

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/Torture

12 November 1990

PERU: César SAKAMOTO SANCHEZ, civil engineer

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention of César Sakamoto Sánchez. At 1pm on 1 November 1990 he was reportedly arrested at Tarapoto Airport in San Martín department and subsequently taken to the Mariscal Cáceres military barracks in Morales, San Martín. According to unconfirmed reports, César Sakamoto was seriously ill-treated after his detention.

The same day a friend of César Sakamoto went to the barracks to enquire as to the reasons for his arrest, but the detention was denied by the military authorities. According to reports, the home of the friend was later searched by a group of soldiers who also tried to kidnap his daughter.

This follows a wave of repression in late October in the San Martín area, involving the incommunicado detention of many people (see UA 428/90, AMR 46/67/90, 24 October).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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

- expressing concern at the reported "disappearance" after detention of César Sakamoto Sánchez;
- asking that all the necessary measures be taken to ensure his physical safety and that he have access to lawyers, doctors and relatives;
- asking that a full investigation be carried out into the allegations of torture;

- asking that he be either unconditionally released or charged with a recognizably criminal offence and promptly brought to court.

**APPEALS TO:**

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  
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  
PERU

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Peru  
Telexes: 25483 PE COMGREGJ  
Faxes: + 51 14 35 9997

Jefe Político-Militar de San Martín  
Cuartel Mariscal Cáceres Morales  
Tarapoto  
San Martín  
PERU

Telegrams: Jefe Comando Político-Militar, Mariscal  
Caceres, Tarapoto, San Martín, Perú

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
APRODEH  
Avenida Abancay 210  
Of. 1102  
Lima  
PERU

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 24 December 1990.