

EMERGENCY BULLETIN NO. 24

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PERU PRESS REPORTS DR GUZMAN TO BE TRANSFERRED TO UNDERGROUND PRISON:

On 1 February, Associated Press wire service released the following story:

"Lima, Peru-- President Alberto Fujimori has said the navy will transfer Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman from his island cell to a more secure prison... He is currently in solitary confinement on the windswept, barren island of San Lorenzo just off Lima. 'The objective is to guarantee that Guzman pays his debt to society without the slightest risk of a possible escape,' Fujimori said in a television interview on 30 January.

"...News weekly Si said in a recent issue that Guzman would be imprisoned in an underground 6-1/2-foot by 13-foot concrete cell in the naval base of Lima's port of Callao.

"The Lima daily newspaper Expreso quoted unnamed sources as saying Guzman had lost 44 pounds since he was captured..." If this is true, it represents an extremely dangerous loss of weight, over 10 pounds a month.

An AP report from 20 January said they were planning to move Guzman in order to "lower security costs and allow fisherman to return to the rich shellfish grounds around the island. Navy patrols have shot and killed five fishermen and wounded four others who sailed too close to the island, Si said."

(Apparently, the military has coldbloodedly killed or wounded at least nine people just on the chance that they might be attempting to mount an escape for Dr Guzman, now being held in a concrete bunker on the island.)

MONEY NEEDED IMMEDIATELY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE:

The IEC is in an emergency funds crisis. In short, if we are to continue to operate, it is necessary to receive major contributions from supporters around the world in the next two weeks. Overwhelmingly, we can say that most participants in the campaign have made very good efforts in regard to raising money for the international campaign, even from the poorer areas of the globe like Punjab, India. But the campaign has expanded farther and more quickly than anyone (either friend or foe!) could have anticipated, and the level of financial support we are now receiving is simply not enough to cover our expenses. We are calling on supporters to increase their donations so this vital international campaign can sustain itself-- and expand-- in the next short, according to the demands of people around the world, and the urgent necessity to accomplish our mission of defending the life of Abimael Guzman and the other political prisoners.

The telephone and fax bill constitutes the overwhelming bulk of our expenses. At this point, we have a telephone bill of over £6,000 (\$10,000) which must be paid soon in order to keep the telephone functioning. This huge expense reflects the heart of our work: keeping in communication with the activists around the world through the Emergency Bulletins, thus enabling them to reach many more thousands of people.

What would it mean if our phone was cut off? Our movement would lose its lifeline, the Emergency Bulletins; the information needed to organize timely actions around the world would not come your way for days, maybe weeks. Le Monde reported that the military wanted to kill Dr Guzman by October 15,

but the Peruvian government felt this was unwise due to "international pressure." By that time, we had put out 9 Emergency Bulletins, giving people the news they could get no where else about Dr Guzman and the movement which was growing day by day around the world. There is no doubt that this "international pressure" was generated in some measure by the public opinion and actions which were organized and popularized through these Bulletins.

Another aspect of this: journalists around the world have used these Bulletins to report on the situation with Dr Guzman and the whole movement. We have clippings from newspapers and magazines in Turkey, Netherlands, Belgium, U.S., Japan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Britain, and other countries who have clearly taken information from our Emergency Bulletins for their articles. Without the systematic gathering of this information, it would be far less likely that these articles would have contained correct information and analysis, or that the articles would have appeared at all in some cases. Gathering information from Peru and internationally for these Bulletins, and staying in touch with people in Peru has been exceedingly expensive-- a 15-minute call to Peru costs £20.

The second greatest expense for the London office of the IEC has been organizing the delegations to Peru. By any measure, these delegations have impacted greatly on the situation in Peru with regard to the Dr Guzman and the political prisoners. In Peru itself, millions of people throughout the country heard about the delegations and took heart in knowing people throughout the world are concerned with their situation living under the Fujimori dictatorship. And Fujimori himself was required to denounce the delegations publicly on TV. Internationally, the horrendous human rights crimes have been made known to thousands through news of these trips, and meetings and interviews with the delegates. This has been a great victory, but so far it has required the coordination of some 17 delegates from 6 countries. This would have been impossible to accomplish without a central IEC office. Air tickets alone for the delegates cost thousands of dollars, some of which came from the London office. Even communicating with our delegates while they were in Peru, an essential part of making the trips successful, cost enormous sums.

And it would be hard to put a sufficient value on the discussions the delegates were able to conduct with Dr Crespo and Dr Cartegena and the other Association of Democratic Lawyers who are now sentenced to life imprisonment.

