

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 428/90 Fear of Torture/Fear of "Disappearance" 24 October 1990

PERU

Jorge LOZANO VASQUEZ
Alejandro PINEDO ARCE
José GARCIA SAAVEDRA
Damian FLORES VELA
Warren TRIGOZO GARCIA
Cesear SAAVEDRA GRANDEZ
Mauro FLORES SANCHEZ
Edgar VILCARROMERO TANGO
Hugo GARCIA RODRIGUEZ
Eleazar GARCIA ARMAS
Javier TUANAMA VALERA

Amnesty International has just received information that the people named above are being held in incommunicado detention in military installations, and is concerned for their safety. According to reports, they were detained between the dates of 16-21 October 1990 by soldiers and taken to the Mariscal Cáceres Morales military base in Tarapoto, San Martín province, San Martín department. Reports also indicate that they are now being held incommunicado, leading to fears that they may be tortured since this is a common practice in the San Martín military barracks.

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 incommunicado detention of the above people;
- asking that all the necessary measures be taken to ensure their physical safety and that they have access to lawyers, doctors and relatives;
- asking that they 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: San Martin Jefe Politico-Militar, Tarapoto,
 San Martin, Peru

COPIES TO:

Sra. Pilar Coll

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos
Capac Yupanqui, 2151
Depto. 204
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 5 December 1990.