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Page: 1  
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PTQ2907

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03578 01 OF 02 241942Z  
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OPIC-01	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	DSCC-00	PRM-10
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/038W			

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O 241942Z APR 97  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7165  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 003578

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/22/2003  
TAGS: PHUM PTER PE  
SUBJECT: ALL BUT ONE TORTURED OXAPAMPA DETAINEE RELEASED

REF: LIMA 2682

1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JETT. REASON 1.5 (D).

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PAGE 02 LIMA 03578 01 OF 02 241942Z

2. (C) SUMMARY: ALL BUT ONE OF THE REMAINING OXAPAMPA RESIDENTS DETAINED AS SUSPECTED MRTA MEMBERS IN LATE FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH HAVE BEEN RELEASED. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS BELIEVE THE LAST DETAINEE, AN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN, TO BE INNOCENT, AND EXPECT THAT HE WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY. THE SOLDIER WHO STARTED THE WITCH HUNT WILL REPORTEDLY BE TRIED IN MILITARY COURT ON DISLOYALTY CHARGES. A DELEGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS, INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AMERICAS, TRAVELED TO OXAPAMPA THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL TO MEET WITH THE TORTURED DETAINEES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 4 FEB 2002 200102973

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
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 Document Number: 1997LIMA03578

Page: 2

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THE HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM ALSO LOOKED INTO REPORTS OF AN EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING RELATED TO THE ARRESTS IN OXAPAMPA AND THE POSSIBLE KILLING OF A SOLDIER ACCUSED OF BEING AN MRTA MEMBER. A FULL EXPOSITION ON THE TORTURE OF OXAPAMPA RESIDENTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AMERICAS REPORT SCHEDULED TO BE ISSUED IN LIMA DURING THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE. END SUMMARY.

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 ALL BUT ONE OXAPAMPA DETAINEE RELEASED  
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3. (SBU) DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, A DELEGATION COMPOSED OF THE HEAD OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINADORA, SOFIA MACHER, THE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (APRODEH) PRESIDENT, FRANCISCO SOBERON, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AMERICA, U.K. CITIZEN SEBASTIAN BRETT, TRAVELED TO OXAPAMPA (A JUNGLE REGION IN EAST CENTRAL PERU) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TORTURE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH OF ALLEGED TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) MEMBERS (REFTEL). WHILE IN OXAPAMPA THE DELEGATION DISCOVERED THAT A TOTAL OF 48 LOCAL RESIDENTS--NOT 38 AS ANNOUNCED BY THE ARMY ON MARCH 18 --HAD BEEN DETAINED, MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN TORTURED TO FORCE THEM

PAGE 03 LIMA 03578 01 OF 02 241942Z  
 TO CONFESS TO BEING MRTA MEMBERS. ONLY ONE OF THE 48 REMAINS IMPRISONED. THE HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATION ALSO INVESTIGATED REPORTS REGARDING AN EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING WHICH RESULTED FROM THE ARMY'S ANTI-MRTA OPERATIONS IN OXAPAMPA.

4. (U) THE HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATION MET WITH LOCAL CIVIC LEADERS AS WELL AS YANESHA TRIBAL ELDERS WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE ANTI-MRTA OPERATION CONDUCTED BY THE ARMY BASE AT PICHINAKI AGAINST THE COMMUNITIES OF ENENAZ, ALTO YURINAKI, AND ALTO CHINCARMAZ, WHERE THE ARMY BELIEVED THE MRTA WAS OPERATING. THE AREA HAD BEEN AN MRTA STRONGHOLD BEFORE 1994. LOCAL RESIDENTS TOLD THE DELEGATION, WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A JOURNALIST FROM "CARETAS" MAGAZINE, THAT THEY HAD NOT SEEN MRTA ACTIVITY IN SEVERAL YEARS. IN ITS REPORT OF THE ANTI-MRTA OPERATION IN OXAPAMPA, "CARETAS" NOTED THAT ONE UNIDENTIFIED MRTA HOSTAGE TAKER AT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN LIMA WAS ORIGINALLY FROM THE OXAPAMPA REGION.

