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Peru: Notes On Child Mortality

by Barbara Khol

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On May 19 in Lima, Miguel Huanay, representative of the nation's professional association federation for attorneys (Federacion Nacional de Colegios de Abogados), said 1,200 children die every week in Peru, result of malnutrition and extreme poverty. Huanay was testifying before a review committee on legislation pertaining to minors and adoptions. According to Huanay, 86 of every 1,000 children die from malnutrition and other diseases before their first birthday. Peru has the second highest infant mortality rate in Latin America, after Bolivia. About 38% of the children who survive their first year of life suffer from chronic malnutrition, resulting in mild to severe mental retardation and a variety of irreversible physical problems. [Basic data from Andina (Peruvian government new agency), 05/19/91]

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