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John Neagle

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Peru: Report On Recent Rebel Violence

by John Neagle

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On Feb. 1, according to Victor Urbiola, prefect of Puno department, presumed rebel gunmen assassinated Peruvian Agrarian Bank (Banco Agrario del Peru) employee Honorato Otto Durand Charca. The rebels apparently intercepted a pickup driven by Durand Charca outside the city of Azangaro, located 800 km. southeast of Lima. Urbiola said that after the rebels shot the 52-year-old engineer, they put his corpse in a sack, tossed it and a load of dynamite into the bed of the pickup, and then set off an explosion close to a police checkpoint in Azangaro. The prefect said Durand Charca was killed in the environs of the village of San Jose, where presumed guerrillas pertaining to Sendero Luminoso shot seven residents on Jan. 29. In Ayacucho, 375 km. southeast of Lima, police reported that on Jan. 29, 60 "Senderista" rebels occupied the village of Colca. The police said the guerrillas, armed with rifles, grenades, pistols and machetes, rounded up village residents in the main plaza, where the villagers were urged to join the rebels. After the meeting in the plaza, the guerrillas looted the village's food stores. Lidia Castro, 17, offered resistance, and was shot to death. When the attackers failed to locate Colca's mayor, APRA member Arcadio Mendoza Flores, the guerrillas set fire to his home and the municipal seat. They also dynamited a tractor and an electricity generator. According to official statistics, since 1980 the war with Sendero Luminoso has caused more than 12,000 deaths. (Basic data from AP, 02/01/89)

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