At this point, we need to mount a 4th delegation, including delegates from 3rd World countries who will simply not be able to go without assistance from friends and supporters from around the world. Will this be possible?

Some people have raised objections to calls for funds for the London office, saying that campaign expenses in their own countries don't allow them to contribute to the international office. Although it's true that it is expensive to conduct this campaign at the local level, it is wrong to pit the two aspects of the same work against each other. Extensive local activity costs more money, but it also presents the necessity and possibility of giving people a good picture of the unprecedented nature of the international scope of this campaign. If they understood this, and the actual financial needs, we think they would want to assist. It should also be made clear to everyone that, unlike the participating groups and committees in this campaign, the IEC office staff does not and cannot have as its goal, going out broadly among people to do organizing work and fundraising. The very small number of people in the office are there 24 hours a day coordinating and reporting on the worldwide campaign. There is no source of funds for this office, other than the supportive individuals and organizations around the world.

The work of the London office has helped to bring the campaign to

millions of people worldwide in a way that cannot be done only at a local level. Fundraising is only one aspect of the international efforts of the campaign, but it is an aspect which can sink us, potentially. If the campaign falters in the coming months because of lack of funds, we think that everyone would agree that this would be a terrible and inexcusable reason.

To contribute, please send cheques in £(pounds) sterling made out to IEC to the address at the top of the Bulletin.

Some Suggestions:

* One simple and essential method for fundraising is to include a space for "DONATION" on every copy of the Call which is circulated for signatures. It is a heartbreaking experience to receive copies of the Call in the London office from people across the world who have filled in Name, Address, Occupation, Signature, etc., but no space was left on the form for Donation. We know if this had been, some people would have certainly have responded.

* When we propose to people that they take up major tasks such as go to Peru as delegates, or help organize demonstrations or meetings, there is no reason to be apologetic about asking for funds as well. We should remember that every time we DON'T ask for donations, we send the wrong message to people: that it's possible for this campaign to get along WITHOUT their financial contributions, which is clearly not true!

* We need reports from people around the world concerning successful fundraising.

* The One-Day's Wages effort continues to be a fruitful way of raising funds which emphasizes the international nature of our campaign.

SHARP RESPONSE FROM LAWYERS AROUND THE WORLD TO ARREST OF DR CRESPO AND ATTACKS ON ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS IN PERU:

ITALY: 14 lawyers in Italy have signed a letter announcing the arrest of Dr Crespo, and commenting on how they remember the heavy threats made against Dr Crespo at the end of October, and the unheard of violations of the human rights against his client Dr Guzman, including threats of his execution. They emphasized the need for this news to be made public. This letter was published in biggest leftist daily, Il Manifesto. Lawyers include: Anna Perosino, Mirko Mazzali, Dario Ciarletta, Alberto Guariso, Franco Melloni, Nicolo Coccia.

FRANCE: Five lawyers, including Anne-Marie Parodi, a member of the first IEC delegation to Peru, put out a Call to come to the defence of the lawyers who defend political prisoners in Peru, especially the (now-banned) Association of Democratic Lawyers members. The Call has since been signed by: Denis Langlois, Claudine Nahori, Monique Brioude, Jean Jacques Defelice, Irene Terrel, Elisabeth Mamot, Antoinette Mallia, Christian Bourguet, Francois Cheron, Gisele Halimi, all lawyers from France. A petition for the Peruvian lawyers was also signed by Colette Magny, singer; Gilles Perrault, writer; Pierre Krausz, university researcher; Marina Yaguello, writer; Susanne deBrunhoff, economist, CNRS; Claude Fayein, ethnologist; Michel Collon, writer.

A letter was sent to the Peruvian Embassy in France from the Bishop, Monseigneur Jacques Gaillot, protesting the arrest of 3 lawyers; it read in part: "I am concerned about all persons having the right to defended by lawyers who are allowed the possibility of practicing their profession. I have great concern that human rights are respected in these matters."

A letter was also sent to the Peruvian Embassy in France from MRAP, an anti-racist organization in France, protesting the arrest of the 3 lawyers. This was the third letter MRAP has written to the Embassy, who have responded with hostile correspondence.

SOUTH AFRICA: The Black Lawyers Association, which represents 400 lawyers

in South Africa, signed the French lawyer's Call.

MEXICO: A number of Mexican lawyers published a letter in the newspaper Excelsior protesting the arrest of the 3 ADL lawyers.

U.S.: In Michigan, several lawyers signed the French Call: National Lawyers Guild, Detroit and Ann Arbor chapters; Kurt Berggren, lawyer and human rights activist; Eric Jackson, lawyer and activist for political prisoner rights.

