



EMERGENCY BULLETIN 27

International Emergency Committee

to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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DR GUZMAN MOVED TO UNDERGROUND PRISON

The following AP wire service report appeared on 3 April:

"Callao, Peru -- Abimael Guzman, the captured leader of the Shining Path rebels, was transferred Saturday to an underground cell, where he is to remain until his death without seeing daylight ever again.

"Guzman, 58, was moved under heavy security from confinement on a rocky, windswept island in the Pacific to his new prison at a naval base in this port city... [Guzman] made the trip in a metal cage aboard a 60-foot navy gunboat. Some two dozen marines in black hoods and combat uniforms kept close watch over him during the 45-minute trip.

"...In recent months, navy patrols have shot to death five fisherman and wounded four others when their boats approached San Lorenzo island, 3 miles off the mainland, according to news reports. The navy set up a 440-yard exclusion zone around the island with 24-hour gunboat patrols after Guzman was confined there. One magazine estimated that the security costs at \$35,000 a month...

"'Personally, I would have preferred the death penalty for him. He deserves it,' Fujimori said earlier this year of Guzman. The death penalty is not permitted under Peru's present constitution except in cases of treason during foreign wars. But Congress is expected to amend the constitution to apply the death penalty to acts of terrorism.

"...Guzman made the trip to the island's dock standing in the back of a blue pickup truck. Three marines with assault rifles flanked him. Marines placed an orange lifejacket on him before he boarded the gunboat. Guzman, dressed in prison pinstripes, sat in a chair in a cage 4 feet by 4 feet throughout the trip. His hands were handcuffed behind...

"More than 100 journalists in two navy launches witnessed the transfer, but were not permitted to land on the island. Their launches followed the gunboat from San Lorenzo to the mainland but did not approach closer than 50 yards.

"...The heavysset Guzman appeared not to have lost any weight during his confinement. Fujimori said recently that Guzman had lost weight and was depressed."

Another report said that when the gunboat carrying Dr Guzman landed on the mainland, they were met by hundreds of government troops with their faces covered by balaclavas.

* * * *

The entire international press corps in a country turns out for the transfer of this prisoner from one prison to another 5 miles away. The journalists are kept at a distance of 50 yards-- the regime has already killed 5 fishermen who got too close. The prisoner is transported in a specially-built cage on a torpedo boat to a prison specially-built for one person. The patrol for the prisoner-transfer consists of hundreds of troops who can't show their faces to the public for fear of being recognized by the many supporters of the prisoner. The president of the country feels compelled to comment on the physical and mental state of the prisoner, claiming he is not being physically abused. At the same time, he puts the prisoner in a cell where he will never see the sun, and says he will execute him if he can, and he will try.

This is Peru, April 1993-- a country in such profound political and economic crisis, it regularly produces absurd and oppressive scenes. This particular political prisoner is at the center of much of the regime's mad brutality because, even in prison, Dr Abimael Guzman is both the recognized leader of millions of people in Peru, and the most formidable enemy of a regime with the worst human rights record in the world.

Headlines in the Lima newspapers this week shout: "He'll never be seen again." It seems the regime itself is not so confident about that.

RED CROSS TO VISIT DR. ABIMAEI GUZMAN

The following appeared in the 18 March edition of Caretas, a Lima magazine:

"In the course of next week, the Red Cross will visit for the second time since his detention last September Abimael Guzman, leader of Sendero Luminoso. They will also enter the prison at Yanamayo in Puno where Victor Polay, Martha Huattay, Maritza Lecca, and other high-ranking terrorist leaders are serving life sentences.

"Phillipe Comtesse and Krill Francois of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Peru, met last Tuesday, 16 March, with the Human Rights Commission of the Constituent Congress where they presented a report of their humanitarian work in Peru in 1992. ..."

IEC has no confirmation yet as to whether the visits to these individuals have taken place, nor the results. If confirmed and maintained on a regular basis, visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross would be an advance in the campaign to defend the life of Abimael Guzman because they would force into the open the actual treatment of Dr Guzman by the authorities. And this spotlight could help prevent the worst kind of abuses against him and the other political prisoners.

