



# EMERGENCY BULLETIN 26

**International Emergency Committee to  
to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman**

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## IEC FOUNDING CONFERENCE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED IN DUISBURG, GERMANY

The weekend of 27-28 February witnessed the gathering of nearly 1000 people from all over the world at the Founding Conference of the IEC in Germany. People from over 33 countries travelled to the Conference: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Iran, Italy, Kurdistan, Luxemburg, Mexico, Martinique, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U.S., Yugoslavia.

As hundreds filed into Efendi Hall in Duisburg, Germany on Saturday morning, they were greeted with a massive larger-than-life mural of Dr Abimael Guzman saluting them from the cage in Peru. The walls were covered with banners from across the world, including a colorful one from the Indigenous People of Hawaii, a huge blue banner from Mexico of 5 horsemen taking the Peruvian Andes, and a red graffiti banner signed by dozens of supporters from Latin Americans living in Pico Union, Los Angeles. The Conference was translated simultaneously into 5 languages: Spanish, English, Turkish, German and Farsi. This accomplishment (which is practically unheard of except at the United Nations!) was the result of 100s of hours of technical preparation of headphone equipment, and it involved the efforts of over 20 translators who worked into the night to prepare translations of speeches. In the hall that day, one understood in a deep way that the efforts of the people can truly break down the barriers of borders and languages-- in the service of a great cause.

Our Conference was a success. Important speeches were delivered, resolutions were passed, plans made, and a new IEC Steering Committee (SC) was established which met at the end of the Conference. Each country selected one or two members to the SC, and 4 At-Large members were elected by the SC (42 members total were present for the SC meeting). Two members were elected from the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U.S. One member was elected from: Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Greece, Haiti and South Africa. At-Large members of the Steering Committee were elected by the Steering Committee when it met: Carlos and Delia La Torres (parents-in-law of Dr Guzman), Luis Arce Borja (editor of El Diario), and a Peruvian from Germany. (Those countries with functioning IEC chapters who were not able to send representatives to the Conference will forward to IEC the names of the representatives they have selected for the IEC Steering Committee.)

The IEC Call was reaffirmed as the basis of unity for the IEC. The 3 people who had been working since September 1992 in the London office-- the Coordinator (Massoud Rahimi), Assistant Coordinator for Organizational Affairs (Connie Julian), and Permanent Officer (Carl Johnson)-- were elected to continue to serve in those positions (5 out of 42 SC members expressed opposition to their election).

By-Laws for the IEC were passed unanimously, and four Resolutions were passed unanimously by the SC: 1) "Against the Fujimori Dictatorship", 2) "U.S. Hands Off Dr Guzman, Yankee Go Home!", 3) Making special effort to develop IEC committees in Latin America, 4) Hold a major International Day of Action in the spring-- date to be announced soon. One resolution, on Amnesty International, was passed by a large majority. (Copies of these By-Laws and Resolutions will be available very soon.)

As people who were at the Conference know, an unfortunate disruption occurred on Saturday in which about 30 supporters of one Turkish group tried to take over the stage where the Presidium was seated. They were unsuccessful, and those on the Presidium (which included the La Torres, among others) remained safe. But the Chairperson of the Conference was warned by the disrupters that there would be other such incidents unless the Presidium and the agenda were modified. This was done. This disruption hurt our Conference. For one thing, it meant that the Conference was unable to carry out important parts of its agenda, such as the discussion sessions and workshops which would have allowed for maximum participation of those who had come so far to be at this important meeting. But in the end, the IEC was able to land on its feet: the Steering Committee which was elected is very strong, and the basis has been laid to carry forth the work on a better and more collective basis, as had been planned.

The group whose supporters attacked the stage openly hold a view that the purpose of IEC should not be to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman, a slogan which some of their members called "reformist." The group also proposed to IEC before the Conference that IEC should change its name and mission to become a kind of "alternative to Amnesty International." IEC maintains its original purpose of defending the life of Abimael Guzman, and will continue this campaign at an even higher level across the world. Before a full assessment is made of the political views concentrated in the incident, IEC supporters are invited to write IEC immediately regarding their understanding of what happened at the Conference, and any concerns, questions and criticisms they may have, including of IEC itself. A fuller summation can then be presented in our Bulletins, and much more can be learned from the struggle.

But most importantly, people need to forward their ideas on plans to go ahead with IEC's activities, especially concerning those matters which we were unable to discuss in an organized way at the Conference. For instance, the plan for taking Dr. Guzman's case to an international court which was to be discussed in a workshop (work has already begun on this project, and discussions were held after the Conference with some delegates who stayed in Germany, and IEC will be coordinating those working on this project). If IEC chapters prepared reports for the Conference and were unable to present them, we encourage you to send these right away, even if they are informal notes. These reports can then be incorporated into future Bulletins and plans.

