



# EMERGENCY BULLETIN 28

International Emergency Committee  
to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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## 4th IEC DELEGATION TO PERU COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL MISSION

The 4th IEC Delegation have just completed their mission in Lima, Peru. A full report will follow in future Bulletins, but it can be said that much was accomplished with this delegation. News of the delegation's trip reached millions in Peru.

This delegation arrived in Lima at a most timely moment. The delegates were there for the transfer of Dr Guzman from San Lorenzo Island to the underground prison of Callao on 3 April, with the newspapers screaming headlines: "He'll Never Be Seen Again", and commando troops swarming Dr Guzman in a cage. The delegation was also witness to the 1-year anniversary "celebrations" of Fujimori's "self-coup." (On 5 April, 1992, Fujimori suspended the Peruvian Constitution and brought in an even more draconian regime.) Within Peru during these days the delegation reported that the government was trying to project an image of total control, total clampdown against the people. At the same time, for international consumption, they are trying to establish a reputation for Peru as a place where human rights abuses don't exist or are a thing of the past.

This was the backdrop for the 4th Delegation's trip to Peru, and it was a relatively favorable situation for the Delegation, because they arrived as eye witnesses to the monstrous lie the Peruvian government is trying to put over on the world. For the delegation's part, they put the Peruvian government on notice that the people of the whole world are watching closely their actions regarding Dr. Guzman and the other political prisoners. And the delegation announced to the Peruvian people that they are not alone, that the people of world care deeply about their situation and are willing to do something about it.

Although the delegation was not able to force the government to let them visit Dr Abimael Guzman or the other political prisoners, the President of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General of Peru both had to appear on TV on the evening of 7 April to announce that they had refused to meet with the IEC delegation. The front-page headline of the newspaper Expresso on 8 April read: "Fujimori says, even though lawyers come here, there will be no pardon for Abimael."

On 9 April, a long front-page article appeared in Expresso which named the delegates and quoted extensively from the IEC Call (for the first time in the Lima press). They also quoted from the Findings Report of the delegation (see text below). The IEC International Days of Action to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman (14 and 15 May) were mentioned by Expresso, then the article editorialized: "These people have exposed themselves for who they really are. Shouldn't Peruvians have a day where we expose the people who are sympathizers of the terrorists?" A picture of Dr Abimael Guzman behind bars was placed in the middle of story. The article also attacked the delegation for "condemning the Peruvian state." Expresso was particularly furious because the delegation refused to disassociate itself from Heriberto Ocasio, a member of the 1st IEC delegation who is also the spokesperson for the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru in the U.S. The article quoted from the delegate's Findings

in describing delegate Yuri Kochiyama as someone who had been imprisoned as a child in the concentration camps for Japanese-Americans in the U.S. during World War 2. They also named the various people whom the delegation had talked to while in Lima, such as the Decano of the Colegio de Abogados (Bar Association), Jorge Avendaño-- in a clear attempt to force these individuals to either denounce the delegation or to be accused, as "guilty by association."

On the morning of 8 April, the delegation visited a shanty town, taking the greetings of people from around the world to the people there. At the shanty town the delegation's Findings Report was read aloud, and they announced the International Days of Action to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman. This was greeted with great excitement and appreciation. The people in the shanty town made their own statements at this gathering to be taken to people back home by the delegates. They also promised to share the delegation's Findings with people in other shanty towns. The IEC Call was read out loud at the gathering, which was the first chance people there had gotten to hear it. One delegate reported: "It was inspiring to them, they thanked us so much for coming, that it strengthened them. And of course we were overwhelmed. It was such an unbelievable privilege to be there. It was a wonderful, thrilling day -- one I'll never forget."