Lawyers Ron Kuby and William Kunstler sent a letter to the Peruvian Embassy right after the arrest of Crespo, which said in part: "Dr Crespo has distinguished himself internationally by his defense of Abimael Guzman. The recent arrest and search is plainly an act of retaliation, prohibited by international law."

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN PERU:

Municipal elections in Peru were disrupted throughout the country by calls from the PCP for an "armed strike" on Thursday and Friday, 29-30 January, (29 January is the day of the elections). On Wednesday night, Fujimori made a last-minute attempt to disguise the success of the armed strike by declaring 29-30 January national "non-working days."

Wire service reports say: "Tanks, troop transport trucks and soldiers armed with automatic weapons lined major avenues, diplomatic areas and polling places as most public and private passenger buses refused to operate" Voting is mandatory in Peru (punishable by a fine and possible investigation for subversion), yet observers say many people did not turn up to the polls.

Fujimori had stated that the death penalty referendum would appear on the ballots in these elections. It did not, but there was no mention in the international media of the fact that Fujimori had backed off this grotesque effort to get a "public stamp of approval" on government assassinations. Fujimori has repeatedly said he wants to reinstate the death penalty in order to execute Dr Guzman and the other political prisoners, but apparently he was worried about a repeat of the international protest which occurred when he tried to do a referendum on the death penalty in the November elections.

SUCCESSFUL SPEAKING TOUR IN TURKEY DEFIES POLICE BAN ON MEETINGS:

From 19-22 January, Turkey hosted a speaking tour of IEC delegates, Anne-Marie Parodi a lawyer from Paris and Ragip Zarakolu a journalist and former political prisoner from Turkey.

Political meetings in Turkey are virtually illegal, requiring approval by the Ministry of Justice which is all but impossible to obtain. So, all the meetings were advertised as "Press Conferences by the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman." Police would come and make a show of force, but apparently fear of an angry response from the large numbers of people prevented them from actually shutting down the meetings.

In Adana, 200 people came to a meeting organized by the Democratic Lawyers Association of Adana and human rights groups. Some regional press reported on the meeting, and a big banner announcing the press conference was signed by all those attending the meeting to be brought back to France. 200 protest cards to Fujimori were mailed from this meeting, and donations were collected. 3000 people have signed the IEC Call in Adana.

In Antep, a medium-sized city in Kurdistan, 250 showed up to the meeting. A day before, it was announced on the TV news, and a huge banner was strung across the street calling people to the "Press Conference" of the IEC. The General Secretary of the Antep Human Rights Group, Reshid Ali Osmanoglu, spoke, as well as the IEC delegates. Regional TV news broadcast part of the meeting. The day after, the reactionary media in Antep complained that at a

time when Moslem leaders are being killed in Bosnia, "our human rights activists are talking about a Communist leader in Peru"!

In the early morning of 22 January, Anne-Marie Parodi went with 30 Turkish lawyers to Buca Prison, where many political prisoners have signed statements and protested the treatment of Dr Guzman. The lawyers demanded to the police guards at the prison gates that they be allowed in to talk with the prisoners. The director of the prison was notified, and he relayed back the message that the Minister of Justice refused to allow them in to see the prisoners. The director also refused to speak to the lawyers in person. A press conference was held with several journalists who accompanied the lawyers. The lawyers protested the situation and drew the connection to Dr Guzman and Dr Crespo. They expressed IEC's solidarity with the prisoners.

Meanwhile, the prisoners got word of the lawyers' attempt to get in, and their own press statement somehow made it out of the prison that day. In it they attacked Fujimori, the government of Turkey and Amnesty International, saying that AI is a partner with the imperialists when they just stand by and watch the attacks on human rights in Turkey and Peru. (The political prisoners in Turkey are regularly assaulted by police and prison guards.) The prisoners saluted the IEC and Anne-Marie Parodi. The statement was signed in the name of the 57 Devrimci Sol prisoners by Ali Rica Kurt; in the name of 2 TIKB prisoners by Tunay Celiker; and in the name of 6 TDKP-GKB prisoners by Murat Ocer. (These are all political groups in Turkey.)

That afternoon, a meeting was held in Icmir. 200 people came to this "press conference" held in a conference room of the Turkish Bar Association. Latif Kiey, a lawyer, also spoke.

