

Peru: Chronology Of Recent Political Violence, January 8 - February 11

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Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, February 12, 1992

Jan. 8: Lima police reported that Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels shot and killed between six and nine soldiers and wounded three others near Tarata, San Martin department, located 700 km. northeast of Lima. The precise number of rebel casualties during the two-hour clash was unknown. Military sources said Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels killed two police officers in Macari, Puno department. The rebels also bombed the town's two communications towers. A Lima gas station attendant was killed and two others seriously injured when MRTA rebels bombed two gas pumps. Lima police said 3,200 city residents were without telephone service following rebel sabotage of four major cables. Jan. 9: According to National Police, unidentified assailants abducted Alfredo Maquina Calderon, mayor of Huaraz, Ancash department. The kidnapping occurred while Maquina was traveling on a bus from Lima. Maquina's two police bodyguards and the bus driver were beaten. The incident marked the fourth attack on a bus traveling between Lima and Huaraz in a two-week period. Two car bombs exploded on the Sayan-Churin highway, in Huacho province, 160 km. northeast of Lima. Fourteen soldiers were killed and 11 others injured. No rebel group claimed responsibility for the bombings. San Martin department police reported that six soldiers were killed during a clash with Sendero rebels near Tananta. Jan. 10: Police spokespersons told reporters that four members of rural self-defense militias ("rondas campesinas") and three Sendero Luminoso rebels were killed in fighting in Rasuwilca, Ayacucho department, 575 km. southeast of Lima. Three militia members were injured. According to Lima police, unidentified assailants launched two home-made bombs at the Ecuadoran consulate in Lima, causing extensive material damage. Three police officers and two guards were injured in the explosions. In Lima, a street vendor was shot and killed by a Sendero death squad in the Villa El Salvador district. A card left on the body said, "This is how informants die." Jan. 11: Five members of rural self-defense militias were shot to death by Sendero Luminoso rebels in the Mito district, Junin department, 250 km. east of Lima. Government officials told reporters that rebels conducted a public execution of a university student and Fidencio Durand, mayor of Santa Ines district, Huancavelica department. According to witnesses, the rebels "convicted" Durand of failure to comply with the Jan. 1 forced strike (paro armado) called by Sendero Luminoso. In Lima, Ruben Dario Mansilla, recently appointed special judge for terrorism cases, reported that he had received a death threat. Ayacucho police told reporters that Sendero rebels killed six members of a rural self-defense militia and wounded two others in Rasuwilca, 100 km. north of Ayacucho. Jan. 12: US embassy spokespersons told reporters that three US citizens and a Peruvian police officer were killed when their helicopter was shot down near Madre Mia in the upper Huallaga valley. The UH-1H helicopter was provided by the US for use in Peru's anti-narcotics efforts. The four were en route to the site of a helicopter accident in the area. The US citizens were employed by Dyncorp, a private US company under contract to the State Department to fly and maintain US helicopters on loan to Peru. During a clash in the Villa El Salvador neighborhood of Lima, a police officer was killed, and two rebels, a civilian and an officer were injured. Rebels shot a young worker to death in the same area. Later in the day, a neighborhood leader in the Villa Maria del