Until 4 March, the International Committee of the Red Cross had broken off all relations with the Peruvian regime and suspended prison visits for almost 6 months because the government had violated the basic requirements of the ICRC for private visits with prisoners. The situation came to a head recently when it was revealed that a visit made by the ICRC to Dr Guzman in late September had been taped by the police, and the content of the interview was published in a Lima magazine.

On 18 March the ICRC sent out a press release saying: "The [new agreement between ICRC and the Peruvian government] takes up the ICRC's customary procedure for visits to places of detention and stipulates that delegates will be allowed to interview detainees without witnesses and in a place of their choice... The visits began on 8 March in the Santa Monica de Chorrillos women's prison in Lima, and since 15 March ICRC teams have been to Picsi prison in Trujillo and Yanamayo prison in Puno... On 8 March, ICRC delegates also resumed visits to police stations and army bases..."

"HUMAN RIGHTS" PHONEY FACELIFT FOR PERU CONTINUES....

The agreement with the Red Cross is one of several moves being made by the government to clean up its human rights image for the world press. As we reported in the last Emergency Bulletin, these cosmetic "adjustments" were a requirement for receiving a \$2 billion loan from the so-called "Support Group" countries-- primarily the U.S., Japan, and some European countries. In early March, news services reported that "the Peruvian prime minister, Oscar de la Puente, said that the government is willing to allow any investigation on the situation of human rights, and work side by side with human rights organizations." He announced that he was inviting "various humanitarian organizations such as Americas Watch and Amnesty International, as well as the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights-- which will arrive in Peru on the April 1."

As far as IEC knows, no such delegations have arrived, and none are scheduled to come. Eyewitnesses in Peru tell IEC that there is "no motion

whatsoever in newspaper reports towards any human rights talk-- nothing about loosening up. That's strictly for external consumption. Here in Peru the regime is trying to present an image of total control."

Fujimori has also created a new commission called "PromPeru Commission" which is "dedicated to conveying the official version of the situation in Peru to foreign countries in order to counter the 'deliberate misinterpretations' and 'biased' information which he said is distributed by some international news agencies..."

In announcing this new commission, Fujimori actually claimed: "In Peru no one is tortured, nor is there persecution, as alleged by some intellectuals and journalists."

On 23 February, Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente (who simultaneously serves as Prime Minister) also told the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva that the government has established a national registry of 'disappeared' persons...

...MEANWHILE, IN THE REAL WORLD, IN PERU, THE CLAMPDOWN GETS MORE BRUTAL:

A few days ago, when Fujimori spoke at a university where he was receiving an honorary degree, he said it was "a small thing to give up some of these ideas of freedom if, in exchange, we can have some order and control, not like how it has been before."

In the last few days the media has been saturated with stories and pictures of the armed transfer of Dr Guzman, along with articles on how the government is building several high security prisons with single cells especially for the political prisoners. Nervous reference is made to break-out of 70 prisoners last week at a prison near Cuzco, Peru. The escape occurred after the prison guards were attacked by 200 guerrillas and a truck slammed into the prison wall creating a large hole. Most of the escaped prisoners have not been found yet-- but six who were captured were immediately shot in the head in cold blood by the armed forces. A few days later, the government announced that the six were probably killed by "their comrades" because they were wounded and could not keep up-- a charge which is ridiculous on the face of it.

LAWYERS IN PERU PROTEST FUJIMORI DECREES

The editor of Latinamerican Press, Doug Stimson, reports on 15 March that an open letter was addressed to Colegio de Abogados of Lima (equivalent of the Bar Association), by a group of lawyers who are working to defend human rights. The letter protested recent Fujimori decrees which suspend the constitution and restrict rights of Habeas Corpus and the right to provisional liberty while awaiting trial. [Currently it is estimated that there are between 250,000-500,000 "backlogged cases"-- with most of these accused persons stuck in prisons for years before their cases are heard.]

