



# EMERGENCY BULLETIN 33

## International Emergency Committee To Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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### MASSACRE IMMINENT AT MIGUEL CASTRO CASTRO PRISON, CANTO GRANDE

We have just received word from families of some of the political prisoners in Peru that they have evidence the Peruvian regime is planning to launch another massacre of political prisoners at Miguel Castro Castro Prison in Canto Grande. The families have submitted a petition alerting the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (ICHR) to this latest very serious threat.

This petition is being added to the 3 petitions previously filed by democratic lawyers from Lima. (The first of these petitions to ICHR focuses on a denunciation of the "trial" and conditions under which Dr. Abimael Guzman is being detained; the second is by the relatives of the political prisoners, prisoners of war and the disappeared; the third is on behalf of the lawyers who have been imprisoned for defending political prisoners - see EB 31, 32 and article below for more details.)

Following are excerpts of the most recent petition to ICHR concerning the situation at Miguel Castro Castro Prison in Canto Grande:

"...In our positions as relatives of political prisoners and prisoners of war who are confined to the prison "Miguel Castro Castro" of Canto Grande, Lima, Peru, we want to DENOUNCE the government of Alberto Fujimori, his Armed Forces, and his Armed Police for the imminent GENOCIDE they intend to carry out against the prisoners of war in that prison...as follows:

"During the past weeks...the prisoners of war have been moved and concentrated in Canto Grande and Chorrillos. The same thing was done prior to both the genocides of 18-19 June 1986 and 6-9 May 1992. This concentration of prisoners is aimed toward... better carrying out their intentions of totally exterminating the prisoners of war. This is being done through the so-called 'transfer' of prisoners, as well as 'inspections,' which today are daily matters. These 'transfers' and 'inspections' are nothing less than robbery, looting, torture, massacre, disappearances and murder of prisoners. All of this is being carried out along with a campaign of slander and lies in the press in order to generate favorable public opinion to allow them to carry out this genocide. WE DENOUNCE the vicious torture and the total robbery and looting of the belongings of the prisoners of war which was carried out on June 25. On that day the Police Force, headed directly by Colonel Gavino Cajahuanca, used tear gas which caused vomiting, electrical cattle prods, fire-arms, and other instruments of torture. During this supposed 'inspection' and 'transfer,' they seriously wounded several prisoners. Some of the prisoners were wounded by gun shots, and one prisoner, from Pavillion 1A, was murdered. After these crimes were committed, the relatives were refused all information concerning where the prisoners were located. We know that medical attention has been denied to wounded people....

"Furthermore, Cajahuanca himself, and those under his command, have threatened to murder our beloved relatives before the end of this month. All of this is acknowledged by different institutions and by the prison murderers themselves.

"THEREFORE: We demand that you immediately act on this denunciation: that you give an immediate answer and that you demand to observe the situation in order to establish preventative measures to prevent the genocide. All of this represents an extremely urgent and grave case. We ask you to immediately carry out an on site investigation...."

The Peruvian regime, through Colonel Cajahuanca, a top police official, is

threatening to murder these political prisoners before the end of the month. IEC supporters, and all those who will not sit quietly while another prison massacre is planned, must take this threat very seriously. The massacre of May 1992 was preceded by similar signs and warnings.

We must make it known to the Peruvian Embassies in every country that the whole world is watching, and if they dare attack the political prisoners in Peru, millions will hear about this and the regime will be held responsible to the people of the world. Please send IEC copies of all telegrams, faxes, letters which are sent to the Embassies. It is essential that these efforts begin immediately.

#### TWO INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS JOIN THE LIMA LAWYERS AS PART OF LEGAL TEAM FOR DR ABIMAEEL GUZMAN AND THE OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PERU

IEC is pleased to announce that two lawyers, Peter Erlinder and Leonard Weinglass, have accepted the request from the democratic lawyers in Lima to take special responsibility for the petitions recently submitted by the Lima lawyers to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (see above). Erlinder and Weinglass, who are both from the U.S., will be working in conjunction with the lawyers from Lima, and will be paying attention to the case of Dr Guzman and the other political prisoners, which is now under examination in the ICHR in Washington DC.

