

EMERGENCY BULLETIN NO.16

November 30, 1992

International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman -

FAX/Telephone: (44) (71) 482 0853

Address: BCM - IEC, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX, England.

**MARTHA HUATAY AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING TORTURED IN PERU**

The recently returned 3rd IEC delegation to Peru reports that Martha Huatay, a well-known political prisoner and founder of the Association of Democratic Lawyers in Peru, has been tortured to the point of being unable to speak at her "trial." The delegation heard this news from her lawyer Jorge Cartegena, who was present at her military tribunal and said that it was clear that she had been beaten to the point of complete disorientation. The International Red Cross has also examined her and found that she has a fractured skull and brain lesions, among other serious injuries. Her "trial" was shorter than Dr Guzman's and she also received life imprisonment. Cartegena said that the case of the government against her for alleged "terrorism" was very weak. It is presumed by some that she was tortured in an attempt to extract a confession. None was obtained. (It is notable that in an article from a Lima newspaper on the trial, no mention whatsoever was made of Huatay's condition, and in fact they report that she made a "declaration" in court.)

The Peruvian "Colegio de Abogados" (the Peruvian equivalent of the Bar Association) condemned the "torture and humiliating treatment" of Martha Huatay, as part of 11 declarations on violations of human rights announced on November 5. This marked a sharp departure from some of their previous positions. (Leading members of this group were used to denounce the lawyers of the 1st delegation, for instance, as being unqualified to make comments on legal matters in Peru, and therefore liable for arrest as "apologists for terrorism.") More on this in future bulletins.

The delegation met with other members of the Association of Democratic Lawyers who report that many of their clients who include other political prisoners accused of being members or supporters of the PCP, have now been moved to a newly-transformed military prison at an Air Force Base in Puno near Bolivia. This town is in far south Peru where the temperature is often -10 C., and the prisoners are subjected to a regime of "isolation and refrigeration," as their families describe it. Although the spirit of resistance among the prisoners remains strong, they are not living under conditions depicted for instance in the "Dispatches" TV report where they were in control of their barracks and could conduct regular political work, cook their own food and so on. They are not even allowed food and medicine to be brought in from family members on the outside.

Instead, their conditions are highly barbaric and violate their human rights in unthinkable ways: They are chained 23 hours a day, and allowed only one hour of access to daylight. They are routinely stripped naked and beaten once a week. Their food consists of bread and water in the morning and a thin rice soup in the afternoon. TB and other diseases are common. They are forced to sleep on concrete floors in the freezing dungeons. They are not allowed to see their lawyers, and can only receive infrequent 10-minute visits from members of their immediate family (who must travel days to see them). These same family members have now also become the clients of the Association of Democratic Lawyers because the regime has charged them with being subversives simply for the crime of visiting the prisoners.

Jorge Cartegena describes the treatment of the prisoners as not simply "punishment" but a full-blown "strategy of revenge" against the political prisoners. They are being killed slowly.

2

The Democratic lawyers who are defending these political prisoners are themselves under grave threats. Cartegena still has terrible scars from a head wound received last July 20 when he was hit by machine-gun fire while working in his office in the evening. The gunmen were not caught, but the delegation reports that after Fujimori's "self-coup" on April 5, 1992, 6 members of the Association were detained for 15 days, including Cartegena, Rudolfo Ascencios and Alfredo Crespo, who is Dr Guzman's lawyer. Their homes and office were ransacked in a search for evidence connecting them with "terrorism." None was found and they were released.

**FUJIMORI REGIME USES ELECTIONS TO PREPARE TO RE-INTRODUCE DEATH PENALTY**  
Yoshiyama, from Fujimori's "Cambio" party, announced a day after the November 22 elections that: "In the Congress, the first thing we are going to propose is establishing the death penalty (for guerrillas) in the new Constitution." These elections, which were widely hailed in the international media as a "victory for Fujimori" and a "victory for democracy in Peru," were actually conducted under severe conditions of martial law. The Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente announced that 100,000 soldiers and police were dispatched for "protection." Armed strikes by the PCP on November 18 and 19, and a call for a general strike, closed down the city completely on November 20, 21, and most of Sunday (the 22nd), according to the IEC delegation. (On the night of the 19th, one delegate heard bombs exploding and gunfire near his hotel.) In a lame effort to disguise the fact that the strike was highly successful, Fujimori declared the 20th (Friday) a national holiday.

The delegation noticed that military personnel were carrying out ballot boxes and that they saturated even richer districts like Miraflores during election day. Despite all this, the head of the OAS delegation (who was seen by IEC delegates in the constant company of armed government personnel) bizarrely declared that the election was entirely "normal, exemplary and without any disturbances."

