

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Ill-treatment / Fear for safety

31 May 1994

PERU

César Flores Gonzáles, journalist

César Flores Gonzáles is too afraid to return to Huanta where he works as correspondent for *Radio Antena 1*. He told an Amnesty International delegation visiting Peru from 8 to 22 May 1994, that on 30 April he was detained by a military patrol in the town of Huanta, Huanta province, Ayacucho department, and beaten before being released on 6 May. Amnesty International fears that he may be redetained and and once again ill-treated or tortured.

In his testimony, César Flores states that he was taken to the Castropampa military base in Huanta, where he was beaten by army personnel. His detention and ill-treatment seems to have been in reprisal for him having denounced publicly and to the provincial attorney's office that he had been threatened with death by a military officer a week prior to his detention. César Flores states that he was told by army personnel that he was being released on the condition that he stop "slandering" the army.

The army has claimed that César Flores was not detained, but rather "recruited" to serve his military service and that he was subsequently released because he was "unsuited". He has, however, already finished his military service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As Huanta correspondent for the Lima-based radio station, *Radio Antena 1*, César Flores has repeatedly denounced army personnel for abuses, such as their use of a local discotheque as a brothel.

Journalists reporting on alleged abuses by the security forces have been a target under the government of President Alberto Fujimori and those of his predecessors, Alan García Pérez and Belaúnde Terry Fernando. Between 1983 and 1990 Amnesty International received several reports of journalists being threatened and harassed by members of the security forces. Between November 1992 and May 1993, Cecilia Valenzuela, a journalist on the weekly magazine *Caretas*, received death threats (see UA 82/93, AMR 46/07/93, 24 March 1993).

During March 1994, Mariano Paliza Mendoza, a journalist who works for the independent human rights organization APRODEH, received several death threats (see UA 135/94, AMR 46/07/94, 6 April 1994).

Human rights violations occur in the context of the government's counter-insurgency operations directed against the clandestine armed opposition groups *Partido Comunista del Perú (Sendero Luminoso)*, Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path) and the *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, MRTA*, Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Amnesty International unequivocally opposes the deliberate and arbitrary killing by the armed opposition of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the internal conflict, and of members of the security forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the reported ill-treatment of César Flores Gonzáles,

while in military custody from 30 April to 6 May 1994 in the town of Huanta, Ayacucho department;

- urging that the alleged ill-treatment be immediately and thoroughly investigated, the findings made public and the perpetrators brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate and effective steps to guarantee his physical safety.

APPEALS TO

1. President

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
 Presidente de la República del Perú
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Plaza de Armas
 Lima 1, PERU

Telegrams: President Fujimori, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO

Faxes: +5114 337020/330511/336770

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2. Minister of the Interior

General EP Juan Briones Dávila
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
 San Isidro
 Urb. Córpac
 Lima 27, PERU

Telegrams: General Davila, Ministro del Interior, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI/21697

Faxes: +5114 414128/752995

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

3. Minister of Defence

General EP Víctor Malca Villanueva
 Ministro de Defensa
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Avenida Boulevard y Monterrico
 Lima 33, PERU

Telegrams: General Villanueva, Ministro de Defensa, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 25438 COMGREGJ

Faxes: +5114 359997/334470

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

4. Attorney General

Dra. Blanca Nélica Colán Maguiño
 Sra. Fiscal de la Nación
 Fiscalía de la Nación
 Avenida Azángaro
 Lima, PERU

Telegrams: Fiscal de la Nacion Maguiño, Lima, Peru

Telexes: 20055 PE MINPLUB

Faxes: +5114 33 44 57

Salutation: Sra. Fiscal de la Nación / Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Radio Antena 1
Paseo de la República 3662
San Isidro
Faxes: + 5114 706710

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 July 1994.