Stimson comments that: "Lawyers defending citizens accused of terrorism, treason and drug-trafficking have faced increasing harassment since April 5, 1992. Several lawyers have been themselves accused of terrorist activities for representing their clients. [such as Dr Guzman's lawyer, Dr Crespo-- IEC].

Some excerpts from the letter by the protesting lawyers:

"...As lawyers, we attest to the difficulties of exercising our profession in a social environment where neither the law nor human rights is respected. This fact is clearly manifested when we defend cases of so-called 'special crimes': terrorism, treason and drug-trafficking.

"Current legislation in this respect is not only hostile to the lawyers' freedom to work, but it stands as a permanent and subtle hindrance to case defence. The conditions and guarantees needed to defend those accused of crimes is not given. We run the risk that our offices and studies, even our bedrooms, could be filled with 'subversive material and

propaganda,' and in this way we would be implicated in the crime, too.

"In reality, we do not have adequate words to describe what is happening to many of our colleagues. We do know that an entire detective team was created to maintain surveillance of lawyers who defend these 'special crimes.'"

"The Peru which aspires to an authentic democracy and a solid body of law, cannot permit abusive and violent laws to such a degree that they jeopardize already achieved individual guarantees..."

The letter was signed by Durga Tarula, Jaimes Alejandro, C. CH. Orlando, Agosto Ravala, Anibal Garcia, Zenoba Apomayta Gonzales, Carlos Tallelu, Jose Villacorta, Maria Felix, E. Guillermo, Heriberto Paredes, and Alberto Quispe.

Stimson comments: "Since this letter was sent to the Dean of the [Colegio de Abogados], every lawyer who signed the letter has been visited by Peruvian intelligence services."

IEC does not know exactly who these lawyers are, but the letter reveals the extremely widespread and serious assault on the right to legal defence in Peru. As we have reported in early Bulletins, the leading organization of lawyers who defend political prisoners, the Association of Democratic Lawyers (ADL), has been banned outright by the regime. All of the ADL lawyers and many others as well have been harassed, arrested, forced underground, and some have fled the country. This leaves the political prisoners (some of whom are now the lawyers themselves) completely without legal defence.

FUJIMORI TELLS GUERRILLAS TO REPENT IN TV AD

A bizarre new chapter has been added to Fujimori's campaign against the insurgency in Peru. Reuters news service on 27 March reports that the "repentance law" (which was decreed as part of the anti-guerrilla strategy put in place after his "auto-coup" on 5 April) is now being advertised on TV. The ad "showing images of guerrillas behind bars, ends with Fujimori calling on more guerrillas to repent to avoid life prison terms." (1)

Reuters comments: "More than 2000 suspects have been arrested and jailed since last April, 110 of whom have been condemned to life in prison by military tribunals..."

"FREEDOM OF THE PRESS": A BAD JOKE IN LIMA... JOURNALISTS PROTEST

The following story appeared on the UPI wire service from Lima on 16 March:

"A judge sentenced a Peruvian reporter on 16 March to a suspended jail term of a year for compiling a television special on human rights abuses and ordered the arrest of the program's director, who is currently living in Spain.

"The rulings came as dozens of journalists protested in front of the downtown Palace of Justice to demand the release of three journalists held by security forces for alleged links to communist guerrilla groups. The protest, organized by media unions affiliated with the Committee for Solidarity with Jailed and Persecuted Journalists, called for the release of reporters Danilo Quijano, Guisella Gutarra and Alvaro Villavicencio.

"...Military forces arrested Quijano in the city of Cusco for photocopying a legally circulating book about the guerrilla group Shining Path written by British journalist Simon Strong. Gutarra, a photojournalist, was arrested for having worked briefly for the disbanded weekly newspaper Cambio (newspaper of MRTA)... Villavicencio is being tried for having shared a classroom with Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman 20 years ago (1) when he was a philosophy professor at a university in Ayacucho.

"... The court also declared journalist Cesar Hildebrandt a fugitive from justice early Tuesday and ordered his capture in Spain. Hildebrandt

directed the television special on alleged human rights abuses... The journalists argued the [TV] report was protected under the freedom of speech, and the lawyers for the journalists were planning to appeal the latest ruling before the Peruvian Supreme Court."

