

EMERGENCY BULLETIN NO. 19

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International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman

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FUJIMORI REGIME ATTACKS PRISONERS AT SANTA MONICA AND PUNO

The IEC has received information from sources with contacts in Peru stating that on November 26th, two or three truckloads of security forces came to the Santa Monica Prison in southern Lima and carried out acts of violence against the prisoners. This prison near Chorrillos is where some of the women prisoners from Canto Grande Prison were taken after the May prison massacre there in which over 40 political prisoners were killed by the Peruvian authorities. Relatives, lawyers and the International Red Cross have not been allowed to visit the prison after this latest incident, so the number killed or injured is not known. But relatives who waited outside the prison reported seeing an ambulance leaving the prison carrying an unconscious prisoner. The troops carried out another violent attack on December 1st.

The prisoners at Santa Monica and those remaining at Canto Grande have not been allowed to bathe since the May massacre. Sanitary conditions are atrocious, and tuberculosis and other diseases are widespread. There is tremendous overcrowding, since there are more prisoners every day from the police sweeps going on in the shantytowns of Lima.

The following incident appeared in a report from Agence France Press wire service on 22 November: "Two guards and two rebel prisoners were killed in a high-security prison Saturday in Puno, 1,100 kilometres (690 miles) southeast of the capital where police also deactivated a 200-kilogram car bomb." The prison in Puno (in southern Peru) is where many of the political prisoners from Canto Grande have been transferred, including some of those arrested with Dr Guzman.

We heard from a report on National Public Radio, the U.S. public radio network, that lawyers in Peru are now allowed to take only one political prisoner case (or those accused of "apology for terrorism") per lawyer. This clearly is an attempt by the government to deprive these prisoners of legal representation, and to isolate the prisoners as well as the progressive lawyers who support the rights of the political prisoners.

REPORT ON "HUMAN RIGHTISTS" IN PERU

The following comes from a report by Craig Everson, a member of the 3rd IEC Delegation who was in Peru over the 22 November election weekend. (Craig is a lawyer who works for the Aboriginal Legal Services in Australia.)

Craig recounts a discussion with Percy Alvarado, an official of FREDEMO, an electoral coalition that had representatives in the Peruvian Congress before Fujimori's "self-coup" in April 1992. He described himself as having worked for human rights in the former Congress, and in 1991 travelled to Geneva with the head of the Peruvian Congress' Human Rights Commission.

Alvarado claimed that the PCP "are pursuing a military strategy of killing the middle classes and richer people in Lima." To prove this he cited TV footage of PCP prisoners doing street theatre in which they pushed a car bomb in a high-rise in Miraflores! Apparently, this footage came from the Dispatches documentary "The People of the Shining Path", but was shown on Peruvian TV, with a narration dubbed in claiming that this was a simulated PCP car bomb attack on homes of the "hated middle classes in Lima." (In fact, the prisoners are enacting an attack on the US embassy.)

Craig: "...In the course of our questioning of Alvarado, it became clear

that he had no first hand knowledge of the situation in the countryside nor of the conditions of the grassroots masses in the cities...

"...Alvarado also said: 'Here in Peru, there is no discrimination against Blacks, just a little prejudice but you couldn't call it racism.' The doorman to our hotel was an African-Peruvian lawyer who told us that he earned more money as a doorman than he could as a Black lawyer in Peru."

Another "human rightist" the delegation ran into indirectly was Javier Diez Canseco, President of the former Congress' Commission for Human Rights and an ex-senator from the United Left. On TV, the night of the 22 November election, they heard Diez call the elections "a great victory for democracy," and he demanded that the "constituent Congress must take an active role against terrorism... the first step is a national pacification programme for the country." Diez is the author of the Senate Special Commission on Violence which was heavily relied on by Amnesty International in its 1991 report "Peru: Human Rights in a Climate of Terror."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SENDS DELEGATION TO PERU

We have received confirmation from Amnesty International's International Secretariat that they sent a delegation to Peru for 2 weeks beginning November 27 to investigate human rights abuses. Peter Archard, the official in charge of Peru in London, headed the delegation.

