

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/53/90
Distr: UA/SC

UA 342/90

"Disappearances"

22 August 1990

PERU: José MEDINA MENESES, aged 40, carpenter
Francisco MEDINA QUISPE, aged 18, student
William MEDINA MENDOZA, aged 16, student
Paulino QUISPE PAREJA, aged 29, farmer
Carlos HUICHU GARZON, aged 37, locksmith

=====

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" after detention by the security forces of the above people in the city of Ayacucho.

According to reports, José Medina Meneses, his son, Francisco Medina Quispe, William Medina Mendoza and Paulino Quispe Pareja were all detained at their homes in the La Libertad shanty town in Ayacucho city on 6 August 1990 at 8pm by members of the army. Carlos Huichu Garzón was detained on 5 August in similar circumstances.

In all of the above cases, relatives have made denunciations to the Public Ministry and have been in person to the police and military authorities, but these have refused to acknowledge their detention.

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" of José Medina Meneses, Francisco Medina Quispe, William Medina Mendoza, Paulino Quispe Pareja and Carlos Huichu Garzón;
- 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:

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

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ
Faxes: +51 14 35 9997

Dr Manuel Catacora González
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalía General de la Nación
Edificio Torre de Lima, 7 piso
Centro Cívico
Lima, Perú

Telegrams: Fiscal General Catacora, Lima, Peru
Telexes: 20055 PE MINPUBL

Jefe Político-Militar de Ayacucho
Cuartel Militar BIM 51 "Los Cabbitos"
Huamanga
Ayacucho, Perú

Telegrams: Jefe Politico-Militar, Ayacucho, Peru
Telexes: 64734 PE 32 or 64735 PE PIP

COPIES TO:

Señores
COMISEDH
Apartado Postal 11-0247
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 3 October 1990.