

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PERU @TORTURE AND "DISAPPEARANCES" AT KM.86 MILITARY BASE FEDERICO BASADRE HIGHWAY

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### "Disappearance"

Lester MOZOMBITE CARTAGENA, aged 23.

### Torture and "Disappearance"

Amanda GUERRA LOPEZ, aged 21

### Torture

2 unnamed boys, aged 15 and 16

1 unnamed girl, aged 15

Amnesty International is concerned about the alleged "disappearance" of Lester Mozombite Cartagena, the torture and "disappearance" of Amanda Guerra Lopez, and the torture of three minors whose names are being withheld for their safety.

According to reports, on 25 September 1990 all five individuals boarded a bus in Pucallpa, department of Ucayali, with destination for Tingo María. The bus stopped at a military check-point at Km.86 of the Federico Basadre Highway where a military base is also located. A lieutenant reportedly ordered the five persons listed above off the bus and had them detained in the Km.86 military base, where the three minors were separated from the two adults.

Amanda Guerra was allegedly raped by several soldiers while in the Km.86 base. Her detention, and that of Lester Mozombite has not been acknowledged; both remain "disappeared". The three minors were allegedly beaten, had water thrown over them, and were made to lie face-down on the ground. Eight soldiers at the same military base reportedly raped the 15-year-old girl.

The three minors were subsequently transferred to the military base located at Km.11 of the Federico Basadre Highway where they remained in detention until 29 September. Before being released soldiers allegedly threatened all three with the killing of Lester Mozombite and Amanda Guerra if they reported the incident to the authorities.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In July 1990 President Alberto Fujimori assumed power. In his inaugural speech he stated that "the unconditional respect and promotion of human rights will be a firm line of action during my government" and that a national commission would be set up to guarantee respect for human rights. By the end of January 1991 the government had not spelt out the specific terms of reference for such a commission or appointed the persons who are to compose it.

Following arrest by members of the security forces, 58 new cases of "disappearance" were reported in the first six months of President Fujimori's administration. Of these, three were subsequently freed or transferred to police custody and 24 were subsequently reported as found dead. The rest, 31 people, remained unaccounted for.

Reports of torture and ill-treatment, including rape, by the security forces also continue to be documented by Amnesty International. Since the end of July 1990 the organization has appealed to the Peruvian government to investigate some 20 cases of reported torture.

Amnesty International has not received any information from the authorities indicating that official investigations have been initiated into these reported "disappearances", deaths and torture cases, or that the perpetrators have been brought to justice.

The pattern of reported "disappearances" and torture by the security forces in Peru - a pattern which dates back to 1983 - and the failure to thoroughly investigate cases and bring to justice the perpetrators, means that the Peruvian authorities are not fulfilling their legal obligations as enshrined in constitutional and international standards. A consequence of this failure is that gross violations of human rights by members of the security forces have been permitted to occur with impunity.

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