The actual election results scarcely provided a "mandate" for Fujimori, despite lying reports in the international media. Lima papers admitted that there was the highest number of blank and spoiled ballots in the Peru's history-- 22.7%. In emergency zones like Huancavelica the percentage of spoiled or blank ballots was over 60%! And the delegation were told by someone who knew ballot-counters that on many of the spoiled ballots was written "Viva El PCP." The joke among taxi drivers was that the "second majority" after Fujimori's party was the "blank ballots."

#### TV REPORT ON IEC CAMPAIGN AIRS IN PERU

In the past week, while the 3rd delegation was in Lima, a story aired on "ECO" TV (a network which is seen throughout Latin America) showing demonstrations for Dr Guzman in Germany, and reporting on fundraising efforts for the IEC by Turkish workers in Germany.

#### EUROPEAN BARS FEDERATION CONDEMNS FUJIMORI

The IEC received word that the head of the Turkish Democratic Lawyers Association had contacted the Eugenio Gay Montalvo, the head of the European Bars Federation (which represents Bar Associations throughout Europe) about the situation with Dr Guzman. Shortly afterwards the IEC received a copy of the following letter to Fujimori from Mr Montalvo:  
"Barcelona 6 November 1992

"Many groups of lawyers from Europe have asked us to intervene in the situation of Abimael Guzman and his lawyer. We received some news from Dr Crespo that he hasn't been able to see his client and also has received threats to his life.

"I would like you to know our serious concerns about this case, and I

ask in the name of the Federation that I represent to take part in defending the rights of the lawyer to defend their client in jail."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TWISTS CONDEMNATION OF DEATH PENALTY INTO OCCASION  
FOR MORE SLANDER AGAINST THE PCP

Since its formation, the IEC has continuously presented to AI's International Secretariat reports, including from returning IEC delegates, which make abundantly clear that the human rights abuses being committed against Dr Guzman, the other political prisoners and the people of Peru in general, require a strong response from Amnesty International. That is, if AI were applying any kind of objective standard in measuring these abuses against their own charter. To many peoples' dismay, however, AI has largely refused to act, except for a weak warning on 2 October in which they state that the conditions of Dr Guzman's trial "may fall short" of acceptable international standards.

With Fujimori's threat to reinstate the death penalty by way of a national referendum, AI finally decided to send a letter of protest concerning this matter to Fujimori. Yet in the letter, and in their accompanying "external document", the thrust of their argument consists of false charges against the PCP. They even make the point to Fujimori ("Your Excellency") that that they understand that it is the "persistent atrocities" of groups like the PCP which have prompted moves toward reinstating the death penalty, but, they argue, other punishments have "better deterrent value." (!) Now apparently AI is giving advice to dictators on the most effective way to punish the people.

The "external document" from Amnesty International reads in part:  
"PERU: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGES GOVERNMENT NOT TO EXTEND THE DEATH PENALTY.

"Amnesty International wrote to President Alberto Fujimori on 4 November urging him not to extend the death penalty in Peru.

"...Amnesty International considers the death penalty and extrajudicial killings by the State, and execution-like killings by armed opposition groups, to be a violation of the right to life and the most serious example of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

"In the letter the organization also expressed its unqualified opposition to the deliberate and arbitrary killings by the armed opposition of defenceless civilians not directly involved in Peru's internal armed conflict. By the end of October these atrocities, including the execution-like killing of captives, continued to be perpetrated by the Partido Comunista del Peru (Sendero Luminoso), PCP, Communist Party of Peru..."

Following is a section of AI's letter to Fujimori:

"... since 1983 the organization (AI) has repeatedly and firmly condemned the torture and killing of people held captive by the armed opposition in Peru... [The organization has expressed its unqualified opposition to the arbitrary and deliberate killing by these groups of defenceless civilians not directly involved in the armed conflict, and of the killing of members of the security forces who are hors de combat, or who have been incapacitated, have surrendered or who have been detained. In the context of these and other persistent atrocities by the armed opposition Your Excellency and some sectors of Peruvian society have now called for the death penalty.

"Amnesty International, however, would like to draw the President's attention to the fact that numerous studies carried out on the death penalty have not proved that it has a deterrent value greater than that of other penalties..."