A large number of letters of support for the 4th delegation were faxed to Lima, Peru from across the world during the delegation's stay. Many of them made the following points: expressing support for the delegation and asking that they be respected and that their security be assured; expressing concern for the well-being of Abimael Guzman and the other political prisoners; condemning the newspaper reports which announced that Dr Guzman would "never be seen again"; expressing support for the delegation's opposition to reinstating the death penalty, and against all torture and human rights violations against Dr Guzman, the imprisoned lawyers for the political prisoners, and all the other political prisoners. Letters were received from: (This is a partial list. Despite extremely unreliable fax lines to Peru, many persevered and faxed their letters directly to Lima. The IEC Coordinating Committee in London has not yet received copies of some of these letters):

113 Members of Parliament from Nepal, including members of both Houses of Parliament, and from both the Government and the Opposition Benches  
Robert Parry-- Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Britain  
Senor Portabella -- Member of Parliament, Republican Left of Catalunya (ERC), Spain

Francisco Muñiz Menero -- Decano (head) of the Colegio de Abogados (Bar Association) of Barcelona, Spain

Dr Jim Cairns -- Former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia

Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) -- All African People's Revolutionary Party, U.S.

Industrial Trade Union of Bakers and Affiliates -- Mexico City, Mexico

Cooperative of Workers Producing Bread -- Mexico

Trade Union of Workers of the Union Club -- Mexico

Dr Adán Nieto Castillo -- Mexico

Former Members of IEC Delegations:

Martin Helming (Germany), Anne-Marie Parodi (France), Bill Martin (U.S.), Reginald W. Majors (U.S.)

Terry H. Gilbert - lawyer, Cleveland, U.S.

Rev. Michael Yasutake -- Director of Prisoners of Conscience Project, Chair of U.S.-Japan Committee for Racial Justice, Chicago, U.S.  
 Father Lawrence Lucas -- New York City, U.S.  
 Franklin Odo, LaRene Despain, Rodney Morales, Michael Hadfield, Doris Ladd, Lewis Andrews, Oliver Lee, Jean Toyama -- Professors, University of Hawaii, U.S.  
 George Cooper - lawyer, Hawaii, U.S.  
 Abraham C. Keller, Rosemary E. Brodie -- Officers in philanthropic and peace organizations, Seattle, U.S.  
 Robert L. Jeffrey -- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Seattle, U.S.  
 Rev. Robert W. Bossie, SCJ -- 8th Day Center for Justice, Chicago, U.S.  
 Dr. Franz-Jurgen Schneider, Helmut Borchers, Joachim Kudoweh - lawyers, Hamburg, Germany

FINDINGS OF THE 4th DELEGATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
TO DEFEND THE LIFE OF ABIMAEI GUZMAN (IEC)

We came to Peru to investigate the conditions of the imprisonment of Dr. Abimael Guzman and other political prisoners, including the imprisoned lawyers of the political prisoners; to represent and communicate the protest of millions around the world about the repeated reports of death penalty threats, the denial of the most basic human rights, and summary military trials with hooded judges and no defense. While in Lima, we have received written statements of support from 113 members of the Nepal Parliament, prominent lawyers and public figures from Barcelona, Britain, Australia, the United States, including professors, clergy, and political activists.

In Lima we have met personally with Dr. Jorge Avendaño, president of the Lima Bar Association; Teodomiro Chavez, head of the Public Ministry of the National Office of Human Rights; Francisco Soberon, Association for Human Rights; and with family and representatives of those imprisoned, and have talked with people of the Shanty Towns. We have also contacted the Lima office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the office of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, the Womens International League for Peace and Freedom, and others.

Dr. Jorge Avendaño asked the Ministry of Justice and the President of the Supreme Court to meet with us, but both refused saying there was nothing to talk about. Nor were we able to visit Dr. Guzman or other political prisoners, as was our highest goal. However, based on our discussions and observations, we are able to conclude the following:

1. As the world knows, Abimael Guzman was transferred on Saturday, April 3rd, to an underground cell at the Callao Naval Base in Lima. This transfer was broadcast at length and repeatedly on TV in Peru and the Sunday newspapers had frontpage headlines saying that he would "never be seen again"-- "underground forever." The Minister of Justice stated on TV that Dr. Guzman's case was a military matter and said, "I wash my hands of it." Abimael Guzman has had no visits from anyone-- lawyers, family nor doctors-- since early October, 1992. Everyone we spoke to at any length recognized that the trial and treatment of Abimael Guzman has been a stark violation of all legal and human rights, of the most basic standards of humanity.

