

EMERGENCY BULLETIN NO.17

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International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman -
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3rd DELEGATION REPORTS FROM LIMA:

The following are excerpts from a delegate's report of discussions held with members of the Association of Democratic Lawyers on Nov. 21, 1992 in Lima. These lawyers represent many of the political prisoners in Peru. Dr Alfredo Crespo, who is Dr Guzman's lawyer, is a member of this Association. At the meeting were delegation members Mary E. Cox, a lawyer with the National Conference of Black Lawyers, from the US; Craig Everson, a lawyer with Aboriginal Legal Services Ltd. in Canberra, Australia; Reggie Major, a professor, journalist and author of books on the Black liberation movement, from the US; and a translator. The Association had also brought several people from the shanty towns to speak with the delegation:

"RASTRILLAJA

"According to Dr Cartegena and others, one of the ways that stepped-up repression of the masses takes place is the practice of 'rastrillaja'. This is the Spanish word for 'raking'. It has been occurring for some years in the city, for a longer time in the countryside. It is now happening much more frequently.

"The typical 'raking' operation will begin in the middle of the night, about 2 in the morning. The military moves in and surrounds a neighborhood. From that time until it is over, perhaps the following night, nobody may enter or leave. This usually takes place in the shantytowns, in the very poorest districts. When the military comes in, they have several objectives. For one thing, they come with a list of people that they suspect to be involved in, or supportive of the insurgency. Besides this, they register every person who lives in the area. In addition, their purpose seems to be to terrorize the population and attempt to cow them into accepting their fate.

"The military start systematically 'raking' the community from one end of the other. House by house, or shanty by shanty, they go through people's belongings, taking anything that's valuable, raping women, tearing things up while 'looking for evidence.' Those who offer resistance are detained and charged with being subversives. As this goes on, working people who are prevented from leaving often lose their jobs, too.

"Over the years, as these operations have developed, resistance has also developed. To try to placate the people, the government brings in truckloads of food-- rice, milk, etc., and distributes it while the raking is going on. They also may have a medical team, and people can line up to get a medical check-up. They also come in with music for the kids, all in an effort to present this assault as something beneficial to the community. The funds for these services come from a special tax controlled by the Ministry of the Presidency which is levied on workers which is supposedly intended for aid to the indigent [poor]-- building low cost housing, etc.

"MARIA ELENA MOYANO

"We inquired about the role of the welfare programs in this food distribution, wondering whether political forces such as Maria Elena Moyano were directly involved in the raking in this manner. The answer was that they don't play this kind of role, but they are involved beforehand in compiling the lists of suspects which the military is acting on. For

instance, in some cases, neighborhood officials who belong to 'leftist' parties will demand that residents publicly sign a loyalty statement, disavowing any connection with Sendero Luminoso. Those who refuse to sign are added to the list. Then, later when the raking takes place, they disappear. This has occurred in Villa El Salvador, along with other places.

"There was a twist on the Moyano case which we had not heard before. We asked why she was killed and whether she had been warned. First of all, there were allegations that she had been profiteering from the food aid that was going to her program, and using it to build a core of cronies which supported her, but not distributing it to the broad masses who needed it. But beyond that, there was a particular incident in which Ms. Moyano herself had hired some desperate people to burn down a food warehouse, and then framed up the PCP for it. Supporters of the PCP issued a leaflet exposing what had happened and calling on Moyano to retract the charges and truthfully explain what happened, and to desist from doing this in the future. Apparently, her refusal to do so was an important factor in the decision to execute her. Along with other things which have already been made public, such as her snitching on people and organizing the rondas urbanes."

"MARTHA HUATAY AND THE OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS

[Dr Cartegena, present at the meeting, is the lawyer for Martha Huatay who was recently arrested for "terrorism" and tortured by the Peruvian authorities, to the point where in her "trial," a military tribunal where she was sentenced to life imprisonment, she was unable to speak and seemed unaware of her surroundings. The International Red Cross examined her and found brain lesions and a fractured skull. Huatay was a founding member of the Association.]