Peter Erlinder is a professor of law at William Mitchell College, and President of the National Lawyers Guild, the largest organisation of progressive lawyers in the U.S. Leonard Weinglass is well-known for defending political prisoners. He is currently defending Mumia Abu-Jamal, a revolutionary journalist and former Black Panther militant facing the death penalty having been framed up on a charge of killing a policeman.

The International Emergency Committee (IEC) is helping coordinate work on these petitions with Erlinder, Weinglass and a team of lawyers from other countries. To launch this effort, the IEC recently organised a gathering of eight lawyers from several countries in Germany. At this meeting, deep discussion was held on how best to support the petitions filed by the Lima lawyers and how to gather international support from lawyers and others for the legal case. Plans were made also to raise the case in other international arenas such as the European Parliament.

A network of lawyers is beginning to be formed to support this case. One of the concrete ways people can assist in the legal case is by sending "amicus briefs" (or "friend of the court" petitions) to the ICHR in support of the petitions, or particular aspects of the petitions, which have been filed by the Lima lawyers. Individuals or groups can send these "amicus briefs". These briefs need not be written by lawyers and can be in the form of letters to the ICHR in support of the case. If you (or people or organisations you know) are able to undertake this, please contact IEC. IEC can send copies of the 3 petitions and specifics on how to submit the amicus briefs or letters to ICHR. It is important this be done quickly.

The lawyers who are working with the Lima lawyers are donating their time. However, ~~taking the case to the ICHR will require major travel and telephone~~ costs in order to fight strongly for it. The IEC is establishing a specific fund for this project. The initial amount required is \$12,000. Fundraising materials, including a brochure and general budget, will soon be available, but don't wait. Funds are needed immediately.

In future issues of the Bulletins, IEC will have more details and analysis of the developments in the legal case.

#### SERIOUS MOVES TOWARD REINSTATING DEATH PENALTY IN PERU:

"Personally, I would have preferred the death penalty for him [Guzman]. He deserves it." - Alberto Fujimori, (AP - 3 April 1993)

"Personally, I think he [Guzman] should be executed." Congressman Robert Torricelli, U.S., September 1992

Since Dr. Guzman's arrest, the Fujimori government has repeatedly called for the reinstatement of the death penalty. A Congressional committee has already approved of this measure, and it is expected the full Congress will pass it very soon. It would then be part of the new Peruvian Constitution which is now being rewritten. There are predictions that this new Constitution could be approved within a few days. They are scheduled to vote on the Constitution on 28-29 July (although arguments among the politicians over just how and when to reinstate the death penalty may delay the vote somewhat). After the politicians vote, the death penalty matter may be taken to a public referendum scheduled for August, or they may simply try to make the law without a referendum.

A Lima newspaper (El Tiempo, 23/6/93) reported that Fujimori's party is encountering opposition to death penalty even from certain reactionary forces in Peru. An article entitled "National Campaign Against the Application of the Death Penalty" says the death penalty has been rejected by the Catholic Church and other organisations because they say it is almost certain to be applied against some innocent people, and because the "anti-terrorist laws" have resulted in arbitrary detentions. The College of Journalists have also questioned the law since a large number of their members (including many reporters for reactionary newspapers in Peru) have been imprisoned for "apology for terrorism." The article also notes that: "It was reported that in 1986 more than 200 people were assassinated by official forces for the crime of terrorism, extrajudicially applying the death penalty to them."

Clearly, the Fujimori government does not have a clear field in trying to reinstate the death penalty, but it is just as certain that he is serious about trying to do it. It is also apparent that they want to apply it retroactively to Dr. Guzman and other political prisoners. The El Tiempo article featured a large picture of Abimael Guzman in a cage, surrounded by hooded military troops, and the writer commented: "The government of Alberto Fujimori maintains that the death penalty is part of the anti-subversive strategy, and is a deterrence measure against the Maoist Sendero Luminoso group and the Guevarista Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement."

