



## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

# PERU

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17 JANUARY 2007

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## 1. Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information (COI) Key Documents has been produced by Research, Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 10 November 2006.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.
- iii For Home Office users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Peru is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the key documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional documents are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

### Country of Origin Information Service

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fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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## 2. Background information on Peru

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**Full Country Name:** The Republic of Peru

**Area:** 1,285,220 sq km (496,225 sq miles)

**Population:** 28 million

**Capital City:** Lima (population: 8.27 million in metropolitan area)

**People:** Indigenous (45%), Mestizo (37%), European/White (15%), African, Japanese, Chinese, and other (3%)

**Language(s):** Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara and a number of minor Amazonian languages (as recorded in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile). The United States Department of State Background Note on Peru, published in June 2006 noted that "Spanish is the principal language. Quechua, Aymara and other indigenous languages also have official status." [16d]

**Religion(s):** Roman Catholic (85%); Evangelical (11%) others (4%)

**Currency:** Nuevo sol

**Major political parties:** Unión por el Perú (UPP), Partido Aprista Peruano (APRA), Unidad Nacional (UN), Alianza Frente de Centro, Alianza para el Futuro, Restauración Nacional, Peru Posible

**Government:** Constitutional system of Presidential democracy. The 1993 constitution, approved by referendum, provides for an executive for five years. The principal executive body is the Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, appointed by the President. A unicameral 120-member Congress is elected at the same time as the President and also sits for five years. It is the main legislative branch of government with the President holding a veto. An 18 member Supreme Court based in Lima heads the judicial branch.

**Head of State:** President Alan Garcia Perez (leader of APRA) since 28 July 2006.

**Prime Minister:** Dr Jorge del Castillo Galvez

**Foreign Minister:** Jose Antonia Garcia Belaunde

**Membership of international groupings/organisations:** Peru holds membership of the UN; WTO; G-11; G-15; G-19; G24; G77; Organisation of American States (OAS); APEC; Andean Community (CAN); Rio Group; South American Community of Nations (SACN), Inter-American Developmental Bank (IADB); IMF. Peru is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2006/7. (BBC Country Profile: Peru, 25 October 2006; Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Country Profiles: Peru, 9 November 2006; United States Department of State International Religious Freedom Report 2006, Peru, 15 September 2006; United States Department of State Background Note on Peru, June 2006) [2a] [8] [16b] [16d]

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### GEOGRAPHY

As noted by the FCO in its Country Profile of 5 September 2006, "Peru is located in Western South America bordering the Pacific Ocean between Chile and Ecuador. Bolivia (a 900km border), Brazil (1,560km) and Chile (160km) are located to the south and east and Ecuador (1,420km) and Colombia (1,496km) to the north. The whole of the western coast is desert with little rain. From this coastal shelf, the Andes rise steeply to a high Sierra, which is studded with groups of mountains and deep canyons. East of these mountains lies the vast jungle of the Amazon basin. The capital, Lima, to the west is the sprawling hub of the country." [8]

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## RECENT HISTORY

In the same report the FCO recorded that:

“Coups have been a feature of Peru's history and intermittently disturbed civilian constitutional government. The most recent period of military rule (1968-80) began when General Juan Velasco Alvarado overthrew elected President Fernando Belaunde and embarked on an ambitious program of radical reforms. General Francisco Morales Bermudez replaced him in 1975 and presided over the return to civilian government in accordance with a new constitution created in 1979. In elections held in May 1980, Belaunde was re-elected by a large majority.”

“In the early 80s, El Niño weather phenomenon-related problems, a continued economic crisis and hyperinflation caused Belaunde's popularity to slide. More seriously, cultivation of illegal coca in the eastern Andes and the emergence of the left-wing terrorist organisations, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA), seriously destabilised the country. In 1985, Alan Garcia won the Presidential race backed by his APRA party witnessing the first democratic accession for 40 years... In the 1990 elections, voters turned to college lecturer, Alberto Fujimori, who surprised many in coming from obscurity to the Presidency... Faced with opposition in Congress, Fujimori staged an 'auto-coup' in April 1992, revising the constitution, calling new congressional elections and pushing through free-market economic reforms. Fujimori's government also took a hard line approach against domestic terrorism. During his Presidency, Shining Path's leader, Abimael Guzman, was captured and imprisoned.”

