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TEXT

TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PGOV, PE
SUBJECT: HUMAN BONES IN BEACH PIT:
- HUMAN RIGHTS CASE OR NOT?

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: A LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP BELIEVES IT MAY HAVE DISCOVERED HUMAN BONES, POSSIBLY THOSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE VICTIMS, IN A REMOTE SITE SOUTH OF LIMA. THE GROUP CLAIMS UNHRC SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS, BACRE WALY NDIAYE, IS CONSIDERING THEIR REQUEST TO VISIT THE SITE DURING HIS MAY 16-20 VISIT. NEVERTHELESS, THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP IS BEING CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT ITS DISCOVERY, AS THE THE BONE PIT REPORT COULD BE A FALSE ALARM. PART OF THE BREAKDOWN OF

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SOCIETY IN PERU HAS BEEN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL EXPENSE PAID BURIALS BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, GIVING RISE TO "LEGITIMATE" CLANDESTINE CEMETERIES. END SUMMARY.

3. A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (COORDINADORA) BELIEVES IT MAY HAVE DISCOVERED A PIT CONTAINING HUMAN BONES IN A REMOTE SITE NEAR A BEACH SOUTH OF LIMA. THE GROUP WAS LED TO THE SITE THROUGH A SERIES OF CONTACTS DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1990 DISAPPEARANCE CASE OF STUDENT ERNESTO CASTILLO PAEZ. CASTILLO DISAPPEARED FROM POLICE CUSTODY AFTER HAVING BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE IN LIMA'S SOUTHERN SHANTYTOWN OF VILLA EL SALVADOR.

4. ACCORDING TO THE GROUP, THE REMOTE BONE PIT CONTAINS HUMAN AND ANIMAL BONES -- ACCORDING TO EXPERTS WHO HAVE LOOK AT FRAGMENTS OF BONES FOUND LYING LOOSE ON THE SURFACE OF THE SITE. NO DIGGING HAS BEEN DONE AT THE SITE SO AS NOT TO DISTURB POSSIBLE EVIDENCE. THE BONES OF A WOMAN BURIED FOUR TO SIX MONTHS AGO ARE REPORTEDLY AMONG THOSE FOUND AT THE SITE. THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP SPECULATED, WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE TO BACK UP THEIR SUPPOSITION, THAT THE BODY MAY BELONG TO ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIM, POSSIBLY ONE OF THE STUDENTS ABDUCTED IN JULY 1992 FROM LA CANTUTA UNIVERSITY

5. THE GROUP HAS ASKED THAT THE UNHRC SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS, BACRE WALY NDIAYE, CONSIDER GOING TO THE SITE DURING HIS MAY 16-20 VISIT TO LIMA. THEY CLAIM WALY NDIAYE HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE GROUP, BOTH WALY NDIAYE AND THEY ARE BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCLOSING INFORMATION ABOUT THE BONE PIT, WHICH THEY ADMIT MAY NOT BE LINKED TO ANY HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. ASSUMING WALY NDIAYE DECLINES TO BECOME INVOLVED, THE GROUP PLANS TO ASK THE NATIONAL PROSECUTOR (FISCAL) FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FORENSIC EXPERTS TO EXCAVATE THE SITE, AND FOR EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO OBSERVE.

6. COMMENT: THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT FOR GOOD REASON. THE BONE PIT REPORT COULD BE A FALSE ALARM; IF IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, THE SITE MUST BE LEFT UNTAMPERED WITH UNTIL APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS CAN EXAMINE IT. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THAT HUMAN REMAINS ARE THOSE OF IDENTIFIABLE VICTIMS OF ABUSE. THE APPEARANCE COULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE RISE OF "LEGITIMATE" CLANDESTINE CEMETERIES AS THE PERUVIAN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM HAS LOST

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THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE ALL EXPENSE PAID BURIALS
AS PART OF ITS SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. POOR
PERUVIANS HAVE TAKEN IN MANY CASES TO BURYING
THEIR DEAD IN OPEN LAND.
BRAYSHAW

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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