Fujimori also appears ready and willing to risk international censure for withdrawing from the American Convention on Human Rights (also called the "San Jose Pact"). The article states that, "Official Carlos Ferrero Costa put forward that the application of the death penalty will be applied in Peru within 18 months and in order for it to be carried out, the Peruvian government will reject the American Convention of Human Rights of San Jose, of which Lima has been a signatory since 1969." If Peru withdraws from the San Jose Pact, it would be the first country to do so. It should be added that the IEC understands that if Peru withdraws, they will also no longer be subject or bound by any decisions from the International Commission on Human Rights where the 3 petitions sent by the democratic lawyers in Lima (see above) are now being considered.

Of course Fujimori has nothing to worry about on this matter of the death penalty when it comes to the Peru's most important backer, the U.S. rulers. When an IEC supporter called the U.S. State Department and asked them how they would respond if Peru reinstated the death penalty, they said "Well, it would be hypocritical for us to condemn them for that, wouldn't it." (The U.S. "justice" system executes more than one person a week.)

As a side note, IEC supporters will be interested to know that Amnesty recently released a 6-page report condemning Peru's moves toward reinstating the death penalty because it "believes the death penalty does not fulfill any penal objectives which could not be achieved equally by other forms of punishment." (!) With AI advising U.S.-backed dictatorships on appropriate forms of punishment, it's no wonder that they do not find anything to protest in the

treatment of Dr Guzman. Solitary confinement in a concrete underground cell, no contact with the outside world for 10 months, etc.... these conditions which in other AI literature constitutes torture, is apparently "appropriate" for a political prisoner who is considered "illegitimate" in the eyes of the reactionary powers.

IEC chapters in the U.S. have called for demonstrations against the reinstatement of the death penalty in Peru on 29 July, and have organised a petitioning campaign.

#### FUJIMORI: "WE HAVE THE DETONATOR IN THE PERSON OF ABIMAEEL GUZMAN"

On 4 July 1993 El Colombiano (Medellin, Colombia) published a rather astonishing and revealing interview with Fujimori conducted by the editor of Global Viewpoint and Abraham Lowenthal, a Latin American "expert." Following are excerpts:

Question: "Like many other Latin American governments, Peru has not been known for its efficient institutions or its organizational ability. In that context, why did the Shining Path guerrillas win so much strength, effectiveness, durability, and loyalty?"

Fujimori: "Mainly the strength of the Sendero Luminoso is due to the weakness and corruption of the Peruvian State, as you mentioned. The weaker the system of government, the stronger Sendero became. The image Sendero Luminoso projected to the people to get their support was that the Peruvian State was corrupt and inefficient, and that the Peruvian government mainly forgot about and dispossessed the countryside. Before the eyes of the people, these charges were true...."

Question: "Brazil and Venezuela also have corruption and a great class of dispossessed who are ignored by the government. But no violent movement there has had the success of Sendero Luminoso. Why?"

Fujimori: "If Abimael Guzman would have had the opportunity to work in Brazil or Venezuela he probably would have had such success there also. These countries have problems of the same nature, which are potentially as explosive as in Peru. But we have the detonator in the person of Abimael Guzman. The question for countries like Peru, where there is still misery, poverty, and social injustice, is whether a person such as Guzman exists who can act as the detonator. The threat still exists."

In this short interview Fujimori provides yet another piece of evidence for why we call Dr Guzman the most important political prisoner in the world. Apparently, Fujimori has arrived at the point where he must speak openly about the threat Dr Guzman still presents to the regime, and why he is required to treat him in such an outrageous fashion. He knows his government must continue to force torturous conditions of existence on the Peruvian people, and that the people will continue the struggle. In this situation, a "detonator" like Dr Guzman remains a grave danger to his reactionary regime, as well as to the regimes of the whole area and to the U.S. itself - even when this leader is locked away underground.

