

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

14 January 1991

PERU: Martín ZAIRE QUISPE, University Professor

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" of Martín Zaire Quispe, an Accountancy Professor at the Private University of Apurímac.

According to reports, he was detained on 3 January 1991 by members of the army on the road leading from Aymaraes to Abancay, department of Apurímac.

He was apparently taken to the Aymaraes military base, where, although initially acknowledged, his detention was later denied by the authorities.

No further information on the circumstances of the reported detention and subsequent "disappearance" of Martín Zaire Quispe is available at present.

#### 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 Martín Zaire Quispe;
- requesting that his legal situation be clarified;
- asking that all the necessary measures be taken to ensure his physical safety and that he be given access to lawyers, doctors and relatives.

**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

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

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
COMISEDH  
Apartado Postal 11-0247  
Lima 11, 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 25 February 1991.