5. (SBU) OXAPAMPA RESIDENTS TOLD THE VISITING HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS THAT THE ANTI-MRTA OPERATION BEGAN IN EARNEST DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF MARCH AND CONTINUED UNTIL MARCH 11. THE RELEASED DETAINEES SPOKE ABOUT BEATINGS, WATER TORTURE, AND BEING HELD HALF OUTSIDE A FLYING HELICOPTER WITH THE CLEAR THREAT OF BEING THROWN OUT IF THEY DID NOT CONFESS. [REDACTED] THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE DETAILS

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

B6

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1997LIMA03578

OF HIS INTERVIEWS IN AN UPCOMING REPORT ON TORTURE IN PERU THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AMERICAS PLANS TO ISSUE IN LIMA DURING THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE.

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INFORMATION ON THE LAST DETAINEE  
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PAGE 04 LIMA 03578 01 OF 02 241942Z

6. (SBU) JOSIAS PASCUAL LOPEZ IS THE LAST OF THE 48 OXAPAMPA RESIDENTS TO REMAIN IMPRISONED AS AN ALLEGED MRTA MEMBER. PASCUAL IS BEING HELD IN A PRISON IN LA MERCED, NEAR THE OXAPAMPA REGION.

[REDACTED] THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT PASCUAL, AN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN, IS INNOCENT OF TIES WITH THE MRTA. HOWEVER, INCONSISTENCIES IN PASCUAL'S TESTIMONY HAVE HELD UP HIS RELEASE. THE NATIONAL EVANGELICAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PASCUAL'S DEFENSE.

B6

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EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING CASE  
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7. (SBU) AS FOR THE EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING IN OXAPAMPA, [REDACTED] EXPLAINED THAT FORTUNATO CHIPANA CCAHUANA, 52, WAS SHOT IN THE LEG ON FEBRUARY 24 AFTER SOLDIERS ENTERED CHIPANA'S HOME AND CHIPANA TRIED TO FLEA. THE SOLDIERS DID NOT TEND TO CHIPANA'S WOUND AND HE DIED FROM BLEEDING WITHIN TWO HOURS. A MILITARY POST NEAR CHIPANA'S HOME, WHICH COULD HAVE PROVIDED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, WAS ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES AWAY. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT SOLDIER MARCO ANTONIO QUISPE YUCRA HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH UNINTENTIONAL MURDER (HOMICIDIO CULPUSO). [REDACTED] SAID THIS WAS A MORE LENIENT CHARGE THAN INTENTIONAL MURDER. [REDACTED] BELIEVES THE SOLDIERS RESPONSIBLE SHOULD BE MORE SEVERELY PUNISHED FOR FAILING TO ENSURE THAT CHIPANA

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03578 02 OF 02 241942Z  
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00  
DODE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 FBIE-00 H-01 TEDE-00

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
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OIC-02	OPIC-01	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/22/2003  
TAGS: PHUM PTER PE  
SUBJECT: ALL BUT ONE TORTURED OXAPAMPA DETAINEE RELEASED

RECEIVED ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE.