#### LETTER FROM MEXICAN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS (AAJ) DENOUNCES PERUVIAN DICTATORSHIP:

In a strong letter written to the American Association of Jurists' (AAJ) main office, the Mexican Branch of the AAJ appealed to lawyer colleagues to condemn the actions of the Fujimori Government. The Association of American Jurists is a large and prominent organization, with branches throughout South, Central, and North America. A few excerpts:

"The trials under the Peruvian dictatorship have farcical features: hooded judges who use numbers and codes instead of signatures and names, imprecise accusations without any evidence, negation of right to legal defence, and sentences that defy any legal logic. All of this is 'justified' by labelling anyone as a terrorist if they are arrested by the DINCOTE...

"The only real terrorist is the Fujimori government, who has established a regime based on the dominance of the military personnel over the whole population. This regime intends to be legitimized by a Constitution that is the product of the State, with the following proposals: re-election of the Executive and the establishment of the death penalty to the 'terrorists.'

"In Peru, all of the international laws on human rights are violated daily. The prisoners are displayed in metal cages and they are condemned by the government and the press before they go to "military tribunals". The social fighters are presented as monsters who deserve any punishment. In doing so they are punished without evidence. Additionally, the lawyers are also victims of the repression...

"We, the Latin American lawyers associated with the American Association of Jurists (AAJ), cannot accept these attacks against the dignity of our profession. We, who carry out the honorable science of law, have the right to choose who we want to defend and who we don't want to defend. No one in the world has the right to dictate the way in which we must practice this right.

"Not only are Abimael Guzman Reinoso and the other detainees and their lawyers entitled to the guarantees of the legal system which has been established by international law, but a dictator like Fujimori has no rights to overthrow laws which have been established in long years of struggle.

"The defense of the political prisoners in Peru and the lawyers who now defend them is at the same time our own defense against any of our politicians who consider that at any moment they can become 'savior of the country' and persecute the opponents of the vicious ways that the military Peruvian military is persecuting the Peruvian revolution.

"We ask our colleagues on this Continent to make public statements against the farcical legal procedures (actually crimes) which are applied by the civil-military dictatorship of Alberto Fujimori. The accused must be treated according to civilized standards of International Laws, and overall, their life and personal integrity have to be respected...."

#### PERU TAKES "CENSUS" UNDER MARTIAL LAW:

On Sunday, 11 July, Peru's Fujimori government set a new and outrageous world precedent with its recent "census-taking".

On that day, residents of Lima and every other urban city in Peru were put under an "immobility order." Everyone was ordered to stay in their homes from 8:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the evening in order for the government to conduct a census! All businesses were ordered closed, and all vehicles (including buses and taxis) were ordered off the streets. Anyone violating the curfew was arrested.

A Reuters wire service report (11 July) said that "heavily armed soldiers blocked key avenues in the capital as helicopters clattered overhead. Army and police troop carriers patrolled the deserted streets."

"Some 350,000 volunteers wearing red-and-white caps spent 20 minutes at each home filling out the 8-page questionnaire....over the next two weeks, volunteers will make their way down jungle rivers by canoe and by mule over the Andes to check on remote communities never before counted."

The curfew was imposed by the Fujimori government's Institute of Statistics and Information (INEI) in order to conduct a campaign called "Open Your Door and Be Counted!" The government proudly boasted that it had planned the census for four years, and that it cost \$11 million.

The real purpose of the census was described in an AP wire service report on 8 July. They said that the census "is considered vital to the government's bid to restore order in this Andean nation devastated by guerrilla war and economic turmoil." [emphasis ours]

"Peruvians are asked everything from what their homes are made of to which of the 60 Peruvian languages they speak."

The IEC office has learned that the census-taking didn't go as well as the

authorities had hoped. In fact, IEC received reports that they didn't have enough volunteers to do the entire job and that as a result the census could not be taken in some of the cities. And, as would be expected, many of those who were questioned for the census simply did not give correct information.