#### Some of speakers at the Conference:

- \* Jens Scheer, professor from Germany gave the Opening Welcome remarks.
- \* Carlos La Torre/ Delia La Torre, parents-in-law of Dr Guzman, addressed Conference
- \* Massoud Rahimi, Coordinator for IEC, made the Keynote Speech:  
"Why Dr Abimael Guzman is the Most Important Political Prisoner in the World Today"
- \* Mr Rahman, Report on IEC Campaign, Bangladesh
- \* Ragip Zarakolu, Report on IEC Campaign, Turkey
- \* Representative from Movimiento Popular del Peru (MPP):  
"On the Political Situation in Peru"
- \* Luis Arce Borja, Editor of El Diario:  
"The Capture of Chairman Gonzalo and the Present Situation in Peru"
- \* Special video showing of the speech of Dr Guzman on September 24 from the cage
- \* Carol Andreas, Speech on women in the revolution in Peru
- \* Connie Julian, "On Human Rights, Amnesty International and the IEC"
- \* Statement read from Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist, Provisional Unity Center, plus a speaker from this group delivered an address
- \* Statement read from Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist Movement (Hereketi)
- \* Imrann Moosa, lawyer from the Black Lawyers Association, report from South Africa
- \* Mary E. Cox, lawyer from U.S. and member National Conference of Black Lawyers, gave report from her trip to Peru as part of 3rd IEC delegation

Because of the disruption, some significant speeches were not delivered, including one from José María Sison, Founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and a speech on "U.S. Intervention in Peru" by Heriberto Ocasio, Member of the 1st IEC Delegation to Peru and spokesperson for the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, U.S.

We will be publishing the texts of the Conference speeches very soon, including those speeches which could not be delivered.

IN MEMORY OF MR METIN CAN, TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE, IEC DELEGATE

It is with great sorrow and anger that IEC announces the kidnapping and murder of Mr Metin Can (pronounced Jaan), a renowned lawyer and president of the Human Rights Organization of Elazig, Turkey. Mr Can had been selected by hundreds of people from his community to be a delegate to the IEC Founding Conference in Germany. Several days before the Conference, he and another human rights activist, a medical doctor, Hasan Kaya, were kidnapped by what appears to be a government-sponsored death squad. After the capture, they called Mr Can's wife and said if he abandoned his plans to go to the Conference to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman, that they would let him go. She also received calls from his captors during which she was forced to listen to them torture her husband. Mr Can's body was found 27 February, along with the body of Mr Kaya. Mr Can's body showed evidence of massive torture before he was shot to death.

One of Mr Can's greatest contributions to the campaign was in helping bring news of the IEC campaign to the prisoners of Elazig Prison. At great risk to himself, he smuggled in our Call to the prison, and he helped bring out word of the protest mounted by hundreds of prisoners in support of Dr Guzman. According to his many friends in Turkey, Mr Can worked tirelessly for the campaign to defend the life of Abimael Guzman. In the end, he gave his own life.

This is how important and threatening our Conference and our campaign is considered by the authorities in Turkey, a country where the campaign has become a truly mass movement: In the name of stopping it, they are ready to kill a beloved fighter for the people. The authorities must pay a very high political price for this barbaric crime. Mr Metin Can's life and death will be made known round the world. (It should be noted that another delegate to the Conference, Serafetin Ozcan, Secretary of the Human Rights Organization of Elazig, Turkey, also never made it to the Conference because he was arrested at the airport on his way out of the country. He has since been released, but continues to be harassed.)

A message of solidarity was sent from the IEC to the Human Rights Organization in Elazig, Turkey, and flowers and spring branches remained on the Presidium throughout the IEC Founding Conference in his name. IEC urges people to protest to the Turkish Embassy in your country. Messages of support can be sent to: The Human Rights Organization, Cizmeciler Ishani Kat 4, Elazig, Turkey. Please send copies to IEC.

IN MEMORY OF MR SANMUGATHASAN, DIED 8 FEBRUARY, 1993

Flowers were also displayed on the Presidium of the Conference Hall for Mr Sanmugathasan, the General-Secretary of the Communist Party of Ceylon (Maoist) who died on 8 February, 1993. Mr Sanmugathasan played an important role in the founding of IEC. Although he was quite old (over 80) and in very ill health, he took a keen interest in the campaign from the start, attending the first press conference in London on September 24, 1992. He was hoping to come to the Conference himself, and when health prevented travel, he urged urging others to come in his place. He will be missed.