The Spanish-language Los Angeles (U.S.) daily, La Opinion, carried a press release from the Spanish news service EFE which reported that AI was investigating the disappearance of 30 students from the Universidad Nacional del Centro in Huancayo who disappeared-- 25 of whom were later found dead in mass graves.* (This atrocity was also reported by Dr Crespo, Dr Guzman's lawyer, to the 3rd IEC delegation, and clearly attributed to the Peruvian government-- See Emergency Bulletin 18). EFE reports that Archard interviewed military officials of the Joint Command, officials from the public prosecutors office, families of the victims, university officials, and representatives of the Catholic Church. The delegation was said to have visited various military bases accompanied by the Public Prosecutor in search of evidence, but found nothing according to reports from Peruvian human rights groups. The families of the disappeared and the killed students blame the security forces. The Joint Military Command says the students were "victims of a dispute between Tupac Amaru (MRTA) and PCP for control of the University." The La Opinion article makes no mention of whether or not the AI delegation spoke with the Association of Democratic Lawyers, or tried to do any investigation of the political prisoners or Dr Guzman.

*National Public Radio (NPR) in the U.S. aired an interview with one of the disappeared students who managed to escape from an army outpost: The NPR announcer said of the student: "His face was deeply gashed by the butt of an automatic rifle. [The student] says the soldiers mocked him after inflicting the wounds. He says the soldiers told him, 'Eat your own blood. You're a terrorist.' The student, whose brother was murdered earlier this year by a paramilitary death squad, says 'There's no way I would try to seek protection in Huancayo.' Instead, he'll be smuggled out of the country by a kind of underground railroad being run by human rights advocates. Only by leaving Peru will he qualify for assistance from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, since the UN doesn't recognize internal refugees. [The student] says: 'Until I was abducted, I had no sympathy for the Shining Path.' " The NPR announcer concludes: "But he's now having second thoughts."

TEACHERS GET LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR OUTLAWED LESSONS

The international news wire service, Reuters, filed the following report on November 26:

"Teachers who use their role to win sympathy for Peru's leftist

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guerrilla groups will be subject to a maximum sentence of life in prison, according to a law published on Thursday (26 November). The measure in the official gazette said teachers 'using their role to influence their students in justifying terrorism will be considered authors of treason against the fatherland, with the maximum punishment of life in prison.'

"It said the teachers will be tried by military courts... Teachers, especially in the remote Andean highland regions, are widely reported to have used the classroom to win support for the Maoist group's [PCP] goal of setting up a peasant-worker state based on the ideas of Chinese military leader Mao Tsetung.

"The 260,000-strong leftist National Teachers Unions called the measure 'fascist' and pledged to begin a campaign to have it struck down.... The measure, which the government said was aimed at consolidating the work of the Fujimori-appointed high court chief Luis Serpa Segura, was described by several jurists as an arbitrary interference of the executive in the judicial system. Fujimori, who closed Congress and the courts in April, has fired more than 600 judges, prosecutors and court secretaries in what he calls a bid to wipe out corruption in the courts."

PROTEST AGAINST U.S. CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERU

On 16 December, at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a group commissioned by the US Congress, held a closed conference on "The Role of the United States and other Hemispheric Countries in the Peru Crisis." It was specifically convened to forge policy for crushing the revolution in Peru, including dealing with the immediate question of Abimael Guzman. The session was closed to the public and the press for reasons of "non-attribution" according to the CRS organizer James Wooten (meaning no one speaking wanted to be quoted).

