasions President Fujimori and representatives of his government have repeated that pledge. However, according to the cases documented by Amnesty International, between 28 July 1990 and 31 July 1992 some 566 people allegedly "disappeared" after arrest and 151 were extrajudicially executed. Dozens of cases of torture, and of death threats and attacks on human rights defenders, have also been documented by the organization since July 1990.

Human rights violations occur in the context of the government's counter-insurgency operations directed against the clandestine armed opposition groups Partido Comunista del Perú, (Sendero Luminoso), PCP, Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path) and the Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, (MRTA), Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Amnesty International is concerned about and condemns the deliberate and arbitrary killing by the armed

opposition of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the internal conflict and of members of the security forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either in spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported "disappearance" of Sonia Aquino Orosco and Cirilo Rodriguez Landa;
- urging that their whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;
- asking that they be immediately brought before a judge and charged with a recognizable criminal offence or else be released;
- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to an independent lawyer, a doctor, relatives and a representative from the Public Ministry.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

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  
**Salutation:** Señor Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of Defence:

General EP Victor Malca Villanueva  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Avenida Boulevard s/n  
Monterrico  
Lima 33, PERU

**Telegrams:** Ministro Defensa Villanueva, Lima, Peru  
**Telexes:** 25438 PE COMGREGJ  
**Salutation:** Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

3) President of the Armed Forces Joint Comand:

General Nicolás Hermoza Ríos  
Presidente del Comando Conjunto de las  
Fuerzas Armadas  
291 Av. Arequipa  
Lima, PERU

**Telegrams:** Presidente del Comando Conjunto de las Fuerzas Armadas, Lima, PERU

**Salutation: Señor General / Dear General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Señores  
Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH)  
Apartado 11-0247  
Lima  
PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 November 1992.