Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the above-mentioned peasants from the community of Pongullo, district of San Pedro de Cachi, Huamanga province, Ayacucho department.

According to reports, they were all detained by members of the Committee of Civil Defence (a type of defence patrol administered and controlled by the military zone commander) and soldiers from the Castropampa military base on 22 September 1990. They are believed to be held at the Castropampa base in Huanta province, Ayacucho.

When relatives went to the military base, the authorities denied any knowledge of the detentions. A denunciation has been made to the Provincial Prosecutor of Ayacucho.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of "disappearances" from Peru. Most of them have occurred in rural areas and have been preceded by detentions carried out by uniformed members of the security forces, who 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 they are transferred from military to police custody, when public prosecutors are informed of them. 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 "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: Telexes/telegrams/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" after detention of Emilio Lobaton Palomino, Timoteo Pinco Telio, Dina Tello Melgar, Bernardino Melgar Quispe, Delia Melgar Quispe, Irene Melgar Quispe, Julia Mendoza Gomez, Evaristo Huamancusi Barboza and Victoria Espinoza Cconislla.

- urging that their whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;

- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to lawyers and relatives.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, Perú

Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori
Limá, Peru

Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO
20331 PE SEC PRE

Faxes: +51 14 33 1945

General Jorge Torres Aciego
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Boulevard s/n
Monterrico
Lima 33, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres
Limá, Peru

Telexes: 25483 PE COMGREGJ
25484 PE COMGREGJ

Faxes: + 51 14 35 9997

Jefe Político-Militar de Ayacucho
General Petronio Fernandez Dávila
Cuartel Militar BIM 51 "Los Cabitos" 
Huamanga
Ayacucho, Perú

Telegrams: Jefe Político-Militar Fernandez,
Ayacucho, Peru

Telexes: 64734 PI 32
64735 PE PIP

COPIES TO:

Señores
COMISEDH
Apartado Postal 11-0247
Lima 11, Perú

and to diplomatic representatives of Perú in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 November 1990.