Outside the Conference, 50 protesters rallied for 4 hours, wearing "Peru 1509" (Dr Guzman's prison number) on their chests and bandanas on their faces, with banners saying "US Out of Peru! Yankee Go Home" and "Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman". The protesters confronted several counter-insurgency experts from think-tanks and the Pentagon as they entered the building. When the protesters demanded entrance, they were blocked by library officials and police. However, a lively "peoples speak out" was held outside, with people blasting the conference for plotting more US intervention and war crimes against the people of Peru. The US was especially targeted for its role in the capture of Dr Guzman. Among the speakers: Manco Rojas, spokesperson for the New York Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (which initiated the call for the protest); Mary B. Cox, of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (DC chapter) and a member of the 3rd IEC Delegation to Peru; Mary Lou Greenberg, spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party, New York Branch; a speaker representing Native Americans from the Allentown, Pennsylvania area; and students from Kent State in Ohio, Queens and Lehman Colleges in New York City. Demonstrators also came from Connecticut, Boston, New Haven, Cleveland and a high school in New Jersey-- a very diverse and multinational group.

People in the streets, in cars and on foot, showed great interest in the speeches and literature. Most knew little or nothing about US intervention in Peru, and most voiced strong opposition when they learned of it, and supported the IEC Call. UNIVISION, the Spanish TV Network, covered the protest, but no other media did, though all were notified.

The protesters later marched through downtown DC, with banners and leaflets and staged a fierce demonstration at the Peruvian Embassy, chanting "Fujimori-CIA! Asesino! Asesino!" They read out the IEC Call in Spanish, and then three of the group demanded entrance to present the IEC

Call. Officials hid out behind closed doors and DC police and Secret Service.

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AFRICA - The IEC received the following statement:

"I support strenuously all efforts to ensure that the life of Dr. Guzman is not put into jeopardy by the Peruvian authorities, that he is treated humanely and that he has proper access to his family and legal advisers. In addition, he must be given a proper, open and fair trial in so far as such a trial may be necessary. The settlement of the political, economic and military crisis in Peru must be peaceful and must encompass all strands of political opinion in Peru, including Dr. Guzman's party.

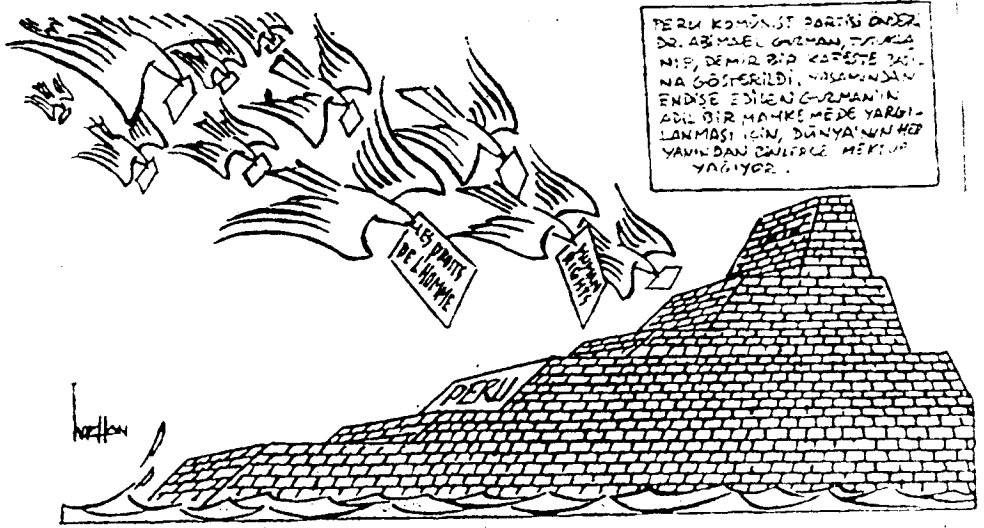
Kadir Asmal, Professor of Human Rights Law
Member, National Executive Committee of the African National Congress
Cape Town, 18 November 1992"

GERMANY- We received the lyrics to a rap song called "Public Enemy" currently being produced about Dr Guzman by musician Darnell Summers in Germany. (Darnell co-produced the "A World To Win" cassette of revolutionary music "We Only Want The World" and produced a rap against the Gulf War.) The lyrics of "Public Enemy" are by Rene Gade from England and the music is by Security Risk of Germany. We understand that they plan to produce a studio-quality tape within a few weeks. The chorus goes:

"Public enemy number one
In Peru a facing execution.
Being revolutionary is no crime,
So why is Gonzalo doing time?
Inside his life is on the line,
Fujimori's nothing but slime..."

