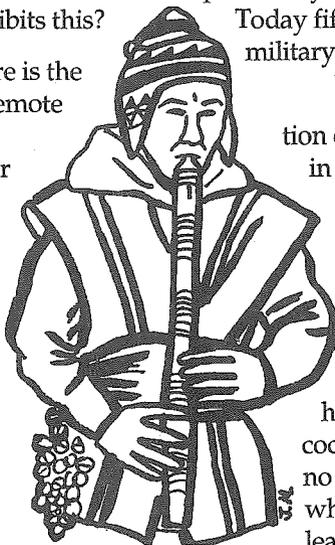


SAIIC: Why can't the Attorney General enter military headquarters, is there a law that prohibits this?

CE: No. There is no such law, but there is the gun. The Attorney General is the law, but in remote zones such as Ayacucho where the military is omnipotent, the Attorney General cannot enter their headquarters. That is why, if we suspend emergency zones, we can solve the problem of the disappeared. The emergency zones are at the core of the problem.

In Peru the emergency zones include 40 percent of the country. It would be a radical change to send the military back to their barracks. In these zones, the army has created a kind of status quo. They are very entrenched in being there and extorting the people, etc... When [former President] Alan Garcia said the emergency zone status of Ayacucho would be lifted, car bombs immediately appeared in Ayacucho. The Attorney General's office investigated one of those car bombings and we came to the conclusion that it was



planted by the army. So the President revoked his order. Today fifty percent of the population of Ayacucho is military or police.

SAIIC: With the US promoting the militarization of the coca production zones, will the situation in the emergency zones be aggravated?

CE: I think the problem of drug-trafficking is wrongly emphasized. The problem is not the production, but the consumption. If there is nobody to consume cocaine, who is going to produce it? The consumption must be attacked and that must happen in the US. Peruvians have been using coca leaves for thousands of years and it's caused no problems, *ever!* It's part of the tradition. So why try to eradicate the production of coca leaves? For North Americans, it would be cheaper to control their borders, than to spend what they are spending in weaponry in South America, unless, of course, they have other goals...

How You Can Help!

Write to the Peruvian President 1) expressing your concern at the murders and tortures in the Ayacucho Province, 2) request that a prompt and independent investigation of the tortures and killings be carried out, that the results be made public and those responsible be brought to justice, 3) request that safety of the witnesses be ensured, 4) contact your local media to give publicity to these atrocities.

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

For more information on human rights in Peru, contact:

Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos
Horacio Hurteaga 704
Jesús María
Lima, PERU

Last-Minute Communiqué

SAIIC was just informed by Amnesty International about more tortures and deaths of Quechua Indian people in the Department of Ayacucho.

At least 16 people were tortured by soldiers, as a result of which three of them died, in the province of Vilcashuamán, Department of Ayacucho.

On September 25, at 7am, a contingent of soldiers from the Accomarca military base, led by officials nicknamed "Moreno" and "Gitano," went to the community of Pucapaccana in the Province of Vilcashuamán. They reportedly called the community together and forced them to hand over cattle, money and belongings. The reports add that the names of Bernabé Baldeón García, Jesús Baldeón Zapata and Santos Baldeón Palacios were read from a list and they were ordered to accompany the soldiers to Pacchahuallhua, bringing the animals with them. Bernabé Baldeón García was among the confirmed dead. On their way three women who

were grazing their sheep were reportedly raped by five of the soldiers escorting the detainees.

When the group arrived at Pacchahuallhua, they were taken to a local government center where they were joined by other men, women and school children, who were being held by soldiers who had carried out similar raids in nearby areas.

Ill-treatment and torture reportedly took place in a nearby church. In a written denunciation made by the *Federation of Vilcashuamán Institutions (FIPV)*, its representatives describe the torture to which the peasants were subjected:

...they were tied up with wire and hung upside-down from a beam and whipped; afterwards they were made to lie on the floor, one on top of another, forming a pile of human bodies such that the person at the bottom carried the weight of all the others and the soldiers jumped on top of them; after this ill-treatment they were submerged in ...hot and ...cold water ...until they were dying...