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Erika Harding

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by Erika Harding

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On May 4, military sources reported that 21 persons were killed in clashes between rebels and government security forces over the weekend. The death toll from rebel attacks since April 5 totaled 100. A nighttime assault on May 9 by security forces ended a four-day stand-off between Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) inmates and police at the Miguel Castro Castro maximum security prison, located in Canto Grande, about 5 km. from Lima. The fighting left at least 30 dead, including two police officers. Political observers in Lima said rebel inmates had exercised complete control of Canto Grande for the past six years. In similar uprisings in 1986 at three Lima prisons, 250 rebels were killed, about half of them shot to death by police after they surrendered. Police reported that several members of Sendero Luminoso's central committee were killed during the fighting at Canto Grande. An estimated 600 inmates participated in the uprising, sparked by an attempt by prison authorities to transfer a group of female prisoners to a separate facility. Security forces reported discovery of machine guns, pistols, grenades, ammunition, explosives, arrows, stockpiles of food and medicine, televisions, typewriters and refrigerators in prison cell blocks. Rebels had fortified walls of certain parts of the prison with steel rods and cement, and constructed an intricate tunnel network connecting different parts of the facility. During a visit to the Canto Grande prison on May 10, President Alberto Fujimori said that rebel inmates will be moved to solitary confinement cells at several facilities scattered throughout the country to prevent virtual takeovers of prisons by rebels in the future. On May 11, the Agence France-Presse reported on results of a study on political violence in Peru. According to the study, in the first quarter of 1992, 400 people were killed in over 400 rebel attacks. Over the past 12 years, rebels have toppled 570 electricity towers, causing blackouts in about half the country for an overall total of 138 days. Damage to the electricity grid resulting from rebel sabotage was estimated at US$1.1 billion. In draft legislation for the protection of minors, judicial system official Ana Maria Vidal reported that rebel violence since 1989 has resulted in the following casualties among children: over 1,000 dead, 250 disappeared, at least 3,000 injured, and 50,000 orphaned. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 05/05/92, 05/09-11/92)

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