PERU SUPREME COURT CALLS FOR EXTRADITION OF CARLOS AND DELIA LA TORRES

In an outrageous new move, on 10 March the high court in Peru upheld a lower court extradition order for the parents-in-law of Dr Guzman, Carlos and Delia La Torre, who are presently living in Sweden. The high court has also upheld orders to extradite

seven other Peruvians, including a relative of the La Torres. The charge against the 9 Peruvians is "terrorism", according to an 11 March Reuters report. The others charged are living in Germany, Chile, Spain, France and England (The Peruvian named in England is Adolfo Olaechea, who has been active in defending the life of Dr Guzman).

Essentially, the Peruvian government is demanding that the governments send these people back to Peru to face trial and heavy persecution simply for the "crime" of talking. (Another Peruvian, Luis Arce Borja, editor of El Diario, has also been threatened with extradition to Peru.) Any government which is tempted to comply with these fascist orders should be put on public notice they will pay a very large political price for doing so. We encourage people to protest to the embassies of the governments involved, and to the Peruvian Embassies.

As anyone who attended the IEC Founding Conference knows, the contributions of the La Torres have been invaluable to the campaign to defend the life of their son-in-law, Dr Guzman, and to the whole struggle of the Peruvian people against the Fujimori regime. The people of the world will not let the Peruvian government get their criminal hands on them.

#### PERU GOVERNMENT TRIES TO MASK ITS BLOODY BARBARISM TO GAIN U.S. \$\$\$, POLITICAL SUPPORT

At the same time as the Fujimori regime is shamelessly trying to extradite and imprison people for the crime of speaking the truth, they are also implementing other more devious plans in order to stay in power:

In a bald charade to justify getting a \$2 billion loan from the U.S. and Japan, and to try to regain political support internationally, Fujimori is once again trying to put a pretty face on his horrendous record of human rights abuses. The U.S. has its own necessity to make Fujimori look less barbaric, and so it demanded certain cosmetic changes such as designating "nine specific human rights cases" to be acted on before giving Peru the loan. Clinton's government claims that these and other steps have been taken and now Peru is sufficiently "democratic" to "deserve" the loans. (These loans, in reality, are simply a refinancing of bank debts, and will result in no improvement of the lives of ordinary people in Peru).

Of course, nothing substantive has been done to reverse Peru's record as the worst violator of human rights in the world (according to the UN). Instead, Fujimori continues to hold Dr Guzman along with over 100 other political prisoners on life sentences. The reality is that the fascist clampdown in Peru is intensifying overall, but even within that there are some indications that international pressure, and the precarious position of Fujimori, may be forcing some minor shifts:

#### Death Penalty:

The following item appeared in El Tiempo on 26 February from the Latin America wire service EFE: "The discussion about the introduction of the death penalty against terrorists in Peru was postponed by the Democratic Constituent Congress (DCC), because of the possible negative international repercussions of this measure, it was reported yesterday."

#### International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

Reuters wire service announced on 2 March:

"Peru will grant the International Committee of the Red Cross full access to prisons and facilitate the work of international human rights groups who visit the country, Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente said on Tuesday. He told reporters the government would work with Peru's rights umbrella group, the National Coordinator of Human Rights, to assure that rights are fully respected in Peru. The rights issue has taken centre stage here since the approval of an IMF accord was held up last week due to U.S. concerns over Peru's human rights record. One of the main U.S. concerns was the unprecedented taping of a conversation between delegates of the ICRC and captured Shining Path guerrilla leader Abimael Guzman, a transcript of which was later published in the local press. Peru says it is investigating how the conversation came to be

taped. The Red Cross had also said it had encountered difficulties in visiting prisons since September."

In fact, several weeks ago, the ICRC had suspended all activities in Peru following the publication of the ICRC interview with Dr Guzman in 11 February issue of Caretas magazine. This interview took place with Dr Guzman while he was still in custody of DINCOTE on September 25 (before his trial). All interviews conducted by ICRC with prisoners are required by ICRC to be private, with no witnesses; this is always the policy of ICRC.

This incident follows several months of obstruction of ICRC's attempts to visit political prisoners by the Peruvian government. Normally, arguments like this one between the ICRC and various governments are conducted behind closed doors, because ICRC feels this allows them their maximum influence on governments. The open condemnation of a government by the ICRC such as has occurred in Peru has only been done in rare cases -- in fact only twice in anyone's memory. Now, the Fujimori regime has announced that ICRC can make its visits to the political prisoners in private. If this can be achieved on a regular basis, it would be an advance in the battle to defend the life of Abimael Guzman and the other political prisoners. But it will remain a matter of struggle.