2. The other political prisoners, including the lawyers Crespo, Cartegena and Huatay, who were all given life sentences, are also being denied the most fundamental rights including visits and medical care. Dr. Marta Huatay has, according to reports, "lost her mental capacity," due to severe torture and beatings which took place in the DINCOTE headquarters at the time of her arrest. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported at that time that she has a fractured skull. Doctors who try to care for these prisoners are themselves harassed. The doctor for Dr. Jorge Cartegena (who was shot last summer) has now been arrested and is in prison. Recently, another lawyer, Alberto Huaman Loaytz, has been sentenced and imprisoned.

3. The International Committee of the Red Cross appear to be the only people able to get into the prisons and that is extremely limited, and the ICRC issues no reports except the most minimal to family members. Philip Comtesse of the ICRC in Lima told us that they "had seen Crespo, Cartegena and Huatay in the last fifteen days" --but not Dr. Guzman. They would provide no more details.

4. The organizations and individuals we spoke with said they did not think the court and prison situation would change soon; in fact most expect it to get worse. We were told in several ways that to even express strong concern for the human rights of political prisoners in Peru could be very dangerous. Not only have lawyers for the political prisoners been imprisoned for life, but doctors, friends and lawyers for those imprisoned lawyers have been arrested, detained and harassed. Clearly, the most fundamental right to practice the medical and legal profession in defense of human beings is being trampled on.

5. The hooded military summary tribunals of civilians as well as others are the most blatant violation of all legal norms, United Nations treaties, the San Jose Pact and more. The right to counsel is non-existent; frequently lawyers arrive, if at all, after the conviction in time to hear the sentence. The appeals process for Abimael Guzman took five days. Dr. Crespo and Dr. Cartegena have their last appeal in early May with a fore-ordained confirmation of their life sentences for "treason," which they are already serving in Puno, far from Lima.

The Peruvian government reported while we were in Lima that all 115 of these "trials" held since the first one with Dr. Guzman have resulted in summary convictions with 80% of them convicted of treason and sentenced to life. The government also announced that many of the prisons were being rebuilt to create isolated maximum security cells for political prisoners, and that 20 new prisons were to be built for this purpose. On April 5th, the one year anniversary of the coup, Fujimori was shown on TV opening a new wing at the women's prison, Chorillos, near Lima, which has a built-in "court" where the judges sit behind a one-way window and speak through a distorted loudspeaker. Thus the inquisition has been institutionalized!

We conclude that there can be no doubt but that the present "justice" system in Peru resembles that of a fascist, police state, in violation of all legal and human rights international treaties and norms. Moreover, the conditions of the prisons are worsening. All of this is concentrated in the case of Abimael Guzman.

Furthermore, as several people in Peru pointed out and we agree, the treatment

of Drs. Guzman, Crespo, Cartagena, Huatay and others is a most dangerous precedent for political prisoners everywhere. If it is true as reported, that the government of the United States played a major role in establishing this modern inquisition, we may anticipate more of it in the "New World Order."

But there are many people in Peru who expressed outrage at the situation, many are risking their own freedom and their very lives to defend the life of the political prisoners. These people need the support of all people of conscience to protest with all their strength the death penalty and the grievous violations of human rights of all political prisoners in Peru. We are pleased to note that on May 15th in Paris, on the occasion of the transfer of the presidency of the European Federation of Lawyer's Bars from Barcelona to Paris, the outgoing Barcelona president, Eugeni Gay Montalvo, will publicly propose that a delegation of Bar presidents come to Peru to investigate the situation with the lawyers, and the right of defense of political prisoners.

In conclusion, we express our thanks to all who helped the delegation's work and we take pride in announcing from Lima, Peru that May 14th and 15th are the International Days to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman.

Lima, Peru April 8th, 1993

Signed:

Yuri Kochiyama, New York, U.S.-- imprisoned as a child in U.S. concentration camps, longtime activist for human rights and political prisoners

Pilar Noriega, Mexico City, Mexico -- human rights lawyer

Frances Arnau, Barcelona, Spain -- lawyer of the Catalan-Spain Bar

Phil Farnham, New York, U.S. -- International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman

Michael Harrison, Liverpool, England-- London IEC and translator