Another alarming development concerning AI has come to the attention of IEC with the return of the 3rd IEC delegation. They brought back a copy of a letter which Dr Crespo faxed to AI's International Secretariat

discussing the fact that Crespo has not been allowed to even see his client since October 11. The letter detailed the exhaustive appeals Dr Crespo has made to the courts to gain visitation. Dr Crespo asks AI to contact the Peruvian government in order that his right to see his client be restored. He notifies AI that Fujimori again publicly announced on 8 November his desire that Guzman be killed by firing squad. Crespo asks AI to demand that Guzman's life be respected, and that his own life be respected because he has been subject to death threats. Dr Crespo's fax-letter was dated 9 November, and he provides a phone number, fax number and address to AI so that they could respond to him on these matters. Dr Crespo has never received a response. And though IEC has been regularly discussing Dr Crespo's situation with AI's top personnel on Peru in hopes of getting them to act, IEC was never even informed by AI of the letter they received from Crespo, (though they now admit receiving it). More importantly, AI has not issued any public statement regarding the charges made by Crespo.

The campaign to get AI to act must intensify, which seems to be happening. We understand that 100s of protest postcards have been sent to AI from places like Sweden and Hawaii, with more on the way. And on 29 November in London at AI's benefit concert featuring David Byrne and Sinéad O'Connor a banner reading "Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman, the Leader of the Revolution in Peru" with his picture hung for nearly an hour near the stage at the Royal Festival Hall, visible to the entire audience. Organizers report that response was good after the concert, and Sinéad signed the IEC Call.

Don't Snuff Out the Rights  
of Political Prisoners in Peru



Defend the Life of  
Abimael Guzman  
When will Democracy die?

#### REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**SWEDEN** - The IEC received the following report of activities in Sweden:

"On 14 November the Swedish IEC had an international afternoon to defend the life of Abimael Guzman. It was very successful. We had 300 people from many nationalities with speeches in Spanish and Swedish, and performances by 15 artistic groups from many countries like Sweden, Kurdistan, Uruguay, Chile, Gambia, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, etc. There were poems, songs, dances and many of them were composed by the groups themselves, with special songs and poems dedicated to Dr Guzman.... This event was accomplished in the record time of one week due to an intense propaganda campaign, with leaflets, posters, advertisements on the radio and in newspapers."

**GERMANY** - Organizers have told us that alot of successful work has been done in the high schools. They report that when they mention "Gonzalo" quite a few of both German and immigrant youth responded, "Yes, Chairman Gonzalo, he's my man." With the recent upsurge of fascist attacks on the immigrants, committee organizers have been out among the youth who are actively fighting these racists. They report that people are even more responsive to the campaign in this atmosphere of defying the authorities and the reactionaries.

Here is an account of the week of meetings beginning Nov. 11:

In Hanover, nearly 50 people attended a public meeting with Luis Arce Borja (editor of "El Diario"), and Ragip Zarakolu (a journalist from the Turkish newspaper Gundem and a member of the second IEC delegation).

A meeting in Hamburg attracted over 130 including German, Turkish, Peruvian and other Latin American people. At this meeting Ragip was joined by the parents-in-law of Abimael Guzman, Mr and Mrs La Torres. The lawyer Martin Helming, a member of the first IEC delegation also spoke. A university professor from Bremen gave a speech from the Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman. A solidarity letter was read from the "ERNK",

the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan.

Nearly 100 people came to a public meeting in Berlin. Speeches were given by the La Torres and Ragip, and there were solidarity messages from the "Edith Lagos Saenz Group" (a group of revolutionary teenagers from Germany), a lesbian group and from the Autonomes. Meetings were also held in Cologne and Vienna, Austria.

Two press conferences were held, one in Hamburg where a 45-minute radio interview was done with the La Torres and Luis Arce Borja in Spanish, and later repeated in German for airing in Germany. A press conference in Bonn was attended by press agencies from Germany (DPA), France (AFP) and Mexico (NOTIMEX). A statement was presented by lawyer Rainer Koch from the 2nd delegation which protested the trial of Dr. Guzman and was signed by several other lawyers from Germany.

BOLIVIA - The following are excerpts from a letter received by the IEC from the United Socialist Peoples Movement of Bolivia (MPUS):

"... We know very well about the monsters of the rotten state of the Peruvian regime whose dirty hands captured the great Chairman Gonzalo and his followers. The bastard sons of imperialism are going against the tide in the world and all the basic humanity. In the international press, they are singing slanderous lies and grotesque inventions in order to obscure the figure of our leader, without any scruples and using the sick and arrogant words of the butcher Fujimori. The DINCOTE...are trying to use international public opinion to destroy the reputation of Chairman Gonzalo, and trying to destroy the powerful organizations of women and men who are struggling..."