Fujimori: "Come See Peru, No Human Rights Abuses Here..."

In a related development, indicating that Fujimori is on the defensive concerning his "human rights record", Fujimori is quoted in the 26 February edition of La Opinion, the Spanish-language newspaper of Los Angeles, inviting government representatives from countries around the world to come to Peru and investigate. He says if they do, they will find no human rights abuses by the government of Peru! Regardless of the ridiculous nature of Fujimori's claim, his "proposition" makes all the more important IEC's next delegation to Peru. This delegation will leave very soon, and we expect it to include government representatives, as well as other prominent lawyers and human rights activists from around the world.

#### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION ANNOUNCED

At the IEC Founding Conference, it was resolved by the Steering Committee and approved by the whole body that an International Day of Action will be held in the spring. The exact date was not announced at the Conference, but the Coordinating Committee proposes that these actions take place around mid-May, to give sufficient time to make this International Day of Action a MAJOR activity undertaken everywhere possible in the world, and coordinated at a level that has not been done up to now. The exact date will be announced in the next Bulletin, after consultation with SC members and different IEC chapters.

The proposed themes of the action:

- Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman. End the Solitary Confinement.
- Stop the Torture and Killing of Political Prisoners.
- Stop the Arrests and Imprisonment of the Lawyers for the Political Prisoners.
- Condemn the U.S.-Backed Fujimori Regime. Yankee Go Home.

#### NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH ASIA: The South Asia Regional Conference to Defend the life of Dr Abimael Guzman was held in Kathmandu on 14-15 February 1993. Organisations from Nepal, Bangladesh, and India attended. A group was formed out of the Conference: the South Asia Regional Committee, to coordinate activities in the region. In connection with the Conference a mass demonstration and mass meeting was held in the heart of Kathmandu on 15 February.

INDIA: A new IEC committee has been formed in Uttar Pradesh, a highly populated

northern province. The group consists of intellectuals, journalists and activists from different parts of the province. One impetus for founding the committee was the South Asia Regional Conference, and the group plans to work under the guidance of the IEC and the South Asia Regional Committee. They will also be undertaking a broader signature campaign among intellectuals, academicians, journalists, and, most importantly, getting ordinary people involved in the campaign.

**COLOMBIA:** The AP wire service reported the following item on March 2:  
"Maoist Group Shuts Down Colombian University"

"A Maoist group which covers the walls of the city university with signs calling for 'At all costs: freedom for Chairman Gonzalo'-- the imprisoned leader of guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso in Peru-- has caused the closing of the National University of Colombia for an indefinite period. The rector of the University, Antanas Mokus, said that the Maoist agitators at the city university occupied the residences during the end of last week... making it impossible to continue classes."

The group named as responsible is called the "Red Guards" ("Guardia Roja") who the rector says wear red uniforms and caps.

The Reuters report continues: "The closing of the University leaves 29,000 students without classes. The situation could last for several weeks, as it is not known whether the 'Guardia Rojas' can be peacefully evicted from the university residences immediately."

A photo was sent to IEC last week showing a large banner hanging at the entrance to the university saluting the Founding Conference of the IEC in Germany. We reported in an earlier EB of television reports on the 'Guardia Rojas' doing marching routines which reporters compared to those of the prisoners at Canto Grande.

**MEXICO:** On 19 February supporters of the International Campaign to Defend the life of Abimael Guzman marched to the U.S. Embassy where they held a People's Trial of the Yankees, Fujimori and the military. In the trial, Uncle Sam and Fujimori were denounced for their crimes, declared guilty and condemned to disappear from the face of the earth. Uncle Sam's hat was burned as a symbolic gesture. The People's Trial generated a lot of enthusiasm and combativity, and the march grew from 40 to 100-120 as it marched down Avenida Reforma to the U.S. Embassy. There was a strong army and police presence at the embassy.

**CANADA:** We received the following letter from an IEC supporter, Dr Hassanpour at the University of Windsor:

"...The advertised appeal in Village Voice [the IEC Call which was printed with a list of signatories in a New York newspaper] invited response from NOW, a weekly newspaper-type free publication from Toronto, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (TV)-- equivalent of BBC TV. They both wanted to interview me and to find out why I had signed the appeal.