“Fujimori's decision to seek a constitutionally questionable third term and his subsequent tainted victory in June 2000 brought political and economic turmoil. A major corruption scandal linked to his Security Chief Vladimiro Montesinos broke in September 2000, weeks after his inauguration, which forced Fujimori to announce new elections in which he would not participate. Under mounting pressure, he fled to Japan, from where he resigned. Congress did not accept his resignation, but ruled him morally incapable of holding office for 10 years. A transitional administration under interim President Valentin Paniagua took office and oversaw free and fair elections in April and June 2001. Montesinos was apprehended in June 2001 in Venezuela and brought back to Peru to face trial. In 2002 he was sentenced to imprisonment for abuse of authority and illegally taking control of Peru's intelligence service. He has since been sentenced for a number of other crimes and remains on trial facing further criminal charges.” [8]

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## RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

As recorded by the FCO:

“Despite the 10-year ban on Fujimori holding office, he announced his intention to contest the 2006 election. In November 2005, Fujimori travelled from Japan to Chile where he was detained by the Chilean authorities on an Interpol international arrest warrant. The Peruvian authorities are currently seeking his extradition to Peru to face trial on various criminal charges.

Alejandro Toledo (Peru Posible) beat a resurgent Alan Garcia (APRA) in the national elections in June 2001 to become Peru's first indigenous President. Toledo led a post transitional government that has pursued democratic reform and modernisation of the

state. His administration was been committed to orthodox economic policies and the country achieved strong and sustained economic growth throughout his period in office.

Presidential and parliamentary elections took place between April and June 2006. Alan Garcia beat the nationalist candidate Ollanta Humala in the second round and assumed the Presidency on 28 July 2006. His government has undertaken to continue the sound economic management of the previous administration. However, it is also committed to tackling the problems of poverty and social exclusion highlighted during the election campaign. Regional and municipal elections are due to take place in November 2006.” [8]

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## ECONOMY

**GDP:** US\$ 839. billion (2005)

**GDP per head:** US\$ 2,483 (2004)

**Annual Growth:** 6.7% (2005)

**Inflation:** 1.49% (2005)

**Unemployment:** 8.5% (2006)

**Major Industries:** Mining, hydrocarbons, fishing, textiles, food processing, agriculture, tourism

**Major trading partners:** United States, Latin American countries, European Union (FCO Country Profile, 9 November 2006) [8]

The CIA World Factbook 2006 noted that:

“Peru's economy reflects its varied geography - an arid coastal region, the Andes further inland, and tropical lands bordering Colombia and Brazil. Abundant mineral resources are found in the mountainous areas, and Peru's coastal waters provide excellent fishing grounds. However, overdependence on minerals and metals subjects the economy to fluctuations in world prices, and a lack of infrastructure deters trade and investment. After several years of inconsistent economic performance, the Peruvian economy grew by more than 4 percent per year during the period 2002-2005, with a stable exchange rate and low inflation. Risk premiums on Peruvian bonds on secondary markets reached historically low levels in late 2004, reflecting investor optimism regarding the government's prudent fiscal policies and openness to trade and investment. Despite the strong macroeconomic performance, the TOLEDO administration remained unpopular in 2005, and unemployment and poverty have stayed persistently high.” [4]

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices in 2005 recorded that:

“Although the government generally respected the human rights of its citizens, there were serious problems in a number of areas. The following human rights problems were reported:

- beatings, abuse, and torture of detainees and inmates by police and prison security forces

- harassment of witnesses by security forces
- impunity of military and security forces
- poor prison conditions
- prolonged pretrial detention and inordinate delays of trials
- pressure on the media by local authorities and other groups, including coca growers and a notorious narcotrafficker
- violence and discrimination against women
- violence against children, including sexual abuse
- trafficking in persons
- discrimination against indigenous people and minorities
- significant obstacles to persons with disabilities
- restrictions on collective bargaining rights
- child labor in the informal sector

The terrorist organization Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) was responsible for killings and other abuses.” [16a]