Tiunfo district of the capital was shot to death. Military sources reported that two soldiers were killed during an attack by Sendero Luminoso rebels on the Santo Tomas de Pata army base in Huancavelica department, 500 km. southeast of Lima. According to police, a soldier and three rebels died during a rebel ambush of a military patrol in Puerto Tambo, Ayacucho department, 575 km. southeast of Lima. Ayacucho police indicated that two Sendero Luminoso rebels and a soldier were killed during fighting in Puerto Mayo, Ayacucho. Jan. 14: According to a report appearing in the government gazette, *El Peruano*, the administration approved a 60-day extension of the state of emergency in the Ica, Chincha, Na Ca, Pisco and Palpa districts of Ica department. At present, all or parts of 14 of Peru's 24 departments are under state of emergency regulations. The 14 are Ayacucho, Apurimac, Arequipa, Cusco, Huancavelica, Huanuco, Ica, Junin, Loreto, Lima, Pasco, Puno, San Martin and Ucayali. Police sources reported that Sendero rebels attacked the town of Alto Villa Victoria, Satipo province, resulting in the deaths of 12 self-defense militia members, and two women and six children. Five other residents were wounded. The rebels also looted and burned homes. According to police, 20 Sendero rebels were killed during an attack on a police station in Mollepata, Santiago de Chuco province. The police had been warned of the attack, and surprised the rebels. Sendero rebels occupied the town of Pallasca, Ancash department, and assassinated judge Alcides Zuniga, bombed public buildings, and looted shops. Rebels escaped with two stolen trucks and 11 boxes of explosives. Jan. 15: Sen. Enrique Bernales, chair of the Senate pacification committee, told foreign journalists that the war with the rebels has caused 25,000 deaths and US\$20 billion in damages. Bernales said Sendero Luminoso was responsible for 1,175 of the 1,656 terrorist attacks reported in 1991. MRTA rebels were responsible for 244 terrorist incidents last year, drug traffickers, 32, and unidentified groups, 205. Next, the senator said 154 abductions were reported in 1991. According to Bernales, Sendero Luminoso attacks declined by 30% last year compared to 1990. Sendero, he said, has shifted its emphasis toward urban areas, particularly the capital. Bernales said the recent militarization of the government's anti-subversive campaign has produced an increase in violence compared to previous administrations. Since President Alberto Fujimori took office 17 months ago, 4,680 people have died in political violence, compared to 9,660 throughout Alan Garcia's tenure (1985-1990), and 8,103 during the presidency of Fernando Belaunde (1980-1985). The senator reported that 1,316 "rondas campesinas" are currently operating in Peru. Of the total, 526 received weapons and training from the military. A police officer was killed by rebels in Huaral, 65 km. north of Lima. Jan. 16: Police reported that an officer was killed in the Canto Grande area of Lima. One rebel was killed in the subsequent shoot-out. According to National Police sources, a dynamite explosion caused extensive material damage to the residence of Miguel Pellny, former president of the University Soccer Association. The residence is located in the San Isidro district of Lima. Rebels stole the contents of two gasoline tanker trucks in the Sarita Colonia neighborhood of Callao, and in the Comas area of Lima. After removing the fuel, both trucks were bombed. Jan. 17: A police officer was killed and six others wounded in a Sendero attack on a police station in Motupe, Lambayeque province, 750 km. north of Lima. In the La Victoria district of Lima, two soldiers were seriously injured when their vehicle was fired on by rebels. The Military Political Command for Ayacucho reported that four soldiers and six Sendero Luminoso rebels were killed during a clash in Jarapa, Ayacucho. Four soldiers were injured in the fighting. In Lima, police spokespersons said Comptroller General Luz Aurea Saenz's motorcade was strafed by rebel machinegun fire in the San Isidro district. A driver was seriously injured. Felix Gutierrez, governor of Quinua district, Ayacucho, reported that in recent weeks 24 village residents were murdered by self-defense militias led by an army commander with the last name of "Belmont." Jan. 18: According to the National Police, Florencio Ramirez, a Fisheries Ministry regional director, and his bodyguard were shot to