Translation for the tour was done by Ilkay Alptekin Demir, a medical doctor who volunteered to travel throughout Turkey with the 2 delegates for a week. In the discussions at the meeting, the delegates explained the developments around the case of Abimael Guzman, his lawyer and the other political prisoners in Peru, as well as the attacks by the regime on students, workers, unions and lawyers. They said that by defending Dr Guzman, people were helping defend the rights of all the political prisoners in the world.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

COLOMBIA: We recently received a report from friends in Colombia. In the past few weeks they have distributed 22,000 leaflets in Bogatá, Medellín, Bucaramanga, Sogamoso, Ibagué. A large 2-color poster was posted in these cities and in some towns and villages in the northern department of Sucre. 10,000 booklets entitled "Who is Chairman Gonzalo?" were distributed. Several marches have been held at Bogatá's 3 major universities by a group called the "Red Guards", a youth group of the Revolutionary Communist Group (GCR). TV news shows have commented on the "permanent Red Guard parades praising Chairman Gonzalo, like at the Canto Grande [Prison] parades in Peru." Hundreds of wall paintings and writings have gone up in Bogatá and in cities and towns in Santander, Boyacá, Antioquia and Tolima. At Medellín's "Universidad de Antioquia", a huge banner of Gonzalo hung in a very visible place for more than 2 months. Six people have been arrested for activities connected to the campaign. Two were held for weeks in jail.

INDIA: From the group organizing the IEC campaign around the newspaper "Lal Tara" in Punjab in the north of India: "There are about 900 signatures of workers, peasants, students, employees, advocates, women and other justice loving and progressive people. We have sent the copies of these signatures to the president of Peru." They also raised 4000 rupees (about £100) for IEC. At a conference of 4500 people held to commemorate a murdered member of their

organization on 8 January, a resolution passed demanding release of Dr Guzman.

NEPAL: A "Defend Gonzalo National Conference" was held on 16 January at Butwal in Western Nepal, organized by the Committee to Defend the Life of Com. Gonzalo. Among the groups who sent representatives were: Nepal Human Rights organization, Nepal Lawyers' Association, All Nepal Trade Union, All Nepal Student Union, All Nepal Tribal Council, All Nepal National People's Front, Raktim Cultural Group, All India Nepali Unity Society, All India Nepali Students' Union, All India Nepali Youth Front. Numerous writers, journalists, lawyers, professors and eminent personalities, as well as associations of farmers, women, youth, and intellectuals attended. Thousands participated in a mass procession in Kathmandu, and a "Defend Race" (running marathon) in defense of Guzman was held around the city.

The Conference issued a statement which said in part: "The Conference considers the world-wide campaign ...as a great blow to American imperialism, the Fujmori government and their blind followers. As a result, the conspiracy to kill Com. Gonzalo has not yet been successful. However, the life of Com. Gonzalo is still in danger. Therefore, a vigorous campaign... on a worldwide basis is a historical necessity..."

We have also learned that on 10 December, effigies of Fujimori were burned in more than 100 places around Nepal, including in the front of the American Embassy in Kathmandu.

U.S.: The IEC Call and a long list of signatories appeared as a full-page advertisement in La Opinion, the largest and most important Spanish language newspaper in the Western U.S. (circulation 150,000). It immediately touched a nerve. A newspaper in Mexico City, La Jornada carried an article on it the next day which mentioned several of the signatories such Ramsey Clark, Bani Sadr and Sinéad O'Connor. On Saturday, La Opinion ran an editorial announcing they had received criticism for running the ad, and defending their right to run the ad, and discussing the fact this ad met the criteria for a "responsible" ad. It pointed out that the ad was a call to the Peruvian government to adhere to international human rights treaties. Several days later, the Peruvian Consulate in Los Angeles ran a full-page ad in La Opinion denouncing the IEC ad and criticizing the newspaper. According to members of the Spanish media who have called the IEC office, this controversy is one of the biggest things to erupt in Los Angeles since the LA Rebellion.

- NEW SIGNATORIES:** (or signatories new to this listing)
- Robert Parry- Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Britain
 - Gülây Goktürü- editor of Aktuel Magazine, Turkey
 - Fuat Saka- Turkish singer, Hamburg, Germany
 - Helmut Frenz- pastor, Hamburg, Germany
 - Nanni Balestrini- Italian author, Paris
 - Voie Proletarienne- (Proletarian Voice), France
 - Alistair Davidson- Professor, University of Sydney, Australia
 - 95 people in Switzerland
 - M. Nithiyandanan- Former Economics lecturer, Univ. of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
 - C. Pathmamawoharan- University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
 - P. Custers- Independent Journalist/Writer, The Netherlands
 - Jan Myrdal- author of books on China, Sweden

FOUNDING CONFERENCE: We hope everyone is making plans to come to the Founding Conference of IEC in Germany on 27-28 February. More details of the Conference will follow. People arriving by plane should fly to the Dusseldorf Airport. If this is not possible, they should arrive at the Cologne/Bonn Airport.