

# PERU

## @Some recent cases of human rights violations by the security forces and abuses by Sendero Luminoso

Since Amnesty International documented human rights violations in the report Peru: Human rights in a climate of terror, AI Index AMR 46/56/91, the organization has received further reports of gross violations by the Peruvian security forces. Atrocities by the main armed opposition group Sendero Luminoso, Shining Path, including the deliberate and arbitrary killing of people taking no active part in the hostilities, also continue to be reported.

This paper provides several recent examples of reported human rights violations by the Peruvian security forces and abuses by Sendero Luminoso.

Amnesty International is concerned about a series of reported "disappearances" and one extrajudicial execution by the armed forces, centred in the Alto Huallaga area between 8 August 1991 and 19 November 1991. The organization has documented ten "disappearances" and one extrajudicial execution in the province of Leoncio Prado, department of Huánuco, and one further "disappearance" in the province of Tocache, department of San Martín, all of them reportedly perpetrated by the army. The organization appealed to the authorities to urgently investigate the "disappearances" and the killing (see Amnesty International Urgent Actions: UA 310/91, AI Index AMR 46/62/91; UA 343/91, AI Index AMR 46/66/91; UA 368/91, AI Index 46/69/91; UA 379/91, AI Index AMR 46/73/91; UA 402/91, AI Index AMR 46/76/91).

Since 1988 threats, attacks and selective assassinations of government critics have been attributed to so-called paramilitary death-squads said to be operating under a variety of names and to have links with the official security forces, including the Comando Rodrigo Franco (CRF), Rodrigo Franco Command, which operated during the previous government's term of office. During the present administration death threats have been issued by a so-called paramilitary group identifying itself as the Comando de Liberación Antiterrorista (CAT), the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Command. Since June 1991 the CAT has issued death threats to several journalists in Ayacucho and Lima. One journalist who received a death threat in the name of this purported paramilitary group - Luis Antonio Morales Ortega - was subsequently shot dead in July 1991 (see UA 248/91, AI Index AMR 46/42/91).

Amnesty International is also concerned about the killing of 12 men, three women and one child, in circumstances which suggest they may have been extrajudicially executed by members of the security forces or so-called paramilitary death-squads acting with their acquiescence. The killing took place during a social gathering held in the interior yard of a

building, located in the Barrios Altos district in the centre of Lima, the capital, on 3 November 1991.

According to witnesses, during the gathering which was attended by a large number of people, about 10 assailants entered the yard, shouting and ordering everybody to lie on the floor, before proceeding to shoot them, reportedly with firearms fixed with silencers.

Neighbours reported that the assailants arrived in two vehicles of the kind used by the authorities. Press reports indicate that one of the vehicles belonged to the vice-Minister of the Interior and the other to the office of the Presidency. The authorities said after the incident that the vehicles had been stolen some time ago. The killings took place within the close vicinity of the Dirección de Inteligencia de la Policía Nacional, the Intelligence Division of the National Police, the Cuartel del Escuadrón Águilas Negras de la Policía General, the barracks of the Águilas Negras Squadron of the General Police, as well as of an army patrol.

According to official documents made available by a Peruvian Senator to the Ministers of Defence and the Interior, the house in Barrios Altos where the killing took place had been watched over since 1989 by a special police intelligence group which believed that the house was being frequented by sympathizers of Sendero Luminoso.

Amnesty International has urgently appealed to the authorities that a thorough and impartial investigation be immediately ordered into the killings, and that the personal security of all witnesses be guaranteed (see UA 401/91, AI Index AMR 46/75/91).

Amnesty International is further concerned about the deliberate killing by Sendero Luminoso of people taking no active part in the hostilities.

In August 1991 members of Sendero Luminoso killed three Catholic priests in the province of Santa, Ancash department. On 10 August 1991, in Chimbote, Ancash department, two Polish Franciscans, Fr Zbigniew Strzalowski and Fr Michal Tomaszek, were reportedly killed by members of Sendero Luminoso while speaking with a group of young Peruvians. The two church men were responsible for work in 22 villages and were awaiting the opening of a new mission in Chimbote itself. On 25 August 1991 an Italian priest, Alessandro Dordi Negroni, was reportedly shot in the face three times by members of Sendero Luminoso. He died instantly. He and two lay workers were apparently intercepted by Sendero Luminoso members as they were returning to Chimbote in a van.

In September, the newspaper El Diario Internacional, reportedly a mouthpiece of Sendero Luminoso, claimed that "Maoist forces executed [the] three priests" because "they had been participating in the counterinsurgency struggle designed by the government and the armed forces".

On 21 November 1991 Amnesty International published an advertisement in three Peruvian national daily newspapers stating that a sense of impunity pervades the armed forces and calling upon the government to immediately respect international human rights law. In the advertisement the organization also unequivocally opposed and condemned deliberate and arbitrary killings by the armed opposition groups Sendero Luminoso and the Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru (MRTA), the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, including the killing of civilians not directly involved in hostilities and of members of the security forces who have been incapacitated, have surrendered or are detained by such groups. This condemnation is based on principles derived from international humanitarian law which sets out the standards that all parties to conflicts must observe.

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