

Founding Conference of the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán (IEC) - Dusseldorf, Germany - February 27-28, 1993

Build for the IEC Founding Conference!

On September 12, 1992, Abimael Guzmán, known as Chairman Gonzalo, the leader of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP), was arrested by the Peruvian government.

Guzmán's "trial" was a farce. Days after his capture Peruvian President Fujimori appeared on national television and stated that Guzmán would be tried within a month, found guilty of "treason to the state," and sentenced to life in prison. Not surprisingly, the trial occurred just as Fujimori had said it would, except he forgot to mention that it would be a secret military tribunal with hooded judges, Guzmán would be held in a cage, his lawyer would not be allowed to present a defense, no witness would be called, the press would not be allowed in, international observers would be excluded...The list of gross human rights and international legal violations is endless. Fujimori has repeatedly threatened to kill Guzmán even going so far as to suggest reinstating the death penalty to "legally" execute him. Guzmán, along with thousands of other prisoners accused of subversion, faces appalling conditions such as a starvation diet, routine torture and outright murder.

Within 3 days of Abimael Guzmán's arrest, the IEC was formed in London, England. Due to the urgent and determined efforts of many people, the International Emergency Campaign to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán has swept across the globe quickly and sharply. Now four months old, the campaign involves thousands of people from over 40 countries. Three delegations have gone to Lima, the first was present at the time of Guzmán's trial. In all, 17 delegates in 3 delegations have been to Lima to investigate and protest the secret military tribunal and conditions of incarceration now endured by Guzmán and the other political prisoners. Support for this work continues to grow as outrage rises steadily against the trends of repression and injustice so glaringly exemplified by the case of Abimael Guzmán.

We are now at a crucial crossroad. Dr. Guzmán has not been seen by anyone but his captors for four months. He is not receiving any medical care and has reportedly lost forty-four pounds. Dr. Crespo, Guzmán's lawyer, has been sentenced by a military tribunal to life in prison for "treason." His "crime" has been to persist in trying to do his job despite incessant government harassment and death threats. The U.S. government is complicit in these events. The military tribunals with hooded judges were created and paid for by the U.S. as part of the "drug war." Green Berets are already in Peru "training" elite troops. The threat of further military intervention is growing. These factors heighten the danger to Guzmán and the many other political prisoners, creating an immediate need to raise the campaign to new levels.

The IEC Founding Conference will be a unique opportunity to draw strength from people around the world. Delegates will attend from India, Bangladesh, Mexico, Europe, the U.S and other countries to share experience and plan the future of the campaign. Carlos La Torre, Guzmán's father-in-law, will speak; IEC delegates will report back from Lima; a report from Bangladesh where thousands of people have joined the campaign will be given; and much more. We CAN win the battle to defend the life of Abimael Guzmán, but it will take determination, daring, and drawing together the strength, skills, and experience of many, many new people around the world. The Conference aims to build the kind of strong but flexible organization that can do just that. It will tackle questions ranging from legal strategies for entering into the international courts, to discussing plans for student organizing in universities around the world, to learning from the support for the campaign in peasant villages in South Asia.

Join this crucial battle:

- ◆ Sponsor and send delegates from your area.
- ◆ Raise funds - send a day's wages to the IEC to help get delegates to Dusseldorf
- ◆ Start an IEC Chapter in your area.

Join the battle to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán!

Contact::

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URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO SEND A FOURTH DELEGATION TO PERU AND TO SEND DELEGATES TO THE FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Dear Friends,

Funds are urgently needed to send a fourth delegation to Peru ASAP, and to send delegates to the founding conference of the IEC in Germany at the end of February. Right now a delegation of very prominent individuals is ready to go to Peru but doesn't have the needed funds.

We are at a crucial crossroads. We have already accomplished a great deal in short time. The delegations that have gone to Peru have no doubt impacted on Fujimori's decision to back down from a referendum on the death penalty. A strong international campaign involving tens of thousands of people and has so far contributed greatly to holding back the government's plans to kill Abimael Guzmán -- but the battle is not yet won.

Internationally Fujimori finds himself ever more isolated for his vicious assault on political prisoners. At the same time bitter infighting is intensifying within ruling circles in Peru and rumors of a coup circulate in Lima.

Some signs of Fujimori's isolation are: an attempted coup by key Army officers; Alberto Arciniega, the Army General who headed up Fujimori's "hooded judges" has been threatened by the President and has sought exile in the Argentine Embassy; Economic Minister Luis Bologna, credited with bringing Peru back into the good graces of the IMF, recently resigned; General Vidal (the man credited with Guzmán's capture) was replaced as head of the secret police.

A February 1 Associated Press release explains that Fujimori has decided to move Abimael Guzmán from the island prison of San Lorenzo to the Navy base in Lima's port city of El Callao, supposedly "for security reasons." Will this be used by the government to stage a phony "attempted escape?" Does it mean that Fujimori doesn't even trust the officers in charge of San Lorenzo island? In either case it represents heightened danger.

More than ever, determined international action is demanded to focus world attention on these developments and change the conditions of Abimael Guzmán's imprisonment. The International Red Cross has yet to be allowed to visit him or others. The AP report says that Abimael has lost 44 pounds in weight since his capture, a testament to barbaric treatment that represents a slow death. This cannot be allowed to continue. Doctors, lawyers and human rights people must be allowed to visit Abimael Guzmán and others. We can win this battle and it will no doubt impact very positively on people worldwide if we do. But we need your contribution. Workers in India who make \$2 a day contributed a day's wages. Why should we here in the US do any less. After all, it is our Justice Department that contributed 16 million dollars to pay for Peru's hooded judges program (as part of the "war on drugs"), and it is our CIA who trained Fujimori's secret police.

Please contribute generously. Make checks or money orders payable to "IEC/US," and mail to CSRP; P.O. Box 1246; Berkeley, CA 94701. Forward to victory in the campaign to save the life of Abimael Guzmán.

Heriberto Ocasio,

Spokesperson for the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, and member of the first IEC delegation.

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU

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