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Peru: Congressional Committees Report On Disappearances, Unexplained Deaths, Rightist Paramilitary Groups

by John Neagle

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On Sept. 16, a parliamentary committee reported that 5,877 people had disappeared in politically linked circumstances in Peru in the last nine years. Committee chairperson Moises Tambini del Valle said another 2,346 people died during the same period in circumstances which had never been satisfactorily explained. Another committee reported on Sept. 15 that nine rightist paramilitary groups operate in Peru. The groups reportedly emerged in response to the insurgency launched in 1980 by the leftist Sendero Luminoso. Since 1980, some 14,000 civilians, rebels and soldiers have died in clashes linked to the insurgency. (Basic data from AFP, 09/16/89)

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