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TEXT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PE
SUBJECT: UNMARKED GRAVES REPORTED AGAIN IN AYACUCHO
- EMERGENCY ZONE
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1. (U) WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "CARETAS" REPORTED ON SEPTEMBER 2 THE DISCOVERY OF AN UNMARKED GRAVE CONTAINING SEVEN BODIES IN PUCAYACU, HUANTA PROVINCE, AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT, WHERE SEVERAL MASS GRAVES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN AUGUST 1984. HUANTA PROVINCE FISCAL SIMON PALOMINO VARGAS REPORTEDLY WENT TO THE SITE ON AUGUST 29 AND CARRIED OUT THE EXHUMATION OF THE CORPSES OF FIVE MEN AND TWO WOMEN, WHICH REPORTEDLY BORE BULLET HOLES IN THE HEAD. THE BODIES WERE ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN BURIED ABOUT EIGHT DAYS, ACCORDING TO THE MAGAZINE, AND WERE IDENTIFIED AS PERSONS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AS HAVING BEEN DETAINED BY SECURITY FORCES IN EARLY TO MID AUGUST.

2. (U) BASED UPON THE "CARETAS" ARTICLE AND A SEPTEMBER 2 COMMUNIQUE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CONADEP; AN UMBRELLA GROUP OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS), FOLLOWING ARE NAMES OF THE SEVEN PERSONS BURIED IN PUCAYACU:

- ESPERANZA RUIS SOTO DE VELASQUEZ, AGE 32;
- DIONISIA VILLAROEL VILLANUEVA, AGE 25, REPORTEDLY DETAINED ON AUGUST 5;
- CLAUDIO PALOMINO CURO, AGE 43, REPORTEDLY DETAINED AUGUST 7;
- GERARDO PALOMINO RICRA, AGE 18, REPORTEDLY DETAINED AUGUST 7;
- GREGORIO CUNTO GUILLEN, AGE UNKNOWN;
- FAUSTINO TINCOPA, AGE 17;
- ALEJANDRO CUNTO YARANGA, AGE 48.

(CARETAS SAID FAMILY MEMBER VICTORIA CUNTO COMPLAINED TO THE HUANTA FISCALIA ON AUGUST 19 THE DETENTION OF THE THREE PERSONS ABOVE BY THE ARMY ON AUGUST 3.)

3. (C) POLOFF DISCUSSED THESE EVENTS WITH OFFICIALS IN THE THREE MAJOR GROUPS THAT BELONG TO CONADEP. ALTHOUGH NONE HAD YET RECEIVED COPIES OF DOCUMENTS IN WHICH THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DECEASED ALLEGEDLY REPORTED THEIR DETENTION BY SECURITY FORCES, CONSENSUS WAS THAT CARETAS WOULD NOT RISK REPUTATION WITHOUT CHECKING OUT STORY CAREFULLY. OFFICIAL OF EPISCOPAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PROTECT) TOLD POLOFF THAT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WOULD CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION.

4. (C) COMMENT: CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT SECURITY FORCES CARRIED OUT EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT COULD, IF FULLY SUBSTANTIATED, PROVE QUITE DELICATE FOR GOP. APRA HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN CONGRESS, INCLUDING HEADSTRONG SENATORS VALLE RIESTRA AND VILLANUEVA (BOTH IN SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION), AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED LEFT WILL LIKELY PUSH FOR AN INVESTIGATION, AND COULD USE THIS TO OPEN BROADER INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED UNDER PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

JORDAN
END OF MESSAGE
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