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## **Peru: Political Violence & Government Response To Accusations Of Human Rights Abuses, July 2 - August 12**

by Barbara Khol

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July 2: Police sources announced that four engineers, two police officers and a campesino were killed by Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels in the town of Moho, Puno department, about 1,300 km. from Lima. The engineers worked on a state-run agricultural project. July 3: An estimated 40 Sendero Luminoso rebels raided the small town of Puente Paucartambo, Pasco department, 300 km. east of Lima. Six members of a campesino self-defense group (ronda campesina) were killed, and several homes and vehicles destroyed. July 15: According to Interior Minister Gen. Victor Malca, in the past 3-1/2 months over 1,500 police officers have been fired or subjected to investigation for misconduct. Malca was called to testify before a legislative commission charged with investigating the recent downing of a civilian aircraft by a National Police patrol in which 17 people were killed. Four members of the patrol have been fired and are currently facing homicide charges for the airplane incident, according to Malca. In addition to downing the plane, within the previous three weeks National Police agents were also implicated in the assassination of three students, the disappearance of 100 kg. of confiscated cocaine, and the shooting death of two colleagues from another security force branch. July 17: Government officials ordered some 100 foreign aid workers to leave their posts in rebel-dominated rural areas. The move came in response to the assassination by rebels the previous week of three Japanese agronomists in Huaral province. July 21: Msgr. Jose Dammert, head of the Peruvian Bishops Conference, criticized President Alberto Fujimori's decision to supply weapons to civilians in rural areas for defense against rebel attacks. He also lashed out against extrajudicial executions, torture, disappearances, corruption and impunity all of which have increased as the government redoubles efforts to defeat the rebels. July 23: According to police, a land mine planted by Sendero Luminoso rebels was responsible for the death of eight people traveling in a Health Ministry van near the town of Santa Rosa, Apurimac department, about 475 km. southeast of Lima. In Lima, suspected Sendero Luminoso gunmen killed a Peruvian businessperson of Japanese descent. July 24: Military sources reported that a series of clashes with Sendero Luminoso rebels near the village of Paccha, 450 km. north of Lima, resulted in the deaths of 20 rebels, four police officers and one soldier. Another three police officers were wounded. July 25: In Tokyo, the government's International Cooperation Agency announced that it had advised 52 Japanese young persons involved in volunteer assistance programs to return to Japan. Another 64 aid workers are to remain in Peru. July 27: As part of a campaign to disrupt independence day celebrations, Sendero Luminoso attacks around the country left 15 people dead. Rebel-imposed work and transport strikes paralyzed the Andean cities of Huancayo, Ayacucho and Huancavelica. July 30: According to army sources, rebels killed a soldier and the mayor of Quivilla, located in the central highlands department of Huanuco, 240 km. northeast of Lima. July 31: The government announced an 80-day extension of the state of emergency imposed on Lima and the port of Callao. In effect since December 1990, the measure suspends individual civil liberties as well as constitutional guarantees such as the right to assembly. Aug. 1: Military sources reported that an attack on an army patrol in the town of Tres Unidos, 475 km. north of Lima, left one rebel dead and three wounded. Another three rebels died in a clash with soldiers in the southern Andean

department of Ayacucho. Aug. 2: In a small town in Huanuco province east of Lima, 32 Sendero Luminoso rebels and two soldiers were killed when a military patrol intercepted a rebel column preparing to attack a farm community. Sendero Luminoso rebels kidnapped four Polish foreign aid workers and killed three of them, including two Roman Catholic priests. The abductions occurred near the Andean city of Huaraz, about 275 km. north of Lima. The fourth kidnap victim, a nun, was released after the killings. The killings brought to nine the number of foreign aid workers slain in Peru this year. Aug. 3: According to police, rebels killed two engineers at a mine in southeastern Huancavelica province, and another engineer and technician in Junin province east of Lima. In Junin, the president of the National Society of Industries called on business leaders to stop paying protection money to rebels. Aug. 7: The National Human Rights Coordinator, headed by Pilar Coll, called an emergency meeting due to threats appearing in the underground newspaper *El Diario*, controlled by Sendero Luminoso. The coordinator serves as an umbrella group for 34 organizations. In its July edition, *El Diario* asserts that the defense of human rights "is based on a bourgeois conception of the world centered around the individual." Next, "the flag of human rights" was taken up by the "bourgeoisie and revisionists" to oppose the right of rebellion. According to *El Diario*, in Peru "there is no dirty war, but a fair insurgent war." In statements to foreign journalists, Foreign Minister Carlos Torres said that while many "excesses" are committed in Peru, human rights violations had declined by 50% in recent months. Peru heads the list of countries which, according to the United Nations, have the largest number of missing civilians. "Disappeared persons" last year totaled 242, and 400 in 1989. Aug. 9: An estimated 200 rebels attacked a police station in the Laramate district, department of Ayacucho, using grenades, dynamite and gunfire. Eleven police officers and five guerrillas were killed in the fighting, and another five police agents were wounded. After several hours of fighting, the rebels carried off weapons, ammunition and communications equipment, and then destroyed the police station. In Lima, the evangelical organization "World Vision International" reported that four of its development workers disappeared 23 days ago during a trip to southern Peru. The missing persons include Luis Gutierrez, head of the organization's development center in Andahuaylas; two social workers and a community support coordinator. The four men left Andahuaylas on July 17 in a vehicle and drove to the town of Puquito in Ayacucho, 900 km. from the capital. From Puquito, the four were expected to have traveled to Lima to attend a meeting of local coordinators of "World Vision International" centers. The aid workers were involved in water supply projects, and construction and nutrition programs in Andahuaylas. Aug. 10: Police reported that about 15 hooded rebels burst into a group wedding ceremony, and killed the mayor of Huaura presiding over the service, along with his secretary. The attack, presumably the work of Sendero Luminoso, took place at the El Sol farm cooperative, 150 km. north of Lima. The two victims were leaders of the United Left (IU) party coalition in the northern sector of Lima department. Aug. 12: Sen. Enrique Bernaldes reported that in the first 10 days of August, the political violence death toll came to 200 persons, including 30 soldiers and police officers. In the past 11 years, about 23,000 persons have died result of political violence in Peru. Material damages are estimated at \$18 billion. (Basic data from EFE, 07/03/91, 07/15/91, 07/19/90, 07/24/91, 08/12/91; AFP, 07/03/91, 07/04/91, 07/19/91, 07/21/91, 07/25/91, 08/03/91, 08/05/91, 08/08/91, 08/10/91; AP, 07/25/91, 08/02/91, 08/08/91; Notimex, 07/31/91; Xinhua, 08/12/91; Inter Press Service, 08/07/91, 08/09/91)

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