In a related development, Reuters news service reports that the director and editor of Ideele magazine, "which specializes in human rights issues and political violence in Peru have been charged with libelling President Alberto Fujimori... The charges are based on a complaint from a private citizen... and an investigating judge will now decide if the case should go to trial..."

The Washington Post on 14 March also reports that Enrique Zileri, the editor of Caretas, the main weekly magazine in Lima which is often cited in the Emergency Bulletins, is barred from leaving the country and his assets are frozen under the terms of his sentence for defaming an adviser to Fujimori. Caretas' crime was criticizing Fujimori's main adviser and CIA-link, Vladimir Montesinos, by characterizing him as a "Rasputin".

In the same article, the Post quotes Fujimori: "Absolutely no one can criticize the government for restricting the press. That there might be investigations or judicial procedures against journalists doesn't mean that there is no freedom of the press... What does the government have to do with the fact that a government official brings a judicial action against a magazine editor?"

"BEHIND THE FUJIMORI FRONT, CORRUPTION AND COCAINE TRAFFICKING ARE BOOMING"

The clampdown on the press in Peru, and its connection to the government's involvement in the drug trade, was commented on in an opinion piece which recently appeared in the Washington Post by Francisco Reyes, an investigative reporter for La Republica, which is a mainstream daily newspaper in Lima. The article read in part:

"When Alberto Fujimori staged his military-backed coup last April, dissolving the Peruvian congress and courts, one of the reasons he cited was to fight Peru's growing drug traffic... Since the coup, though, drug trafficking in Peru has increased, particularly in the coca-growing Huallaga Valley. The long-standing links between military officers and drug traffickers have been strengthened, according to numerous reporters who have visited the Huallaga. These new ties have helped to centralize and corporate trafficking....

"...We cannot report these findings in Peru, however, thanks to government and military threats to reporters and pressure on our publishers. A series of articles on army-trafficker ties that I wrote for my newspaper was held for two months before it was killed... Fujimori's coup... bears much of the blame. The Rasputin behind the coup is a cashiered army captain named Vladimiro Montesinos. A long-time lawyer for drug traffickers, Montesinos has represented Evaristo Porras Ardila, one of Pablo Escobar's right-hand men. Montesinos is now the de facto head of the National Intelligence Service, whose counter-intelligence apparatus functions as a secret police.

"...In addition... the judicial system and parliament have lost all semblance of independence. Most of the press simply echoes the Fujimori line. The few independent journalists are followed, threatened and, occasionally, assassinated..."

"...There is no war against drugs in Peru..."

PERUVIAN CONGRESS ASKS U.S. FOR INCREASED AID IN ANTI-DRUG FIGHT

From Notimex 16 March:

"The Peruvian Congress will ask Washington for increased funding for anti-drug operations, it was reported Monday. The president of the Congressional Defense Commission, Gilberto Siura, said U.S. aid has become

insufficient and that anti-drug trafficking campaigns would have to be rediscussed with consumer nations... The army said it needs radar units and aircraft, fuel and spare parts..."

PERU ESCALATING DEMAND FOR EXTRADITION

On 22 March, Peruvian authorities announced that they have approved the extradition request of Peru's highest court for a Peruvian living in London, Adolfo Oleachea. The Peruvian Embassy in London said they were just waiting for the relevant papers to arrive to present them to the British Foreign Office.

Peru has an extradition treaty with Britain that dates from 1904, but it has not been used since World War 2. This latest move represents a further escalation in their campaign for extradition of activists in Europe who support Dr Guzman and the Communist Party of Peru (PCP, also called Shining Path). Their basic "crime"? Speaking out. Dr Guzman's parents-in-law, Carlos and Delia La Torre, are also threatened with extradition from Sweden, as is Luis Arce Borje, editor of El Diario now living in Belgium.

IEC also received the following news clipping from Reuters, 15 March: "Lugano, Switzerland-- Police in the souther Swiss canton of Ticine have arrested 18 people suspected of smuggling 300 Peruvians over the border into Italy, it was reported yesterday."