death by rebels in Ingenio, near Huancayo, Junin department. Ramirez's wife, two children and nephew were injured in the attack. Jan. 19: In Lima's Santa Anita market, rebels shot a merchant to death, and then blew up the corpse. A placard on her remains read, "This is how the murderers of the best children die." Police attributed the murder to Sendero rebels, who may have acted against the woman in revenge for desertion or criticizing the organization. The MRTA rebel organization split following a rupture between co-founder Cistero Garcia Torres ("Commander Ricardo") and top leader Victor Polay ("Commander Rolando"). In a video-taped message distributed to the press, Garcia Torres accused Polay of promoting common vandalism. Garcia Torres said his followers are based in San Martin department, and organized into six battalions of between 60 and 100 combatants each. Polay followers said Garcia Torres was recently sanctioned by the MRTA directorate for "taking liberties with many women" and misuse of organization funds. A previous MRTA split occurred in 1991, when "Commander German" established the Popular Guerrilla Forces (Fuerzas Guerrilleras Populares-FGP) which operate in the Andean provinces north of Lima. German was later assassinated. Police reported that five family members were shot to death in their home by suspected rebels in Huancapugio, Ayachucho. Two people who came to the family's defense were also killed. In a separate attack, a student and a shopowner were killed. Placards found on the corpses of the nine victims read, "This is how police informants and collaborators die." Lima police reported the discovery of three bodies showing signs of torture in Vitarte. The three young people had been shot in the head. Jan. 20: Gen. E.P. Carlos Torres, chief of the Junin department Political Military Command, told reporters that approximately 20 MRTA rebels and two soldiers were killed during a clash at the police barracks in Dos de Mayo, Junin. Soldiers captured six rebels, including a 13-year-old girl and a boy of 10. Jan. 21: According to a communique issued by the Lima military command, army and police forces searched dining and residence halls on five university campuses. The statement said the school facilities "have been controlled and used as propaganda and planning centers for Sendero Luminoso terrorist activities." The universities included in the search operations were San Marcos in Lima, Enrique Guzman in Cantuta (40 km. east of the capital), Tecnica del Callao, del Centro in Huancayo (300 km. east of Lima), and Sanchez Carrion in Huacho (200 km. north of the capital). Arrests of students were reported at San Marcos and Enrique Guzman universities. San Marcos was targeted for police and military search and seizure operations in 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991. Government officials reported that three police officers were killed by a Sendero death squad the previous evening in the El Naranjal district of Lima. Witnesses said about 10 rebels attacked a police vehicle with machineguns and dynamite. One civilian was injured. Police sources said rebels killed 18 residents of Alfonso Ugarte, Huanuco department, 400 km. northeast of Lima. The massacre was reportedly in response to victims' refusal to pay "protection taxes," and supply food to the guerrillas. Jan. 22: Military sources reported that 10 rebels and one National Police officer were killed during simultaneous attacks by Sendero Luminoso rebels on the prison and military barracks in Puquio, Ayacucho. Four police officers, two soldiers, and an unidentified number of rebels were wounded in the fighting. Rebels freed 26 comrades from prison, and bombed several public buildings and private residences. In Hidayacu, Ucayali department, a Sendero Luminoso rebel was killed by soldiers at a guerrilla camp. About 30 civilians and 10 rebels were killed when a military patrol interrupted a town meeting organized by Sendero rebels in Apisa, Tocache province, located 700 km. from Lima. Police reported that the body of Mauricio Quispe, a follower of dissident MRTA leader Garcia Torres, was found in the El Agustino area of Lima. A placard placed on his body read, "This is how traitors die." Jan. 23: In a report published by El Diario, the official newspaper of the Sendero Luminoso, the rebels claimed responsibility for the Jan. 12 downing of a US helicopter which killed three US citizens. The article said the craft was brought

