

6-6-1989

Peru: Summary Report Of Recent Rebel Attacks, Government Response

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Peru: Summary Report Of Recent Rebel Attacks, Government Response." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/3183>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Peru: Summary Report Of Recent Rebel Attacks, Government Response

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Tuesday, June 6, 1989

On May 31, 10 young men were killed before dawn in Tarapoto, San Martin department. The town, with a population of 35,000, is located about 450 miles north of Lima at the edge of Peru's coca-growing region. According to AP, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) distributed leaflets in Tarapoto two weeks earlier announcing its intention to "clean up" the town. The leaflets warned thieves, prostitutes, drug addicts and homosexuals they had 15 days to leave town or face death. The 15-day period ended May 30. A city official who requested anonymity told AP by phone that eight victims were found together near the city cemetery, each shot in the head. He said a police patrol found the other two in the same area later in the day. The 10 victims reportedly attended a party together on Tuesday evening. MRTA surfaced in 1984, and operates separately from and in competition with Sendero Luminoso. MRTA guerrillas usually engaged in urban sabotage against property and rarely killed civilians. In the past to years, the group has expanded into rural areas. Estimates of the organization's size range from 500 to 1,500. In late April, a military patrol wiped out a column of 68 MRTA guerrillas near the highland town of Jauja. In its June 1 edition El Comercio (Lima) reported that Sendero Luminoso guerrillas killed Peru's leading environmental journalist, Barbara D'Achille, and agronomist Esteban Bohorquez after guerrillas stopped their government-owned pickup truck on a mountain road in the highlands 150 miles southeast of the capital. D'Achille worked for El Comercio. According to officials, the two were shot near Huancavelica. The gunmen spared the driver and another passenger but blew up the truck, according to El Comercio. According to DPA, local farmers said Sendero Luminoso rebels had been holding a meeting in the area at the time. An unidentified senior editor at the newspaper, told AP that D'Achille was traveling in the region to collect information for a story on alpacas, llamas and vicunas highland pack animals used for their wool. D'Achille, a naturalized Peruvian born in the Soviet Union, had worked for the newspaper five years. She was recognized as the country's leading writer on Peruvian ecology and environment. On June 2, the Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in two more provinces. As of Friday, 10 of the country's 25 provinces are fully or partially under military rule. The additions were the eastern jungle provinces of Ucayali and Loreto. (Basic data from AP, 06/01/89; DPA, 06/02/89)

-- End --