

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance"

19 November 1991

PERU:

Oscar URBINA CRUZ

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported "disappearance" of Oscar Urbina Cruz following his detention by members of the army in Tingo María, Leoncio Prado province, department of Huánuco.

According to reports, Oscar Urbina and a friend were detained on 9 October 1991 by two armed men while driving a motorcycle across the Corpac bridge in Tingo María. The reports indicate that both men were driven away in a vehicle, apparently to the Base Contrasubversiva Nro. 313, "Los Laureles", Counterinsurgency Base No. 313, "Los Laureles" in Tingo María. The detention was witnessed by a number of people.

On 13 October, the friend who was detained with Oscar Urbina was released and told Oscar Urbina's relatives that they had both been held in detention at the Tingo María army base. On 28 October a civilian released from the same military base confirmed that he had seen Oscar Urbina there. When relatives approached the army base to enquire about his safety and whereabouts, the authorities refused to acknowledge the detention.

Relatives of Oscar Urbina denounced his detention to the Provincial Prosecutor in Tingo María, who apparently referred the case to the Public Ministry's Special Prosecutor for Human Rights in the town of Huánuco. However, apparently no representative of the Public Ministry has visited the army base to enquire about his detention.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gross and widespread human rights violations have afflicted Peru since 1983, as more and more areas of the country are designated emergency zones under military control. Since the armed conflict began, thousands of people have "disappeared" or have been extrajudicially executed by the security forces in the emergency zones. Most of those whose bodies have been found had been brutally tortured, as had been the few who survived "disappearance". In recent years "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions have spread beyond the emergency zones to afflict the entire country.

Emergency zones form the core of counter-insurgency strategy to combat widespread armed opposition, principally from the Partido Comunista del Peru,

"Sendero Luminoso", the Communist Party of Peru, Shining Path, which has been responsible for extensive atrocities since it commenced armed actions in 1980. Thousands of people have been killed by Sendero Luminoso who frequently torture their captives and subject them to mock trials before killing them, in a parody of justice.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" of Oscar Urbina Cruz following his reported detention by members of the army in Tingo María;
- urging that his whereabouts and legal situation be immediately clarified;
- asking that he be given immediate access to representatives of the Public Ministry and the International Committee of the Red Cross; asking that he be brought before a judge so that he may be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or be released;
- asking that while in detention he be humanely treated and given access to a lawyer, doctor and relatives.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President:

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

**Señor Presidente / Dear President**

**Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Peru**

**Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO**

2) Minister of Defence:

General EP Victor Malca Villanueva  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Avenida Boulevard s/n  
Monterrico  
Lima 33, PERU

**Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Malca, Lima, Peru**

**Telexes: 25438 PE COMGREGJ**

3) Undersecretary of Multilateral Policy:

Embajador Fernando Guillén Salas  
Subsecretaría de Multilateral  
Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Jr. Ucayali 363  
Lima 1, Peru

**Señor Embajador / Dear Ambassador**

**Telegrams: Sr Subsecretario, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Lima 1, Peru**

**Telexes: 25435 PE Estado**

**COPIES TO:**

Señores  
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)  
Pachacutec 980  
Jesús María  
Lima, PERU (Human rights association)

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru in your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with International Secretariat of your section office if sending appeals after 31 December 1991.