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by John Neagle

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On Sept. 20, the Peruvian government imposed a curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the departments of Ayacucho and Huancavelica following the Sept. 19 murder of 64-year-old Ayacucho Mayor Fermin Azparrent. The mayor was shot to death at his home by three assailants armed with submachine guns. Police said the killers escaped, but identified them as Sendero Luminoso guerrillas. Abraham Fernandez Carhuapoma, mayor of a small town in Huancavelica department, was also assassinated this week. In the past five years, 50 mayors have been killed in Peru’s political violence. The two departments are already under state of emergency restrictions. The Sept. 20 announcement marked the sixth curfew in the city of Ayacucho since the Sendero Luminoso guerrilla group launched its insurgency campaign in 1980. Relatives said Azparrent received numerous death threats from leftist guerrillas and from Movimiento Rodrigo Franco, a rightist death squad. He had survived at least eight earlier attempts on his life. Asparrent recently resumed his duties in Ayacucho, after spending months in Lima because of the death threats. Azparrent was a member of the United Left (IU), a powerful coalition of social democrat and leftist parties. On Sept. 20, IU deputies called for the resignation of Defense Minister Gen. Julio Velasquez Giacarini. (Basic data from Notimex, AP, 09/20/89)

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