

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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**PLEASE ORGANIZE APPEALS FROM TEACHERS' UNIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY.**

UA 244/91 Fear for Physical Safety

17 July 1991

PERU: **Francisco Javier ABARCA RAMOS, teacher**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of Francisco Javier Abarca Ramos, former leader of the Peruvian teachers union, SUTEP.

Francisco Javier Abarca Ramos is a teacher and director of a state school in Yauyos province, Lima department. He was, until recently, a leader of the local branch of the Sindicato Unificado de Trabajadores de la Educación Peruana, (SUTEP), the Unified Union of Education Workers of Peru and an active member of two legal political parties, Acción Popular and Frente Democrático (FREDEMO).

Francisco Javier Abarca Ramos is reportedly being sought by the military in connection with his activities as local leader of SUTEP. According to reports, Francisco Javier Abarca's name also appeared on a list of trade unionists and local community activists which is in the possession of the armed forces stationed at a military base in the town of Yauyos. The area is presently under a state of emergency and therefore under the political and administrative authority of the military.

Francisco Javier Abarca has written requesting guarantees for his physical safety to the Commander of the Segunda Región Militar, Fuerte Rimac, Second military Region, Fort Rimac and also to Raúl Ferrero Costa, President of the Human Rights Commission of the Senate.

According to reports, on 28 June 1991, 26-year-old Hugo Samuel Abarca Ramos, brother of Francisco Javier, was detained by members of the armed forces. There were no charges made against him and he was subsequently released some 10 days after his arrest.

When the mother of the two men went, with the Provincial Attorney of Yauyos to whom the case was denounced, to the Destacamento Militar, the military base in the town of Yauyos, they were told that Francisco Javier was wanted for questioning and advised her not to get a lawyer for him.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The teachers union, Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores del Perú, SUTEP, initiated an indefinite strike for wage increases on 8 May 1991. The Minister of Labour decreed that the strike was illegal and all authorizations to hold public demonstrations have since been refused.

Since the strike started, on 8 May 1991, there have been instances of arbitrary detentions, torture, and apparent extrajudicial executions of teachers by members of the police and the army. SUTEP has also complained of attacks by "Sendero Luminoso", Shining Path, the main armed opposition group that is active in the country. SUTEP claims that, while their members are frequently accused by the government of terrorism, they are also victims of threats and attacks by members of "Sendero Luminoso", for refusing to take part in or supporting their actions.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:**

*Sections are urged to enrol the support of teachers' unions in letter-writing on this action.*

- expressing concern for the physical safety of schoolteacher Francisco Javier Abarca Ramos, of Yauyos, Lima department and urging that he be granted all the necessary guarantees should he be detained;

- requesting that all the necessary measures be taken to guarantee the safety of Hugo Samuel Abarca Ramos, his relatives and Public Ministry officials investigating his detention.

**APPEALS TO:**

Señor Carlos Torres y Torres Lara

**(Salutation: Sr. Ministro)**

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Jr. Ucayali 363

Lima 1, Perú

**Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Lima, Peru**

**Telexes: 20142; 20165; 20467**

General EP Jorge Torres Aciego

**(Salutation: Sr. Ministro)**

Ministro de Defensa

Ministerio de Defensa

Avenida Boulevard

Monterrico

Lima 33, Perú

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Perú**

**Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ**

Sr. Comandante

Segunda Región Militar

Fuerte Rimac

Yauyos, Perú

**Telegrams: Comandante, Segunda Region Militar**

**Fuerte Rimac, Yauyos, Peru**

Senador Raúl Ferrero Costa

Presidente de Comisión de Derechos Humanos

Senado de la República

Lima, Perú

**Telegrams: Presidente Comision Derechos Humanos**

**Lima, Peru**

**COPIES TO:**

Señores

CEAPAZ (Human Rights Organization)

Apdo. 11-0764

Lima 11, Perú

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 28 August 1991.