down by Soviet-made SAMs. The Lima daily newspaper *Expreso* reported that MRTA dissidents led by Cistero Garcia Torres had established a new guerrilla organization, the People's Rebel Army (Ejercito Popular Rebelde-EPR). Jan. 24: A spokesperson for the Joint Military Command in the upper Huallaga valley said at least 10 rebels were killed by soldiers in the Uchiza district, San Martin department. The soldiers seized explosives, communications equipment and sophisticated weapons. A police spokesperson reported that three guerrillas and a soldier were killed and one soldier wounded during an attack by MRTA rebels on the town of Jumbille, San Martin. The rebels looted several public buildings, and stole documents from the Electoral Registry. Jan. 25: Andres Sosa ("Commander Madero"), a top leader of the new EPR rebel organization was assassinated by three unidentified persons near his home in the Villa El Salvador neighborhood of Lima. The assailants took Sosa's briefcase, which contained documented evidence of human rights abuses by MRTA rebels in Lima and San Martin department. Lima police reported that 11 MRTA rebels and two soldiers were killed in fighting on the highway near Naranjill, located in the Huallaga valley, San Martin department. The soldiers captured 24 rifles, two boxes of explosives, one rocket launcher, grenades and a transistor radio. Jan. 27: The MRTA leadership issued a statement claiming responsibility for the murder of Andres Sosa. Sosa was condemned to death by a "revolutionary tribunal" for having collaborated with police intelligence. The statement said other dissidents found to be collaborating with police would be dealt with in the same fashion. According to Lima newspaper *Ojo*, at least 12 navy enlisted men and an undetermined number of rebels were killed during a clash in Boqueron del Padre Abad, Huanuco department, located 550 km. east of Lima. Jan. 28: Police sources reported that three family members were shot to death by Sendero rebels during an attack on a poor neighborhood in Ayacucho. According to police, Sendero rebels killed nine members of a self-defense militia in La Mar, Ayacucho department. A military spokesperson said two Ashaninka tribe members from Esmeralda, Junin department, were killed by Sendero rebels. The Peruvian Bishops Conference criticized the government for failing to take advantage of the Catholic clergy to serve as mediators in the process of national pacification. The bishops, however, admitted they had no specific proposals to cope with subversion and political violence. Msgr. Jose Dammert Bellido, who heads the conference, requested that the government avoid using Church property in anti-subversive activities. Unidentified assailants assassinated "Comando Halcon," a civilian self-defense militia leader, his wife and another man in their home in Ayacucho. Police blamed Sendero rebels for the murders. Jan. 29: Military sources reported that an army officer was shot to death by rebels in Huancayo, Junin department. Suspected rebels murdered a woman in Huancayo. A card left on the body read, "This is how traitors die." Jan. 30: According to police sources, a Huancayo neighborhood association president was killed by Sendero rebels, who also bombed several public buildings. A Senate report indicated that over the past 11 years, the Sendero Luminoso has been responsible for the deaths of at least 1,200 children, and crippled another 3,000 children for life. Feb. 1: Police sources said eight assailants murdered Horacio Gago Espinoza, former congressperson of the APRA party. The killing occurred in Huancayo, 315 km. east of Lima. In a separate attack in Huancayo, five unidentified assailants abducted the bodyguard of the mayor of Supe, located 180 km. north of the capital. The victim was tortured and then shot to death. Rebels set fire to Transportation Ministry offices in Huancayo, causing material damage but no casualties. Feb. 2: According to an Armed Forces Joint Command communique, 10 Sendero rebels died and 15 others were wounded in fighting with a military patrol near Dos de Mayo, San Martin department. About 150 rebels participated in the fighting, which lasted for over three hours. No troop casualties were reported. A 30-member Sendero assassination squad was captured by police in Huancayo during a special operation following the assassination of Horacio Gago. Feb. 3: The National Police