"...Dr Cartegena said that [in Ms. Huatay's case] he was unable to present oral arguments, witnesses, etc. just as in the Guzman case. He was allowed to present a written defense, and told that the sentencing would be the next day. When he came back the next day, the sentence had already been written out.... Demonstrating with his hands, he said the police file is handed over the prosecutor. The prosecutor hands the file to the judge. The judge accepts what's in the file and it becomes the verdict and sentence.

"One of the lawyers was the defense lawyer for a man named Inchausto, who is the husband of the ballerina arrested, Maritza Garrido Lecca. Inchauste, along with 3 others who were arrested at the time of Guzman, is being held in chains, only gets exposed to sunlight one hour a day. They are held in the military prison in Puno called Yanamayo. This is at an elevation of 4,000 meters above sea level, and is 10 below 0 C. (or 14 F.) This is where many of the prisoners from Canto Grande were moved as well. The prison is not heated. They just have their striped uniform and a blanket and sleep on the concrete floor.

"Dr Cartegena made the point that as lawyers who are defending the guerrilla fighters and the political prisoners, they are the ones who know about their conditions and the abuse coming down on them. And they feel a special responsibility, because of this knowledge, to speak out. He feels that to remain silent, knowing of these atrocities, would mean being complicit in them. So he is determined to continue his work and also to try to tell the world the truth. He also feels that what is happening now is the beginning of a much more severe repression in Peru. Because of the advance of the struggle, the efforts to stop it are also becoming more extreme..."

DELEGATE MARY E. COX WRITES: "EYEWITNESS TO RESISTANCE IN PERU"

The following are excerpts from a column Mary E. Cox wrote in New Dimensions, the newspaper of the National Conference of Black Lawyers:

"...This was my first visit to a country that was war torn. The streets were lined with military tanks and armed men and women. People were very cautious towards strangers whenever we questioned about the ongoing war. That was understandable. In Peru, if you speak in any way positively about Dr Abimael Guzman and Shining Path, you can be killed or imprisoned up to twelve years. That decree or law included people like me who live outside Peru. So you know my eyes got big...

"I, personally, felt a link and bond with the people on the streets in Lima and I was glad to meet and shake the hands of those who resist and fight off their oppressors. I was most inspired by the will and determination of the lawyers who represent the revolutionaries. Those lawyers will never know how much they inspired me and lifted my spirit, giving me hope--hope and energy to return to the US and continue the struggle for our brothers and sisters here...

"...Dr Guzman's attorneys have been threatened, shot, tortured and some have even disappeared. (This is a fact, not propaganda. I saw it with my own eyes.) Attorneys in America are disbarred, suspended, imprisoned or harassed by the IRS, but not many have been treated like the lawyers we spoke with in Peru."

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

MEXICO - On 4 December, 200 people marched to the US Embassy in Mexico City, in an action called by the Mexican section of the IEC and El Comité de Apoyo a la Guerra Popular en el Perú, with the active support of the revolutionary Peruvian community and other organizations. A large sound truck (loaned by the bus driver's union) wound through the heart of Mexico City, down several main avenues in a 3-mile march, and in general the demonstration was well received by people in the street. Participants included students, professors, neighbourhood organizations (colonos), youth, and several anti-imperialist organizations.

Some demonstrators came with dogs who dragged US flags along the ground for the entire march route. A black-hooded figure, "la justicia encapuchada de Fujimori" was also dragged by a rope and burned. An effigy of Fujimori was present in the march, and on his head was a live white rat. The effigy was also burned (but not the rat). US flags were burned along the route and at the embassy, and at several points a huge hammer and sickle was painted on the pavement with gasoline and set ablaze. Many participants carried large balloons with slogans like "!Yankee go home!"