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in its Country Profile on Peru, last updated on 5 September 2006, stated that:

“Human rights problems featured prominently in Peru during the violent conflict between Shining Path, the government and the armed forces in the 80s and 90s. It is estimated that around 60,000 people died as a result of the internal conflict. Peru's human rights record has improved since the end of the conflict with Shining Path. Peru returned to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in January 2001. However, some human rights concerns remain. Much of the criticism is linked to the judicial system and the slow administration of justice. Conditions in Peruvian prisons are also harsh, aggravated by overcrowding, lack of sanitation and poor health care. Poverty and extreme poverty particularly in the rural areas of the country remain a widespread problem.” [8]

The FCO stated further that:

“The transitional administration under interim President Valentin Paniagua, created a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2001 to investigate abuses by both terrorist organisations and the security forces. The Commission's mandate was to analyse, investigate, ascribe responsibility and to promote reconciliation and peace. The final report of the Commission was published in August 2003. Although many of the Commission's recommendations are still to be implemented, some progress has been made. A reparation plan for victims of the political violence during the internal conflict of the 80s and 90s was approved by the Peruvian Congress in July 2005.” [8]

In its Report 2006 (covering events from January to December 2005), Amnesty International noted that:

“Some of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations were implemented, but progress on bringing perpetrators to justice remained slow. Human rights defenders, prosecutors and witnesses were subjected to threats and attacks. Military and police officers accused of torture and ill-treatment continued to be charged with lesser offences. There were concerns about access to health care, especially for low-income families.” [1a]

Human Rights Watch, in its World Report 2006, stated that:



“Efforts to prosecute those responsible for gross human rights violations dating from Peru’s armed conflict (1980-2000) have begun to show results, but they still face formidable obstacles. These include a chronic shortage of funds and resources, a lack of trained investigators, and a lack of cooperation by the armed forces. Military courts continue to investigate human rights violations committed by military personnel during this period, even though the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court have ruled that they lack competence to do so. Torture is an ongoing problem. Journalists face violence and harassment, particularly in provincial cities. Human rights defenders are vulnerable to threats and intimidation.” [10]

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### 3. Index to key source documents

(KB users - click source number to access document directly)

<b>KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	BBC News, Country Profile: Peru, 25 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm</a>
	<b>[4]</b>	CIA The World Factbook 2006: Peru, updated 17 October 2006 <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/pe.html">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/pe.html</a>
	<b>[7]</b>	Ethnologue, Languages of the World, Languages of Peru, 15th edition (Author: Raymond G. Gordon Jr.), 2005 <a href="http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=PE">http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=PE</a>
	<b>[8]</b>	Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Country Profiles: Peru, 9 November 2006 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701</a>
	<b>[16d]</b>	United States Department of State, Background Note: Peru, June 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35762.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35762.htm</a>
<b>MAP</b>	<b>[14a]</b>	UN Map: Peru, May 2004 <a href="http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/peru.pdf">www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/peru.pdf</a>
<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	BBC News, Country Profile: Peru, 25 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm</a>
	<b>[2b]</b>	BBC News, Timeline: Peru, 25 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224690.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224690.stm</a>
	<b>[4]</b>	CIA The World Factbook 2006: Peru, updated 17 October 2006 <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/pe.html">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/pe.html</a>
	<b>[8]</b>	Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Country Profiles: Peru, 9 November 2006 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701</a>
	<b>[16d]</b>	United States Department of State, Background Note: Peru, June 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35762.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35762.htm</a>
<b>POLITICS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	BBC News, Country Profile: Peru, 25 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm</a>
	<b>[2b]</b>	BBC News, Timeline: Peru, 25 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224690.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1224690.stm</a>
	<b>[4]</b>	CIA The World Factbook 2006: Peru, updated 17 October