IEC INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION - 14-15 MAY

After consultation with the Steering Committee members of the IEC, the date for the IEC International Days of Action have been set for Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 MAY.

We are designating two days so that those who want to do actions when offices are open can do so, and those who think a weekend day is better for gathering people can do it on Saturday. Also, in some countries Friday is a holiday. So we are calling them the IEC INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION.

The proposed theme of the actions:

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 of political prisoners.
Condemn the U.S.-Backed Fujimori Regime.

We encourage people to begin to brainstorm now for these Days of Action, and send on creative ideas which we can spread around the world. One suggestion we received: because 6-9 May is the anniversary of the Canto Grande Prison massacre, that weekend could be used for building actions for the 14-15 May.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

NEPAL: SUCCESSFUL PRESS CONFERENCE IN KATHMANDU

On the 18 March, a press conference was held in Kathmandu by Dr Baburam Bhattarai, one of the IEC Steering Committee members who attended the IEC Founding Conference in Germany. The achievements of the Conference were announced and widespread coverage in the Nepalese press resulted. Articles appeared in: Kantipur (a national daily in Nepalese); The Kathmandu Post (a national daily in English); Janadesh Weekly (in Nepalese) and the Mahanagar Daily (in Nepalese).

An excerpt from the Kathmandu Post:

"According to Bhattarai, the conference participants expressed their views on subjects like 'arrest of Dr Gonzalo and the prevailing state of Peru' 'women participation in Peru's revolution'; 'why Dr Guzman is the world's most important political prisoner.'

"...Dr Bhattarai said he had not approached the government for any kind of assistance. It may be recalled here that Dr Bhattarai's application for visa was rejected by the Peruvian embassy in Delhi."

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TURKEY: "WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER METIN CAN"

A letter was sent to the Human Rights Organization in Elazig, Turkey from IEC supporters in Frankfurt, Germany:

"...Although the conditions in your country are difficult, the chairman of your organization, Metin Can, worked bravely, very hard and with energy and strong will. With his help, a lot of people heard about the campaign and Abimael Guzman and were moved to defend his life... We condemn the murder of Metin Can, which was done by the fascist Turkish government...

"We will spread news of this event among the people... We will always remember Metin Can..."

AUSTRALIA: SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED TEACHERS IN PERU

An IEC supporter in Australia, Marjorie Broadbent, sent a letter to the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession concerning the attacks on teachers in Peru:

"...[R]eports ...paint a terrible picture of the conditions facing Peru's teachers and children which demand that teachers across the world take a firm stand against the Fujimori regime.

"...Teachers who are suspected of showing sympathy for Sendero Luminoso face the charge of treason... The term 'subversive' has increasingly come to be applied to all inhabitants where Sendero Luminoso have a presence or some degree of control. The presumption is that entire communities may be considered collectively responsible has been invoked in justification of what amounts to a policy of indiscriminate killing and disappearance. Under these circumstances, teachers and their students are in peril...

"I believe it is urgent that WCOTP raise its voice strongly in defence of teachers in Peru and urge teachers' organizations around the world to do likewise.... After all, while it is correct to protest at the repressive legislation in Victoria, Australia, it is not a life and death matter as it is for our colleagues in Peru."

Two groups in Australia recently sent protest letters to Fujimori:

"Many thousands of Australian people are watching Peru and hold you responsible should any harm come to Presidente Gonzalo, his lawyer Dr Crespo, and the other democratic lawyers now imprisoned."

--Outer Eastern Network for Peace

"...Democratic Australians are repulsed by this inhumane treatment of Dr Guzman and many other political prisoners in Peru."

Signed: "Unanimously by the Congregation of the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church"

SOLIDARITY MESSAGES TO I.E.C. FOUNDING CONFERENCE

In addition to the solidarity messages mentioned in EB26, the IEC received messages for the IEC Founding Conference in Germany from:

Dennis Brutus - former political prisoner, South Africa, Professor, African Literature, University of Pittsburgh, Visiting Distinguished Humanist, Department of English, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
Iranian Solidarity Committee-- Miami, U.S.

