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Case Number: S200200010





RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/060W			

P 131530Z MAY 94 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6900 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY QUITO USMISSION GENEVA USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 04353

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS:

PHUM, KJUS, PREL, PE

SUBJECT:

PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS DISCUSS HUANUCO KILLINGS WITH

THE AMBASSADOR

REF:

LIMA 3892

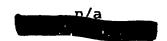


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- ENTIRE TEXT

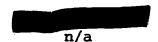
SUMMARY: IN A MAY 9 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINADORA SAID AN OBSTRUCTING OF INVESTIGATION AND CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS WERE EVIDENCE THAT THE PERUVIAN ARMY WAS PURPOSELY TRYING TO COVER UP KILLINGS OF NON-COMBATANTS IN NORTHERN HUANUCO. "OPERATION ARIES" SOUNDED LIKE A PROPAGANDA PLOY TO MAKE THE



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR** DATE/CASE ID: 5 AUG 2002 S200200010

UNCLASSIFIED

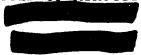


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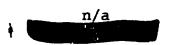
PUBLIC THINK HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WERE INTERFERING IN "THE FINAL BATTLE" AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE HUALLAGA, ONE MEMBER SAID. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO KNOW FULL EXTENT OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ZONE, BUT THE COORDINADORA BELIEVES THE ARMY KILLED AT LEAST 23 PEOPLE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE HUALLAGA RIVER, AND POSSIBLY 40 MORE IN AN AREA FURTHER WEST KNOWN AS GANADERIA. THE COORDINADORA HAS TWELVE HOURS OF RECORDED TESTIMONY FROM ALLEGED WITNESSES TO BACK UP ITS PUBLIC DECLARATIONS. SOME MEMBERS OF THE COORDINADORA BELIEVE THAT THE PRESS AND THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ARE "SUBJUGATED" TO THE ARMY AND THAT A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT. END SUMMARY.

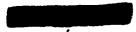
3. AMBASSADOR, POLCOUNS AND POLOFF CALLED ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, THE COORDINADORA, MAY 9. THE RECENT EVENTS IN NORTHERN HUANUCO, IN WHICH THE ARMY HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF ATROCITIES AND



PAGE 03 LIMA 04353 01 OF 02 131527Z MURDERS OF NON-COMBATANTS, WAS THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. CARLOS BASOMBRIO, DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE (IDL), VENTURED THAT THE EXACT TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ZONE MAY NEVER BE FULLY KNOWN. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF DEAD; IT COULD BE MUCH GREATER THAN WHAT THE COORDINADORA HAS DENOUNCED. THE COORDINADORA BELIEVES, BASED ON INITIAL EYEWITNESS REPORTS AND VISITS TO THE AREA, THAT AT LEAST TEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE WEST-BANK SETTLEMENT OF MOLLUNA AND AT LEAST 13 IN NEARBY THERE WERE CREDIBLE BUT UNCONFIRMED (AND SOMEWHAT LESS SUBSTANTIATED) REPORTS OF 40 DEAD, HOWEVER, IN GANADERIA, A CATTLE-RAISING AREA WEST OF MOLLUNA AND MOHENA.

4. BASOMBRIO POSTULATED THAT THE EXTENT OF THE MILITARY OPERATION IN THE ZONE, CALLED "OPERATION ARIES," MAY HAVE BEEN INVENTED OR EXAGGERATED AFTER THE KILLINGS WERE DENOUNCED. BASOMBRIO NOTED THAT THE PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA HAD LABELED



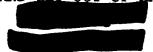


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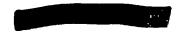
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THE OPERATION "THE FINAL BATTLE" AGAINST SENDERO LUMINOSO IN THE HUALLAGA REGION; HE DID NOT NECESSARILY BELIEVE THIS. THIS STORY COULD HAVE BEEN CONCOCTED TO MAKE THE PUBLIC BELIEVE THAT THE COORDINADORA HAD "INTERFERED IN THE 'FINAL BATTLE'," HE HYPOTHESIZED. THE STORY, WHICH INCLUDED SELF-CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS BY THE ARMY COMMAND, SMELLED OF A COVERUP, HE ADDED. "THEY WANT TO NIP THIS WHOLE THING IN THE BUD AND NOT LET IT GROW AND GET OUT OF HAND LIKE IT



PAGE 04 LIMA 04353 01 OF 02 131527Z DID IN THE LA CANTUTA CASE."