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PAGE 02 LIMA 03578 02 OF 02 241942Z  
ACCUSED SOLDIER BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TORTURED AND KILLED  
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8. (SBU) A SECOND POSSIBLE KILLING INVOLVED SOLDIER JOSE ALDERETE CASTANEDA, WHO WAS ACCUSED BY ANOTHER SOLDIER, EDWIN VASQUEZ, OF BEING AN MRTA SYMPATHIZER. IN TOTAL, VASQUEZ ACCUSED SIX OTHER SOLDIERS IN THE OXAPAMPA REGION OF BEING MRTA MEMBERS. ALL THE SOLDIERS WERE CLEARED OF BEING MRTA MEMBERS, AND THEIR ACCUSER, VASQUEZ NOW FACES CHARGES IN A MILITARY COURT ON DISLOYALTY CHARGES. ACCORDING TO APRODEH, ONE ACCUSED AND RELEASED SOLDIER INDICATED THAT ALDERETE WAS HEARD SCREAMING AND CRYING AFTER HE WAS TAKEN AWAY AND THEN ALDERETE NEVER RETURNED TO THE PLACE THE OTHER SOLDIERS WERE HELD. THIS RELEASED SOLDIER BELIEVES THAT ALDERETE WAS KILLED. "CARETAS" REPORTED THAT THE DETAINEE (WHOM IT NOT IDENTIFY) BLAMED COLONEL JUAN LOAYZA, THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY BASE AT PICHINAKI, AND HIS DEPUTY, "ATILA," FOR TORTURING THE SOLDIERS SUSPECTED OF BEING MRTA MEMBERS AND SPECIFICALLY FOR ALDERETE'S DEATH. [REDACTED] HAS NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALDERETE'S RELATIVES, BUT IS TRYING TO INVESTIGATE ALDERETE'S TORTURE AND POSSIBLE

B6

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
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Page: 5

Channel: n/a

KILLING.

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 PRESIDENT CALLS FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION  
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9. (U) IN AN APRIL 6 TELEVISION INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TORTURE AND ABUSES BY THE ARMY TOOK PLACE IN THE OXAPAMPA REGION DURING THE ANTI-MRTA OPERATION. FUJIMORI CONSIDERED THESE ABUSES "UNACCEPTABLE" AND CRITICIZED THEIR RESEMBLANCE TO PAST PRACTICES IN WHICH EVERYONE WAS TREATED LIKE A TERRORIST. THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT SAID THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR

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 PAGE 03 LIMA 03578 02 OF 02 241942Z  
 THE "EXCESSES" IN OXAPAMPA MUST BE PUNISHED. HE ASSERTED THAT THE MRTA HAD INFILTRATED THE BATTALION POSTED IN PICHINAKI AND THAT, COMBINED WITH PEOPLE "OUTSIDE," THEY PLANNED TO CARRY OUT AN ACTION AGAINST THE PICHINAKI OUTPOST. FUJIMORI SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DID NOT JUSTIFY INNOCENT YOUTHS BEING DETAINED AND TORTURED. HE CALLED THE OXAPAMPA OPERATION A "MISTAKE" AND SAID BETTER INTELLIGENCE WORK MUST BE DONE.

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 COMMENT  
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10. (C) THE PUBLICITY FOLLOWING THE APRIL 6 REVELATIONS ABOUT THE TORTURE OF INTELLIGENCE AGENT LEONOR LA ROSA AND THE MURDER OF INTELLIGENCE AGENT MARIELA BARRETO COMPLETELY OVERTOOK LINGERING NEWS ABOUT THE TORTURE AND DETENTIONS IN OXAPAMPA. THE SHOCKING ACCOUNTS OF THE TORTURE VICTIMS LED THE MEDIA TO COMPLETELY IGNORE THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 6 STATEMENT ON THE OXAPAMPA INCIDENT. DESPITE REDUCED PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION ON THE OXAPAMPA TORTURE CASES, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY WILL FOLLOW THE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE VERY CLOSELY. THE ARMED FORCES' PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY THE MISTAKEN ARREST OF SO MANY ALLEGED MRTA MEMBERS WAS COMPLETELY ECLIPSED APRIL 22 BY THE SUCCESSFUL MILITARY CONCLUSION TO THE MRTA HOSTAGE CRISIS. IN ADDITION, THE EUPHORIA SURROUNDING THE END OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS HAS BURIED NEWS FOR NOW ABOUT THE LA ROSA AND BARRETO CASES.  
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5