<b>POLITICS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONT'D</b>		<p>2006 <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/pe.html">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/pe.html</a></p> <p>[8] Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office (FCO), Country Profiles: Peru, 9 November 2006 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701</a></p> <p>[9] Freedom House (FH), Freedom in the World 2006: Peru <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7038">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7038</a></p>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL:</b>	<p>[1a]</p> <p>[1b]</p> <p>[1c]</p> <p>[8]</p> <p>[9]</p> <p>[10]</p> <p>[16a]</p>	<p>Amnesty International (AI) Report 2006: Americas: Peru, 23 May 2006 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/per-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/per-summary-eng</a></p> <p>Peru/Chile, Serious human rights violations during the presidency of Alberto Fujimori (1990-2000), 5 December 2005 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR460072005?open&amp;of=ENG-PER">http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR460072005?open&amp;of=ENG-PER</a></p> <p>Amnesty International (AI), Urgent Action, Peru: Death Penalty: Proposed extension of death penalty laws, 21 September 2006 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGAMR460242006?open&amp;of=ENG-PER">http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGAMR460242006?open&amp;of=ENG-PER</a></p> <p>Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office (FCO), Country Profiles: Peru, 9 November 2006 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1020338161701</a></p> <p>Freedom House (FH), Freedom in the World 2006: Peru, September 2006 <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7038">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7038</a></p> <p>Human Rights Watch (HRW) World Report 2006: Peru, January 2006 <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/peru12213.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/peru12213.htm</a></p> <p>US Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005: Peru, 8 March 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61738.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61738.htm</a></p>
<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b></p> <p><b>(IN ADDITION TO GENERAL REPORTS ABOVE, INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW)</b></p>		
<b>ABUSES BY NON-GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES</b>	<p>[1a]</p> <p>[2c]</p>	<p>Amnesty International (AI) Report 2006: Americas: Peru, 23 May 2006 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/per-summary-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/per-summary-eng</a></p> <p>BBC News, Peru Shining Path head gets life, 14 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6048144.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6048144.stm</a></p>

<p><b>ABUSES BY NON-GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES CONT'D</b></p>	<p>[3a]</p>	<p>Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) Responses to Information Requests (RIRs), Peru: Current status and activities of the Shining Path (Senderoso [sic] Luminoso); government and police efforts to address Shining Path actions (August 2004 - January 2006), PER101032.E, 3 February 2006  <a href="http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&amp;qotorec=449863">http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&amp;qotorec=449863</a></p>
	<p>[6]</p>	<p>Committee to Protect Journalists, Attacks on the Press in 2005: Americas, Peru, 2005  <a href="http://www.cpj.org/attacks05/americas05/peru_05.html">http://www.cpj.org/attacks05/americas05/peru_05.html</a></p>
	<p>[10a]</p>	<p>Human Rights Watch (HRW) World Report 2006: Peru, January 2006  <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/peru12213.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/peru12213.htm</a></p>
	<p>[10b]</p>	<p>Human Rights Watch (HRW), Alan Garcia's Second Chance: Human Rights Accountability in Peru, July 2006  <a href="http://www.hrw.org/pub/memos/peru0806.pdf">http://www.hrw.org/pub/memos/peru0806.pdf</a></p>
	<p>[16a]</p>	<p>US Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005: Peru, 8 March 2006  <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61738.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61738.htm</a></p>
	<p>[18]</p>	<p>War Resisters International, A worldwide survey of conscription and conscientious objection to military service, Peru, 26 May 1998  <a href="http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/peru.htm">http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/peru.htm</a></p>
	<p>[20]</p>	<p>New York Times, World Briefing / Americas: Peru: Rebels Kill 8 Policemen, 22 December 2005  <a href="http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D04E2D81430F931A15751C1A9639C8B63">http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D04E2D81430F931A15751C1A9639C8B63</a></p>
	<p>[21]</p>	<p>ABC News International, Shining Path Guerrilla Commander killed, 20 February 2006  <a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1642821">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1642821</a></p>
<p><b>ARREST AND DETENTION – LEGAL RIGHTS</b></p>	<p>[3c]</p>	<p>Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Responses to Information Requests (RIRs), Peru: The production, availability and use of fraudulent police reports and other official documents; methods for verifying the authenticity of these types of documents (Dec. 2001-May 2005), PER100153.FE, 10 June 2005  <a href="http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&amp;qotorec=449448">http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&amp;qotorec=449448</a></p>
	<p>[10a]</p>	<p>Human Rights Watch (HRW) World Report 2006: Peru, January 2006  <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/peru12213.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/peru12213.htm</a></p>
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