

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/63/90
Distr: UA/SC

UA 401/90

"Disappearances"

3 October 1990

PERU: Gilberto GARCIA RENGIFO

Melchor MAMANI PACHECO
Francisco TURPO ANCO
Dionisio CANTONI ANCO
Mario QUISPE HUALLPARTUPA
Florencio QUISPE CONDORI
Pedro KENTA
Florencio GUTIERREZ GUTIERREZ

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned at reports of the "disappearance" after detention by members of the army of the above named people.

Gilberto García Rengifo was detained on 1 September 1990 by members of the army in Balzayoca, Campanilla district, in the province of Mariscal Cáceres in San Martín department. The detention was witnessed by neighbours. He was then taken to the Puente Arenas military base where, according to reports, he was seen by other detainees. Military authorities, however, have failed to acknowledge his detention.

The other seven detainees were either community leaders or leaders of the Peasants Federation of Orurillo in Melgar province, Puno department. They were reportedly detained by a patrol of the Dirección de Operaciones Especiales de la Policía, Police Special Operations Unit, following a number of confrontations in the area between the police and members of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) armed group, which reportedly took place on 19 September 1990, and in which a police Colonel and three other policemen were killed.

Melchor Mamani Pacheco, President of the Chullutiva community, and Francisco Turpo Anco were reportedly detained on 25 September in Chullutiva. Dionisio Cantoni Anco, secretary general of the Peasants Federation of Orurillo, was detained the following day in Pampa Quisuni, Melgar province, together with Mario Quispe Huallpartupa, Florencio Quispe Condori and Pedro Kenta. Florencio Gutiérrez Gutiérrez was detained in the Huichullo peasant community, Melgar province, also on the 26 September.

Relatives of the above mentioned people enquired as to their whereabouts in the police stations of Ayaviri, Juliaca and Puno, but the authorities have refused to acknowledge the detentions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the last eight years Amnesty International has received numerous reports of "disappearances" from Peru. Most of them have occurred in rural areas and have been preceded by detentions carried out by uniformed members of the security forces, who 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 "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 ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported "disappearance" after detention of the people named above;
- urging that they be either released or brought before a competent court and that their legal situation be clarified;
- urging that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to lawyers, doctors and relatives.

APPEALS TO:

General Jorge Torres Aciego
 Ministro de Defensa
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Avenida Boulevard s/n
 Monterrico
 Lima 33, Perú

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Torres, Lima, Perú
 Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ
 Faxes: + 51 14 35 9997

General Adolfo Alvarado Fournier
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
 San Isidro, Urb Corpac
 Lima 27, Perú

Faxes: +51 14 41 5128
 Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI
 Telegrams: Ministro Interior Mantilla, Lima, Perú

On behalf of Gilberto García Rengifo:

Sr. Jefe Politico Militar de San Martin
 Base Militar de Uchiza
 Uchiza, Tocache
 San Martin, PERU

On behalf of the seven from Puno:

General Walter Peña Rivas
 Jefe de la Comandancia General de Puno
 Puno, PERU

COPIES TO:

Señores

Comisión Episcopal de Acción Social (CEAS)
Departamento Jurídico
Apartado 363
Lima 11, Perú (Episcopal Commission for Social Action)

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 16 November 1990.