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STATEMENT BY MICHAEL McCURRY, SPOKESMAN

PERU: KILLINGS IN HUANUCO DEPARTMENT

We are deeply concerned about recent reports of killings of civilians in Huanuco Department in central Peru. Earlier this month, the Peruvian army began conducting operations against Shining Path guerrillas in Huanuco. Human rights monitors and journalists who have visited the area report that civilian non-combatants have been targeted by the army as well. Given the restrictions the Government of Peru has imposed upon access to the area by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), it has not been possible to determine how many civilians have died.

We hope the Government of Peru will move swiftly to allow full ICRC access to the region and to begin a thorough investigation of these reports of civilian deaths. Human rights abuses against civilians can have no legitimate role in any effort to combat terrorism.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
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