INDIA - V.R. Krishna Iyer, the retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India and Chairman of the Indian Human Rights Tribunal, had a letter on the "Black-Hooded Justice in Peru" (concerning Dr Guzman's military tribunal) published in the Indian magazine Economic and Political Weekly.

TURKEY - The above artwork was produced by Turhan Seljuk, a famous political cartoonist in Turkey, and a signatory to the IEC Call. The caption reads: "The President of the Communist Party of Peru, Dr. Abimael Guzman, was presented to the press in an iron cage. Concerned about Guzman's life, thousands of letters are pouring in from all over the world demanding a just trial." This artwork appeared in the December 16th edition of Milliyet, a major Turkish newspaper.



VE OKUNMAMIŞ MEKTUPLAR TOPLADIM DÜNYANIN BÜTÜN KIVILARINA / KUSLARIN YERİNE KADAR SÜRÜKLEDİKLERİ... Pablo Neruda

SWITZERLAND - 30 people from Geneva signed a letter to Fujimori, protesting the repressive measures against the people and demanding the "immediate liberation of the professor Guzman and his compatriots, as well as a return to democracy and freedom."

NEPAL - 2,000 postcards protesting AI's inaction in the case of Dr Guzman are being sent to Amnesty International. The All Nepal Womens' Association and the central committee of the All Nepal Tribal Peoples's Association have passed resolutions in support of Abimael Guzman's cause.

BANGLADESH - On 19 November, 200 people demonstrated to defend the life of Abimael Guzman in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Among the speakers were Fayez Ahmed, President, Coalition of Cultural Organizations, A.F.M. Mahbubul Haq, Badruddin Umar and others. Most of the participants were workers and students.

After the meeting, a procession of 100 people marched 5 kilometres towards the United Nations office. The police tried to stop the procession but, while arguing with them, they marched for a kilometre more and sat down on the Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi Residential area. A delegation team, escorted by police, went to the UN office and submitted the memorandum.

AUSTRALIA - Craig Everson, a member of the third IEC delegation to Peru, recently spoke at a public meeting in Melbourne. He also appeared on a 90-minute "Open House" talkback programme on radio station 3CR, and on a Latin American radio programme "Voice of the People."

NEW SIGNATORIES (or newly appearing on this list)

Güner Kuban- Turkish writer, author of "Colour of Love", (Netherlands)

Dennis Sammut- General Secretary POPEM (Peace Organization of the People of Europe and the Mediterranean), Italy

Emilio Kueng- Swiss Peace Movement, Switzerland

Giuseppe Centrone- Lawyer, Italy

Giorgio Puglisi- Director, "Socialism Questions", Italy

Domenico Savio- Director, "Equality", Italy

Aldo Bernardini- Professor of International Law, Italy

Dr Colin B. Collins, Dr David Hyndman, Patricia M. Short, Dr Harry J.

Lourandos, Peter F. Chapman - Lecturers from University of Queensland, Australia

Norman Duncan, James H.P. Ellis, J.P. Hendricks, Lenny Molluli -

Lecturers at University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa

Madeleine Fullard- History Department, UWC, South Africa

M. Haroun - Department of Arabic Studies, UWC, South Africa

Dr Richard J. Stevens - Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, UWC, South Africa

Reverend Courtney Dale Sampson - Chaplain to UWC, South Africa

Professor David Bunn - UWC, South Africa

Mahmood H. Fadal- Member, South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union

Kadir Asmal - Professor of Human Rights Law, member, National Executive Committee of African National Congress, Cape Town, South Africa

Darnell Summers - Revolutionary Musician, Germany

Michael Franti- Musician, San Francisco, US

Larry Bensky- Pacifica Radio, US

Leo Casino- Filmmaker, "East of Overtown", Miami, US

Larry Heineman- Author, Paco's Story, US

Flo Kennedy- Lawyer, New York, US

Dr Manning Marable- University of Colorado, Boulder, US

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