5. COORDINADORA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ROSA MUJICA NOTED THAT THE FIRST REPORTS THE ORGANIZATION RECEIVED FROM THE ZONE WERE SO AMAZING THAT "WE DID NOT BELIEVE THEM." THAT IS WHY THE COORDINADORA SENT A TEAM TO THE AREA IN MIDAPRIL; "WE WANTED TO HEAR TESTIMONY FIRST-HAND." THAT MISSION WAS FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE ARMY'S ABUSES IN THE ZONE, WHICH RESULTED IN A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY ROGER NIEGO, A COORDINADORA LAWYER. BASOMBRIO NOTED THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION WAS "OBSTRUCTED" BY THE



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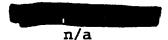


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	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/060W			

P 131530Z MAY 94

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6901
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM



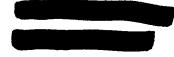
SECTION 02 OF 02 LIMA 04353

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PHUM, KJUS, PREL, PE

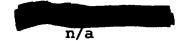
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS
MILITARY FROM SEEING THE ZONE WHERE THE GRAVEST
REPORTS HAD ORIGINATED; HOWEVER, THE VISITORS DID
SEE IN MOLLUNA EXACTLY WHAT ALLEGED EYEWITNESSES
TO THE KILLINGS HAD DESCRIBED. BASOMBRIO NOTED



PAGE 02 LIMA 04353 02 OF 02 131528Z THE COORDINADORA HAS TWELVE HOURS OF RECORDED TESTIMONY ON THE MASSACRES.

- 6. MUJICA STATED THAT, FOR HER, THE ONE THING THAT STOOD OUT ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS "THE POWER OF THE MILITARY TO SUBJUGATE THE PRESS."
- ROGER NIEGO THEN RECOUNTED THE VISIT MADE BY THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION (HE WAS INVITED TO ACCOMPANY THE DELEGATION BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, CARLOS BLANCO, OF THE MAJORITY PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTY). NIEGO REVIEWED MUCH OF WHAT HAD BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (REFTEL). HE NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION DISCOVERED TWO BODIES IN MOLLUNA AND FIVE MORE IN A NEARBY AREA CALLED PUERTO MOLLUNA, ALL ON THE SURFACE OF THE GROUND. AT FIRST, NIEGO NOTED, THE ARMY CLAIMED THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN TO THOSE PLACES. "THEN THEY CHANGED THEIR STORY," NIEGO SAID, "AND CLAIMED THAT THE BODIES BELONGED TO TERRORIST COMMANDERS KILLED IN BATTLE."





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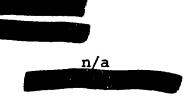
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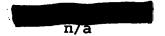
CRITICIZED THE BEHAVIOR OF ONE GOVERNMENT-PARTY CONGRESSMAN ON THE TRIP, GILBERTO SIURA, WHO HE SAID "INTERROGATED WITNESSES AS THOUGH THEY WERE BEING ACCUSED OF TERRORISM." THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, HE NOTED, IT SEEMED LIKE THE ARMY WAS TRYING TO OBSTRUCT THE INVESTIGATION; FOR INSTANCE, HE ASSERTED, OFFICERS ENSURED THAT THE DELEGATION ALWAYS RAN SEVERAL HOURS BEHIND



PAGE 03 LIMA 04353 02 OF 02 131528Z SCHEDULE.

- COORDINADORA MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR NAMED TO INVESTIGATE THE KILLINGS (WHO IS TO BE THE TINGO MARIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY) COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. EVEN AFTER HE HAD SPOKEN TO WITNESSES, THE PROSECUTOR HAD DECLARED THAT NO ONE HAD REGISTERED A FORMAL COMPLAINT (DENUNCIA). THE COORDINADORA REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT, OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF KILLINGS, PILLAGING AND ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN THE HUALLAGA FRONT. BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ZONE (JUNGLE, COCA-GROWING AREA WITH A TRANSITORY POPULATION), THE COORDINADORA HAD LITTLE HOPE OF EVER KNOWING EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED THERE DURING THE WAR.
- 9. THE COORDINADORA MEMBERS ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRIMINAL PROCEDURES CODE, WHICH THEY REGARDED AS "TERRIBLE NEWS" (SEPTEL).
- 10. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THE EMBASSY'S CONFIDENCE IN THE COORDINADORA'S WORK, AND CONGRATULATED THE GROUP FOR ITS COURAGE. HE ADDED THAT HE AND THE EMBASSY CONTINUE TO BE WILLING TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF SOME OF THE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN UNFAIRLY DETAINED ON TERRORISM CHARGES. THE COORDINADORA PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO CONSULT THE





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PAGE 04 LIMA 04353 02 OF 02 131528Z EMBASSY ON ITS MOST IMPORTANT AND CLEAR-CUT CASES.

11. COMMENT: THE COORDINADORA WELCOMED THE VISITY FROM THE AMBASSADOR, WHICH FOLLOWED DENUNCIATIONS OF THE COORDINADORA'S STATEMENTS ON HUANUCO BY THE MILITARY, CONGRESS AND PRO-GOP MEDIA. THE COORDINADORA'S ANALYSIS OF THE HUANUCO KILLINGS IS SUPPORTED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY CATHOLIC CLERGY IN HUANUCO, AND EVEN BY THE HERE-TO-FORE PRO-GOP PEACE COUNCIL.



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