



Peru

Anti-US terrorism in Peru increased from 12 incidents in 1985 to last year's high of about 30 incidents. Many of these incidents—mostly low-level bombings that caused little damage—were directed against US financial institutions, which symbolize imperialism to the two main terrorist groups—Sendero Luminoso (SL) and the Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru (MRTA). Unlike previous years, SL terrorists staged fewer attacks in the rural highlands. Government counterterrorist successes in the rural areas may have forced some of the terrorists into the cities, but we believe these urban attacks are part of a broader strategy to attract more attention to Sendero Luminoso's terrorist campaign. In late December the MRTA attacked seven US affiliated facilities over three days, and we expect such attacks to continue.



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Major Terrorist Attacks in Peru Against Foreign Interests, 1986

- 21 December *The US Information Agency building in Lima was bombed, probably by the MRTA. No injuries were reported.*
- 18 December *Six organizations in Lima with links to the United States were bombed, including two binational cultural centers, IBM and AID warehouses, the Summer Institute of Linguistics, and a Goodyear facility. MRTA claimed responsibility for the bombings, in which several persons were injured.*
- 10 November *The US Information Agency Binational Center in Trujillo was bombed probably by the MRTA. There were no injuries.*
- 24 October *The Peruvian manager of the Pepsi-Cola plant in Huanuco, was murdered. No group claimed responsibility, but the SL was the likely perpetrator.*
- 18 September *The MRTA attacked the Chilean Embassy in Lima with dynamite, causing no injuries.*
- 26 August *The Bolivian Embassy in Lima is bombed by a splinter group of the MRTA in protest of the US military presence in Bolivia and involvement in operations against drug traffickers. No injuries were reported.*
- 27 July *Terrorists, probably SL, set off firebombs at three major business and tourist hotels in Lima. There were no injuries.*
- 22 July *Unknown terrorists bombed the Eastern Airlines office in Lima and a Mercedes-Benz car dealership, causing no injuries.*
- 4 July *The SL was probably responsible for bombings of the Chinese and Italian Embassies in Lima, as well as the Peruvian-Soviet Cultural Institute.*
- 25 June *SL terrorists bombed a tourist train traveling from Cusco to the Machupicchu ruins, killing eight persons including two Americans. A number of other US citizens were wounded.*
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Terrorism Review



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Peru: The Terrorist Threat to Americans [redacted]

Over the last two years Peru, and particularly Lima, has experienced some of the highest rates of terrorism in the world. Most attacks by Peru's two active insurgent groups, the fanatically ethnocentric Sendero Luminoso (SL) and the urban-based Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), have been directed at official Peruvian targets. During 1986, however, there was a fourfold increase in the number of attacks against foreign official and international business facilities. Given these trends, we believe the likelihood of American casualties—even if incurred incidentally—is rising. No Americans have been killed by terrorists in Lima but, because of the large American resident and tourist presence in the capital, we believe they could become victims when government, commercial, or tourist sites are bombed or come under strafing attack. The danger to Americans is almost as great in the countryside, where two Americans were killed last year when guerrillas bombed the popular Cusco-to-Machupicchu tourist train. [redacted]

Peru's Terrorist Groups

Guerrilla and terrorist violence in Peru has escalated dramatically in recent years and poses increasingly serious security problems for Americans. The largest and most dangerous insurgent group is the SL, whose 4,000 to 5,000 armed guerrillas are waging both an increasingly active urban terrorist campaign in Lima and a low intensity rural insurrection throughout the country. Since it initiated armed struggle in 1980, the SL has developed into the second-largest guerrilla movement in South America—behind the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)—and is probably the most brutal movement ever to appear in the region. SL's violent tactics aim at the total elimination of the influence of Peru's whites and mestizos, and the group reviles foreign influences of any kind in Peru. [redacted]

Peru's other terrorist group, the MRTA, is a small, Lima-based movement of several hundred activists at most. In contrast with SL, the MRTA is a Castroite,

pro-Nicaragua Marxist group that more narrowly focuses its attacks against foreign targets, particularly US and Japanese facilities. Unlike the SL, the MRTA has generally used political violence to draw attention to its political program, so far has attacked property far more than people, and has been quick to take credit for its attacks. [redacted]

Rising Urban Terrorism

The main terrorist threat to US citizens is in Lima. Despite some tougher antiterrorist measures, violent attacks in Lima are increasing in both number and lethality. [redacted] since the beginning of 1985 some 300 serious incidents have occurred in the Lima metropolitan area. Forty persons—all Peruvians—have been killed in Lima during that period, including nine who were innocent bystanders. [redacted]

Our review of SL attacks during 1986 indicates that it is still hitting hardest at Peruvian targets. Indeed, 31 of the 40 persons killed in Lima since early 1985 were engaged in counterterrorism or local police duties. The assassinations last year in Lima of two Peruvian Navy admirals, moreover, received international press coverage, heightening the perception at home and abroad of growing political instability and personal insecurity in Peru. [redacted]

Terrorist attacks in Lima during 1986 also show, however, a dramatic four-fold increase over the 1985 levels of strikes against foreign targets. In February 1986 the SL bombed six foreign diplomatic missions, including the US Embassy. SL, being generally antiforeign rather than specifically anti-American, also struck at the Soviet Embassy twice last year and wounded six Soviet sailors in a terrorist attack last August. For its part, the MRTA attacked the US

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Ambassador's residence in 1986, bombed the Lima headquarters of Citibank and Texaco, and hit other targets that the group associates with "Yanqui imperialism," including several Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises in 1985 and a Sears Roebuck store. In late December 1986 the MRTA went on a bombing rampage over three days, attacking seven US-affiliated facilities, including the United States Information Agency building. The Tupac Amaru also regards Japan as a principal "imperialist" power and we believe it is responsible for a majority of the attacks on Japanese business interests in Lima.



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- 23 June *Tupac Amaru terrorists simultaneously seized the offices of four foreign news agencies, forcing station personnel to transmit antigovernment messages.*
- 22 June *MRTA terrorists bombed the Honduran Embassy, causing considerable damage but no injuries.*
- 27 May *Unknown terrorists bombed the North American-Peruvian Cultural Institute in Trujillo. Two Peruvian students were injured.*
- 21 April *MRTA members exploded a car bomb outside the residence of the US Ambassador, blowing a hole in the concrete wall surrounding the home but causing no injuries.*
- 11 April *MRTA terrorists bombed five US targets in Lima, including an AID warehouse, a branch office of Citibank, Eastman-Kodak's Peruvian headquarters, the offices of Diner's Club, and the Summer Institute of Linguistics. No injuries resulted.*
- 3 April *Synchronized attacks were carried out by MRTA terrorists against foreign facilities, including the US-Peruvian Binational Center, two Citibank offices, an IBM warehouse, Sears-Roebuck, and the Colombian Embassy.*
- 17 March *Presumed SL terrorists strafed the Argentine Embassy in Lima with machinegun fire. There were no injuries.*
- 21 February *The SL carried out a series of bombings against the Embassies of the United States, Spain, China, West Germany, Argentina, and India. One guard at the Indian Embassy was killed.*
- 22 January *Unknown terrorists bombed the Sears-Roebuck store in downtown Lima, as well as several other stores and shopping centers around the city. No injuries were reported.*
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