The US Embassy, a city block in size and located on the largest avenue in Mexico City, was surrounded by hundreds of riot police and huge metal barricades. Arriving, the demonstrators seized the street in front of this imperialist symbol and blocked three lanes of traffic for an hour, snarling rush hour traffic. Speakers climbed to the top of the sound truck to address the crowd and a revolutionary folk singer, Jose de Molina, sang several songs dedicated to Abimael Guzman. The rally concluded with the burning of the red, white and blue.

The demonstration was covered in several newspapers and on TV. The article in Excelsior (a newspaper which had been targeted along the march for its consistent lying about the situation in Peru) painted the demonstrators as vandals who were throwing Molotov cocktails. Despite receiving a press release about the march, the reporter wrote that he was unable to find out who sponsored the march. Many demonstrators commented that they saw the march as a historic step in building a massive movement to defend Abimael Guzman and support the Peoples' War in Peru.

DENMARK - We got this report from an Iranian supporter of IEC in Denmark:

"On the 22nd of November, the Peruvian embassy [in Copenhagen] didn't have a good day. Only 36 people out of 1000 in Denmark voted. Of course we

don't know how they voted, whether they put a blank ballot or put "Down with Fujimori" on the ballot. We held an action in front of the Embassy, and they called the police immediately to disperse our action. The area was covered with stickers saying "Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman." The police detained a Peruvian woman comrade for 2 hours under the pretext that she was not carrying her ID card."

Many postcards to Amnesty International in Farsi and English were signed. Solidarity meetings are planned for Malmo, [Sweden] and Copenhagen.

US: On 24 November a delegation of 12 people went up to the Peruvian Consulate's office in San Francisco as part of the National Week of Actions to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman. A High Priestess of the Miskitians nation requested entry to present a petition and was denied. The Consulate announced through the locked door that they were closed as soon as they heard the petition was on behalf of Dr. Guzman. A security guard, the building manager, about eight uniformed police, and a State Department employee were called in. The Ad Hoc Delegation responded by unfurling a banner and performing a skit with a Fujimori puppet. (He demanded entry and was also denied!) Stickers were pasted on the door and in the hall. Finally, the State Department representative announced that one person could go in with a statement, and at that point, police arrested 5 people for "trespassing" and "disrupting business." The Peruvian Consulate was shut down an hour early.

ITALY - On 19 November a forum was held in Rome attended by over 100 people, and on 20 November in Rome there was a protest at the Peruvian Embassy with over 200 people.

NEW SIGNATORIES

Alejandro Alvarez- Professor of Economics, Mexico
 Rosario Ibarra- Comite "Eureka" (desaparecidos politicos), Mexico
 National Confederation of Workers, CNT AIT - Catalonia Reg. Com., Spain
 D. Severo Diaz Sanchez- lawyer, Spain
 Francisco Candel- writer, Spain
 Francesc Arnau I Arias- lawyer, Spain
 Partido Obrero Revolucionario de Espana (PORE)- Spain
 Jaume Mascaro- Professor of Philosophy, Univ. of Barcelona, Spain
 Louis Wolf- Co-Editor, Covert Action Information Bulletin, Wash DC, US
 Kwame K. Afoh- Pres., Provisional Government of Republic of New Afrika, US
 Lilliani Castillo- President, Committee for Political Prisoners in Chile
 National Liberation Front of Kurdistan (ERNK), Melbourne Committee,
 Australia

THANKS FOR DONATIONS

The IEC would like to thank the people who responded so generously to the initial call for donations. These contributions made the work of IEC possible from the beginning. More funds are urgently needed now.

FAX US REPRESENTATIVE TORRICELLI

Shortly after Dr Guzman was arrested, and before his trial, a hearing was held in the US Congress concerning the civil war in Peru and the arrest of Guzman. One Congressman, Rep. Torricelli, distinguished himself by publicly commenting about Guzman: "Personally, I think he should be executed." On 16 December the US Congress is commissioning a closed conference of counter-insurgency experts to discuss how to stop the PCP (Communist Party of Peru). On this occasion, IEC is calling on people around the world to fax their own responses to Rep. Torricelli. His Fax number: 202-225-0843.

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