"CBC's interview (on 'CBC at 6' News) was about 3 minutes long. It showed footage of Dr Guzman in the cage and showed the ad in the Voice. It said: 'Half a world away there is support for the leader of Shining Path. Dr Amin Hassanpour is a human rights activist and communications professor. He has added his name to a published list of people who believe that Guzman deserves humane treatment. Other members of Amnesty International are going on a worldwide letter-writing campaign. [sic] Its goal is to stop the government of Peru from expanding the use of the death penalty. It is an attempt to keep Guzman and other political prisoners alive.' ...A member of local AI said: 'Whatever Guzman has done, death penalty is not what he deserves; torture is not what he deserves; being kept in a dungeon or a cave is not what he deserves; he deserves an expedient... trial.'...The CBC reporter concluded: 'This is certainly thousands of miles away from Peru but as professors here point out when you are dealing

with conscience, miles mean nothing, and as for the leader of the Shining Path, he is almost certainly doomed unless there is a sudden change in world opinion and the government of Peru is influenced by it."

Dr Hassanpour comments: "It is important to note that both interviews (on CBC TV and in NOW magazine) were triggered by the Village Voice ad. I could never get an interview on my own... It means that IEC should engage in similar media work..."

[IEC would like to note that contrary to the confused comments of CBC's reporter, Amnesty International has not organized any kind of letter-writing campaign on behalf of Guzman and the political prisoners, as readers of the Emergency Bulletin know. However, there are many members of Amnesty who have independently taken action to defend the life of Dr Guzman and other political prisoners in Peru.]

MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY SENT TO THE IEC FOUNDING CONFERENCE

There were representatives of numerous organizations at the IEC Founding Conference, and many others sent messages of solidarity. What follows is a partial list of some of the solidarity messages. (Not all the messages have been compiled as yet; for instance, the organizations from Turkey are not listed, because they have not yet been translated. We are in great need of Turkish translators to help the London office.)

- Dr Jim Cairns, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Australia
- Outer Eastern Network for Peace, Victoria, Australia
- Committee in Support of the Revolution in Peru, Australia
- Bert, Gloria, Jacque Coupe and Marjorie Broadbent, Australia
- Maoist Revolutionaries in Australia
- Anthony Bidgood, Secretary Australian Aid for Ireland, Victoria, Australia
- Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman Committee in Australia
- Democracy and Human Rights Committee (ADIHK), Australia
- Union of Australian Kurdish and Turkish Workers (AKTIB), Australia
- Australian Partizan Supporters
- Anne Allingham, Australia
- Melbourne ERNK supporters, Australia
- Central Committee Communist Party of Bolivia (Marxist-Leninist)
- Socialist Popular Unity Movement of Bolivia
- Revolutionary Communist Group (Britain) & Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!
- Internationalist Anti-Imperialist Block, Canada
- Action Socialiste, Canada
- José Carlos Mariategui Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CARP), Colombia
- Rote Hilfe Gottingen, (prisoner solidarity group), Germany
- Central Committee Communist Party of Greece (Marxist-Leninist), Greece
- Long Live Marxism Forum, India
- Dehati Majdoor Kisan Union : (Rural Poor Organisation), India
- Naujawan Bharat Sabha: (Revolutionary Youth Organisation), India
- Nari Shabha (Womens Right Organisation), India
- Disha Chhatra Samudaya (Student organisation), India
- Koshish (Students group at Lucknow), India
- Dayitvabodh Manch (Intellectuals Forum) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Dayitvabodh (Agit-prop journal), India
- Chetana Sanskritik Manch (Cultural Organisation), India
- Ahwan Campus Times (Revolutionary Student Fortnightly), India
- Revolutionary Communist League, India
- Central Committee Communist League of India (Marxist-Leninist)
- Defence Committee to Save the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman, Kerala, India

- LOK DASTA (Hindi bi-monthly), India
- PARCHAM (Punjabi bi-monthly), India
- Uttar Pradesh Provincial Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman, India
- Union of Iranian Communists (Sarbedaran)
- Communist Party of Japan (Reconstructed Left Faction)
- Japan Anti-Militarism Society
- Kurdish Workers Party (PKK)
- Workers Party of New Zealand
- National Democratic Front of the Philippines
- Bill Martin (Member of the Second Delegation to Lima), U.S.
- 62 prisoners in Jackson Prison, Michigan, U.S.
- Autoworkers at the Ford Plant, Detroit, U.S.
- Revolutionary Communist Party, USA
- Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Anti-imperialist, U.S.
- Farideh Ahmadi- prominent Afghani woman revolutionary

**NEW SIGNATORIES**

- Raphael Rowe, Michael Davis- Defendants of the "M25 Three" (framed-up for murder), Gartree & Wormwood-Scrubs Prison, Britain
- Felim O'Hagan, Brian Campbell- Editors, An Glór Gafa/The Captive Voice (Journal of Republican Prisoners of War), Long Kesh Prison, County Antrim, Ireland