

amnesty international

PERU

POSSIBLE EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

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SUMMARY

AI INDEX: AMR 46/66/90

DISTR: SC/CO

Santiago HUAMAN GOMEZ
Anita FIGUEROA PEÑA, 11
Mariano NAVARRO HUACHACA
Sergio URI AGUILAR
ALPACA HUAITA
Pio MORALES FIGUEROA
Saturnino FIGUEROA LAPA
Meliton FIGUEROA LAPA

Filomeno CUCHORI RAMIREZ
Alejandro AYALA PEÑA
Darío HUAMAN CURI, 15
Benedicto VICAYA Mariano
Juana LAPA HUACHACA
Virgilio LAPA HUAMAN
Elena VARGAS MACHACA
Pablo Andrés LAPA

Amnesty International has been informed of what appears to be the extrajudicial execution of the above 16 farmers by members of the army and local civil defence groups.

According to reports, the above named members of the Iquicha peasant community, near Uchuraccay, Huanta province, Ayacucho department, were killed on 22 August 1990 by members of Civil Defence groups (ronderos) and some 50 soldiers of the Machente y Ccano military base. The reports add that this incident occurred after the community leaders refused to accept a demand made by the military and the ronderos to cooperate with them in their planned confrontation with members of the Sendero Luminoso armed group that is active in the area.

According to reports the community members (who used to be ronderos) had decided not to participate in the confrontation because they felt they were always being used as shields to protect the soldiers behind them and that they usually had the largest number of casualties.

Surviving members of the community report that three days after the confrontation with Sendero Luminoso had taken place, which resulted in the death of a soldier and four ronderos, 50 military and some 100 ronderos went to the Iquicha community, detained and then shot dead the 16 above mentioned persons, which included women and children, and shot them dead. The reports add that the ronderos were led by a former soldier.

The killings were denounced to the Provincial Attorney and to the Attorney of the Ayacucho department.

Amnesty International does not know whether an investigation has been initiated.

BACKGROUND

Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the increasing number of killings and "disappearances" including mass incidents, being reported from the Peruvian highlands, in which non combatant members of peasant communities are being killed by soldiers, paramilitary groups or civil defence groups. This follows a period in which such reports decreased, after Alberto Fujimori took over the presidency, in July 1990.

During his presidential speech, on 28 July, Alberto Fujimori said:

"La violencia terrorista que enfrenta actualmente nuestra joven democracia no puede justificar, de manera alguna, la violación sistemática o esporádica de los derechos humanos. La lucha antisubversiva que emprenderá mi gobierno se enmarcará y ejecutará conforme a los principios consagrados en la Constitución y las leyes de la República. Esta perspectiva será aplicada con equidad y justicia , tanto para aquellos que hoy agreden nuestra sociedad como para los que la defienden".

"The terrorist violence which presently confronts our young democracy cannot justify, in any way the systematic violation of human rights. The antisubversive struggle which my government will take up will be executed conforming to the principles consecrated in the constitution and the laws of the Republic. This perspective will be applied with equity and justice, both for those who today attack our society as well as those who defend it".