reported that a rebel commando murdered a neighborhood association leader in the San Martin de Porres neighborhood in western Lima. Security measures around the British Embassy in Lima were stepped up in order to prevent a rebel assault on the occasion of President Alberto Fujimori's Feb. 6 visit to Britain. Feb. 4: According to police, a navy commander was injured in an attack by three unidentified assailants in Lima. Feb. 5: Police reported that approximately 50 heavily armed and masked Sendero rebels attacked the villages of Huallanjo, Auquimarca and Agomarca in Paco department, 300 km. east of Lima. Fourteen people were tortured and killed. Most were local leaders and politicians. According to police, Sendero rebels tortured, stabbed to death and then crucified two ranchers near Orcobamba, Huancavelica, 400 km. southeast of the capital. A third rancher disappeared, and was believed to have been abducted. Feb. 6: Police sources said rebels killed four people and wounded five others in a poor neighborhood on the northern outskirts of Lima. Favian Chacon of the Inter-American Journalists Federation (Federacion Interamericana de Periodistas-FIP) submitted a request to Supreme Court president Luis Portugal that soldiers implicated in the death of journalist Hugo Bustios be tried and sentenced in the civilian court system. A high school student in Ayacucho was killed by a Sendero death squad in broad daylight and in front of several witnesses for refusing to "participate in the armed struggle." Junin department military authorities reported the deaths of four rebels and one member of a civilian self-defense militia near Manquiri, Junin. An army patrol killed two Sendero rebels and seized a weapons cache in Novillocas, Ayacucho. Feb. 7: Police reported a car bomb explosion in front of the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE) office and the National Tax Administration Superintendency (SUNAT) in Lima. The blast caused the death of one person, and injured four others, in addition to substantial material damage. Another bomb exploded at the entrance of the National Public Administration Institute in downtown Lima. One person was killed and two wounded. According to police sources, rebels bombed eight electricity pylons in Chaclacayo, 35 km. east of Lima, and bank branch offices in the San Isidro and La Victoria districts of Lima. Government officials reported that at least 25 rebels were killed and an undetermined number wounded in fighting between MRTA rival factions near Sauca, San Martin department, 700 km. northeast of Lima. In a subsequent clash between soldiers and MRTA rebels, 20 rebels, four soldiers and a civilian were killed. Three soldiers and three civilians were wounded. The Armed Forces Joint Command reported the torture and murder of 16 campesinos, including four children, by Sendero rebels in Alto Villa Victoria, Junin department. The victims were executed in the town square for "collaborating with government security forces." Feb. 8: According to preliminary police reports, at least five rebels and six civilians died during a Sendero attack on the town of Chavin, Ancash department. Rebels destroyed the local police barracks with explosives and long-range weapons. The Sendero Luminoso called a forced strike or "paro armado" for Feb. 14 in Lima. Feb. 9: Police told reporters that a guard at an open-air market in the Villa El Salvador district of the capital was shot and killed by rebels. Ayacucho police reported that Sendero rebels killed a member of a civilian defense militia, a civilian and two teachers. One of the teachers was a leader of the Education Workers Union (Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores de la Educacion-SUTEP). Police said that journalist Marco Antonio Aleman, director of the weekly Pagina 2 magazine, was one of the persons killed in a car bomb explosion Feb. 7 in Lima. (See entry above.) Police revised the casualty count to five dead and 30 injured. According to police, Aleman's vehicle exploded and he was the likely target. Feb. 10: Police sources said two officers were killed during a bank robbery in the Villa Maria del Triunfo district of Lima. The approximately 15 assailants yelled Sendero slogans during the robbery, and escaped with US\$19,000. Two police officers were killed by a Sendero death squad when their vehicle was strafed with machinegun fire in Callao. Police reported that Fernando Hinostrosa, deputy director of the National Input Marketing Enterprise

(Empresa Nacional de Comercializacion de Insumos-ENCI), was seriously injured during a terrorist attack on his vehicle in Callao. Two members National Police officers were executed by Sendero rebels in front of numerous witnesses in the San Juan de Miraflores district of Lima. The British military magazine Jane's cited "security experts" as saying that Sendero Luminoso is turning the Peruvian government inside out. The report said foreign military advisers in Peru are concerned about the lack of dedication, low salaries and morale, and inadequate organization and resources characterizing the Peruvian military. The article criticized the Peruvian government for failing to implement a "coherent counterinsurgency program directed by civilians to strengthen Peruvian democratic institutions and gain popular support." Instead, the government has given the military "unprecedented" powers after a decade of human rights violations. Feb. 11: In Lima, police reported that two police guards were killed and at least eight people wounded in a car bomb explosion in front of US Ambassador Anthony Quainton's residence. The explosive device contained about 40 kg. of dynamite and caused extensive material damage. Police attributed the attack to the MRTA. Lima daily newspaper La Tercera reported that 10,000 security officers have been mobilized in preparation for a "forced strike" called by the Sendero Luminoso for Feb. 14 in Lima. Police sources reported bombings of shops, bank branches, and the offices of the Armed Forces Joint Command in Lima. [Sources: Prensa Latina (Cuba), 01/13/92; Associated Press, 01/10/92, 01/12/92, 01/16/92, 01/23/92; Inter Press Service, 01/28/92; Deutsche Press Agentur, 01/31/92; Spanish news service EFE, 01/09/92, 01/10/92, 01/12/92, 01/13-15/92, 01/17/92, 01/18/92, 01/20-22/92, 01/25/92, 01/27/92, 01/28/92, 01/30/92, 02/01/92, 02/02/92, 02/04/92, 02/06/92, 02/07/92, 02/09-11/92; Agence France-Presse, 01/09-13/92, 01/15-18/92, 01/20-23/92, 01/25-28/92, 01/30/92, 02/01/92, 02/03/92, 02/05- 11/92]

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