

That is the life in community, which is our strength.

The root of the violence that is occurring now in Peru extends back to the notion of private property, distinct from our traditional community-based way of life. Between 1982 and 1985 there were 7,000 dead and many more than 3,000 missing and presumed dead. Since January, 1986, there are dozens more dead and disappeared. The blame for these deaths is placed on the guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso, but the blame to a much larger extent is also placed on the armed forces of Peru. Sendero Luminoso consists of people who are adventurers and provokers of violence, who kill along with the armed forces. They kill children, old people, and women. This is not a true revolutionary movement. For this reason it is detested by Indian communities. Our organization has a position in the face of this situation. We feel this is genocide that is occurring, and it becomes institutionalized by the armed forces. The consequence of this genocide doesn't mean simply the physical end or disappearance of a person. It also has massive repercussions for the entire extended family, leaving thousands and thousands of orphans and hungry children, and thousands and thousands of mothers and women who go from place to place, to the cemeteries and jails, looking for their loved ones they have lost. You see, the consequences of these kinds of things are not erased from our lives right away.

While there is no complete solution, through SERPAJ we do a number of things. We have helped organize the struggle of the relatives of the disappeared in the Ayacucho region. Their organization, the Association of Relatives of the Kidnapped and Missing of Ayacucho (*Asociación de Familiares de los Secuestrados y Detenidos-Desaparacidos de Ayacucho*), is part of the human rights department of SERPAJ. We also have dining halls in Ayacucho and Lima for the thousands of children who have been orphaned. This is done by the volunteer work of Peruvians and by the assistance of people throughout the world who are helping us.

*For more information about the work of SERPAJ, contact the Resource Center for Non-violence, P.O. Box 2324, Santa Cruz, CA 95063.*

## Human Rights Activist Among Missing In Peru

Among the many people missing as a result of political violence in Peru is Guadalupe Ccallocunto Olano, secretary of the Association of Relatives of the Kidnapped and Missing (*Asociación de los Familiares de los Secuestrados y Detenidos-Desaparacidos*), who was arrested in Lima on May 24. A few days earlier she wrote, "The situation in Peru is getting worse. We live in a state of anxiety and insecurity. We are losing hope with this government, but the struggle of our people and of the relatives gives birth to another hope. They have threatened me many times and yet I cannot live with my back turned while my people bleed. I believe that it is better to die struggling, shouting the truth. This is what gives me hope that justice will come. But this we will only achieve with the help of all those persons who are aware of the inequality which reigns in our country."

As we go to press, reports from Lima describe a massacre by police of over 300 prisoners accused of subversive acts. According to official reports, three police died.

