Peru: Report On Recent Violence

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Oct. 31: Police reported that Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels shot to death Enrique Castillo, a textile union leader and member of the opposition of the United Left (IU) party. A note attached to his body read, "This is how the repugnant leftists, Apristas (ruling party), sellouts and traitors of the working class die." Police said the note was signed with the hammer and sickle, and the letters PCP S-L (Peruvian Communist Party-Sendero Luminoso). According to police, rebels shot to death Rafael Castillo, a professor at Antunez National University of Mayolo in Huaraz in the central plaza of Cajamarquilla, 400 km. northeast of Lima. In Ayacucho, a 37-year-old man was shot twice in the head by three suspected rebels who broke into his home. Government officials reported that an anti-rebel brigade had captured three members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) in Bagua Grande, 850 km. northeast of Lima. Nov. 1: Police reported that at least 100 Sendero Luminoso rebels fired guns and explosives at police supervising an All Saints Day procession in La Victoria, a working class neighborhood near downtown Lima. Two rebels were killed and 15 people were wounded. Police said they detained 140 people. The rebels also managed to dynamite a bank, set fire to a bus, and attack a police station and the Channel 11 TV station. According to Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla, the rebels had staged a march in La Victoria at the same time as the procession. AP cited reporters who said the rebels carried banners and scattered pamphlets urging people to stay home from work on Nov. 3, and to boycott municipal elections scheduled for Nov. 12. In Huancayo, Sendero Luminoso guerrillas forced employees of two radio stations to broadcast messages calling on people to participate in a three-day strike beginning Nov. 12. In May, about 1 million people in the Huancayo region obeyed a rebel strike call, preventing food shipments from reaching Lima. A national congressional committee reported that 304 people had died in political violence during the month of October, including 60 candidates running in the Nov. 12 elections. Police reported that on Oct. 31 rebels killed the mayor and police chief of Raquia, located north of Lima. (Basic data from AFP, 10/31/89; AP, Notimex, 11/01/89)

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