

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

9 August 1991

PERU:

Wilfredo CONTRERAS PALOMINO

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of Wilfredo Contreras Palomino, a peasant leader, by members of the security forces.

According to reports, Wilfredo Contreras was detained on 6 August 1991 while travelling by bus from the town of Abancay, Abancay province, Apurímac department, to Lima, the capital. He is believed to have been driven to the Abancay army base. Military authorities however, refuse to acknowledge his detention and his whereabouts remain unknown. There are serious concerns for his physical safety.

His case was denounced to the Provincial Attorney of Abancay and to the head of the Political-Military Command of Abancay.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 right and left-wing political parties and members of peasant communities believed to have cooperated with the armed forces.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" after detention of peasant leader Wilfredo Contreras Palomino;
- 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 a lawyer, a doctor and relatives.

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**APPEALS TO:**

Presidente Alberto Fujimori                    **[Salutation: Señor Presidente]**  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Plaza de Armas  
Lima 1, Perú

**Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO or 20331 PE SEC PRE**

General EP Jorge Torres Aciego              **[Salutation: Señor Ministro]**  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Avenida Boulevard  
Monterrico  
Lima 33, Perú

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Perú**  
**Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ**

Embajador Fernando Guillén Salas           **[Salutation: Señor Embajador]**  
Subsecretario de Política Multilateral  
Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Jr. Ucayali 363  
Lima 1, Peru

**Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru**  
**Telexes: 20142/20165/20467 (Attn: Sr Subsecretario)**  
**25435 PE ESTADO**

**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 20 September 1991.