U.S. - LEAVENWORTH PRISON, SAN FRANCISCO, HAWAII

Prisoners at Leavenworth State Penitentiary in KANSAS have circulated a statement in support of the campaign to defend the life of Abimael Guzman, and about 150 prisoners there have signed it. These include political prisoners such as Leonard Peltier of the American Indian Movement, Ohio 7 member Jaan Karl Laaman (who initiated the project); Sundiata Acoli of the New York Panther 21 and James McCormick of the IRA. The prisoners sent a copy of the petition to the media, including a progressive community radio station in Kansas City, and they also raised \$200-300 in donations for the IEC!

Those who donated and signed the petition represent a wide cross section of prisoners: Native Americans from various parts of the US, African/Black men young and old, Latinos from many countries, Italians, Irish and other white men all signed. People identified themselves as Nation of Islam, Moorish Science, Muslims, Christians, politically conscious, as political prisoners, revolutionaries, anarchists, R.C.P. supporters, US Marine vets, US citizens, etc. The organizers report that very few people who were approached declined to sign.

On 15 November in SAN FRANCISCO, the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRП) presented a bi-lingual program: "Eyewitness Report From Peru." It was attended by about 100 people and featured National Lawyers Guild President Peter Erlinder and CSRП National Spokesperson Heriberto Ocasio, both from the first IEC delegation. Mr. Erlinder explained how it was ironically the US government's RAND report opened his eyes to the truth about Peru by contradicting the vicious lies about the PCP. Mr. Ocasio discussed how the delegation was attacked by the Peruvian government and media, but many Peruvian people found ways to express their support in spite of the repressive conditions they are living under. Solidarity statements were read from the high priestess and representative of the Miskito nation, a college student with the IEC, a Panamanian woman, the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, and a

Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade member who made a \$250 donation to the IEC. A group supporting the Peruvian legal left attempted to disrupt the program by slandering the PCP. They were opposed, especially by other Latin Americans attending.

The IEC/HONOLULU sponsored a forum at the University of Hawaii with Ninia Baehr who went with the 2nd IEC Delegation and is the Director of the UH Women's Centre. Also speaking were a Hawaiian sovereignty activist, Revolution Books representative, a political prisoners' rights activist, and an RCP supporter. Support statements were made from indigenous Hawaii people to the people of Peru. A petition to three human rights groups demanding they send a delegation to Peru has been circulated.

NEPAL - On 16 November there was a demonstration of more than 10,000 people organized by the Nepal Communist Party (Mashal)'s student front All Nepal National Free Students' Union (Sixth) on the occasion of its Twelfth National Conference convened in Butwa, an industrial town in southern Nepal. Some of the demonstrators displayed posters of Guzman with the slogan "Release Comrade Gonzalo". Also, there were songs including, "Oh yankee go home, dirty yankee go home. Our red flag is flying in Peru."

BRITAIN - The IEC received a donation and a letter from the North Staffordshire Miners' Wives Action Group in England which reads in part: "... The group hopes so much that your campaign will be successful. As women from the mining community we know what it's like to be under attack from the state. We send greetings and solidarity to all our comrades, brothers and sisters involved in the struggle in Peru and to you all co-ordinating the campaign around the world.

Best wishes and good luck, from your Comrade Sisters."

INDIA - 16 Lawyers and 8 college lecturers from Moga City in the Punjab signed a protest letter to Fujimori.

NEW SIGNATORIES;-

Sinéad O'Connor - Musician, Ireland

150 prisoners - Leavenworth State Penitentiary, Kansas, US, including:

Leonard Peltier - American Indian Movement

Jaan Laaman - Ohio 7 member

Sundiata Acoli - New York Panther 21 member

James McCormick - Irish Republican Army (IRA)

Iraj Rahmani - Poet/ Writer, Iran

Safi Wahab - Artist, Afghanistan

Patrick Eytchesing - Left Green Network, Wichita, Kansas, US

Steve Otto - Wichita, Kansas, US

Khalid Hamood - Political activist/Journalist, Awami Jumbhii Party, Pakistan

Bashir Soomro - Co-ordinating Sec., Pakistan Peoples Party (Hyderabad Div.)

Rose Hunter, Brenda Proctor - Treasurer/Secretary, North Staffordshire Miners Wives Action Group, England

Ilhan Seljuk - Journalist from the daily newspaper Jomburiet, Turkey

Prof Haluk Gerger - Journalist from the daily newspaper Gundem, Turkey

FUNDS CAN BE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO IEC'S BANK ACCOUNT IN LONDON  
Money should be transferred from the sender's account, and must be sent in pounds sterling. It should be sent to Abbey National PLC Account Number 0005005, and sender must refer to Abbey National's "sort code" 09-00-00. The transfer should be made payable to International Emergency Committee, Account Number K1836398INT. Please fax or post to us a copy of transfer.

Donations can still be posted directly to IEC by cheque. It's important that these cheques be in pounds sterling to avoid exchange fee.