Konpe Rere- Mouvement Pour La Promotion Sociale de Delmas (M.P.S.D.), Haiti
62 prisoners at Jackson prison-- Michigan, U.S. (The prisoners also sent along a large poster they had used in collecting the signatures in the prison, made up of the Call and list of signatures.)

COMPILATION OF IEC FOUNDING CONFERENCE SPEECHES AND DOCUMENTS COMING

Shortly, the IEC will be making available a compilation of the speeches (excerpts) delivered at the IEC Founding Conference in Germany on 27-28 February (including the speeches which were not given due to time problems). The Resolutions and By-Laws, lists of solidarity messages and

other information from the Conference will be included. We will be mailing out good copies of these to every country, so that the Committees can reproduce them, as well as translate them. (We also have some of the translations which were done during the Conference, in Spanish, German, Turkish and Farsi, although not all of those were written.)

NEED FOR TURKISH TRANSLATION

As we announced in the last Bulletin, the IEC office in London is in urgent need of help with Turkish/English translation. Up to now, we still have been unable to translate the list of Turkish organizations which sent solidarity messages to the Conference. Please contact the London office if you can help with this task. It's an ongoing need for the IEC.

NEW SIGNATORIES

Gil Scott-Heron - Jazz and blues musician, U.S.
 Michael Rose - Reggae musician, Jamaica
 Herman van Veen - Clown, Netherlands
 Dr Cemsid Bender - Historian, Kurdistan
 Paul Morocco - Entertainer, London, England
 Dr Oussama Abou Amara - Pediatrician, France
 Shashi Prakash - Convenor, Long Live Marxism Forum, India
 Jayant Kumar - Secretary, Central Organising Core (Provisional), Revolutionary Communist League, India
 Darbrata Sen - Eastern Uttar Pradesh Organiser, Dehar Mazdoor Kisan Union (Rural Labourer Peasants Union), India
 A. Singh - Organizer, O.M.K.U. and Naujawan Bharat Sabha (Youth Organization), India
 Surendra Pratap, Mukul Kumar - Editor and Co-Editor, Ahwan Campus Times, (Student paper), India
 Viswanath Misra - Editor, Dayitwabodh (bi-monthly magazine for intellectuals), India
 C.M. Shukla - Advocate, High Court, and co-covenor, Datwabodh Manch Intellectuals and People's Rights Forum, India
 Satyam Verma - Sub-editor, United News of India, cultural activist, India
 Omprakash Singh - circle secretary, Postal Accounts Employees Union, Uttar Pradesh, India
 Katyayani - Nari Sabha (Womens' rights organisation), India
 Mehmet Tore - representing PKK prisoners in Aydin Prison, Turkey
 Orhan Temur - Singer, Turkey
 Bornava Peoples Association - Turkey
 Dr Lieve Dehaes - Medical Aid For The Third World, Brussels, Belgium
 Naser Razzazi - Kurdish Singer
 Raja Mehmood Akhtar - Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Former President of Lahore High Court Bar Association, Pakistan
 Ms. Begum Abida Malik - Member of Central Executive Committee Pakistan People's Party and National Assembly, Pakistan
 Sarwar Nadeem Khan - Founding Member, (1967), Pakistan People's Party
 Amina Nagori - Information Secretary, Pakistan People's Party (Sind), Karachi, Pakistan
 Ishtiaq Ahmad Hashmi - President, Human Rights Forum, Pakistan
 Ehsan Ullah Khan - President, Bonded Labour Liberation Front of Pakistan
 Mohammad Siddique - Vocalist, Lahore, Pakistan
 Syed Akhtar Hussein Akhtar - Chief Editor, Monthly Lehran, Lahore, Pakistan
 S.Bhatti - Editor, monthly Mazdoor Jeddoujhd, Lahore, Pakistan
 Farrukh Sohail Goindi - Convenor, Democratic Writers of Pakistan
 Shahzada Alamgir - Chairman, People's Literary Society, Pakistan
 Padre Luis Barrios, Senora Barrios - St. Anne's Church, South Bronx, New York, U.S.

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