#### BRITISH EMBASSY/LIMA USES "ESCAPE PLOT" TO RATIONALIZE PRISON CONDITIONS

An IEC supporter recently sent us correspondence between himself and British Ambassador D.K. Haskell in Lima. The IEC supporter was protesting the conditions of Dr. Guzman's imprisonment, and Ambassador Haskell responded by saying that the Peruvian government moved Abimael Guzman "from San Lorenzo Island to a newly-constructed high security prison within the perimeter of the Navy base at Callao... but have refused to reveal details of its construction for security reasons. The discovery of a plot to free Guzman by means of a suicide attack on the prison was announced only yesterday. Like other convicted terrorists, Guzman will be allowed no visitors during the first twelve months of his sentence."

This comment from the Ambassador is particularly interesting in light of a story we reported in Bulletin 32. We exposed the fact that an alleged plan to "free Dr Guzman" by supposed PCP activists was in fact a phoney story created by the government (in collusion with La Republica, a Lima newspaper associated with the United Left electoral parties), and was published to lay the basis for a later attack on Dr Guzman's life "while escaping." Now it seems that this alleged "plot to free Guzman by means of suicide attack" was immediately used by the British Embassy in Peru to rationalize denying anyone access to him - including doctors, lawyers, and even the International Red Cross. The Ambassador's letter was written on the same day (May 6) that the La Republica article came out!

#### THE CAMPAIGN EXPANDS IN LATIN AMERICA!

One of the Resolutions adopted at the Founding Conference of the IEC was to "put special efforts into developing the work of the campaign in Latin American countries, especially countries neighboring Peru." We are happy to report that IEC is going well especially in Colombia and Bolivia. In recent bulletins we have reported on the extensive work in defence of the life of Dr Guzman in Bogota. The following is only a partial report from other areas in Colombia: MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA: Some friends from the Medellin area have written IEC saying that a campaign to "Move Heaven and Earth to Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo" has been taken out with stickers, leaflets, the painting of murals, and the showing of videos in neighborhood and rural areas. IEC materials have also been distributed.

Work is going on with political prisoners at the Bellavista National Prison where the IEC Bulletins and the Call have been circulated. The writer from Medellin reports that there is a great deal of interest in the actions of the political prisoners in Peru among prisoners in Colombia of very diverse political affiliations.

DEPARTMENT OF SANTANDER, COLOMBIA: An IEC Chapter which formed in January reported that: At a workers assembly of Ecopetrol (the State oil company) in Barrancabermeja, 1,000 leaflets with the article 'Refuting the Big Lies about Peru' were distributed, and pamphlets called "Who is Chairman Gonzalo" were sold. One IEC Colombia activist was interviewed on Radio Yarima which reached neighborhoods in Barrancabermeja and the Magdalena Medio region. The video "People of the Shining Path" was presented to the subdirectors of the trade union workers of Ecopetrol, and the Union issued 1,000 copies of the IEC leaflet calling for the Days of Action. One radio station in Bucaramanga has issued periodic news reports on the work of the IEC Campaign. The IEC bulletins have reached political prisoners at Modelo de Bucaramanga prison and in June the prisoners painted a mural of Abimael Guzman on the wall of the prison. The Campaign was also taken to a law school in that area. On 1 May, a group of

construction workers, street vendors, recycling collectors and others marched through the center of Bucaramanga carrying a large red banner with a picture of Abimael Guzman and the slogan "Defend the Life of President Gonzalo." The IEC-Colombia leaflet calling for the Days of Action was distributed very widely, and on 14-15 May, a large mural of Dr Guzman appeared at La Puerto Del Sol, the most visited place in Bucaramanga. Large banners with the face of Abimael Guzman were also taken to people working at the rubbish dump at Bucaramanga where an agitator spoke about the campaign. On 25 June, several banners with the IEC slogan lined a football field in Ciudad Norte, Bucaramanga, where they were seen by about 1,500 people who came to the game from neighboring barrios.

LAWYERS IN BUCARAMANGA, COLOMBIA: IEC received a letter signed by 3 human rights lawyers in Bucaramanga on 1 July, excerpted below:

"We have learned through the IEC in Colombia of the criminal policies carried out by the Peruvian government to eliminate its opposition physically and morally, particularly the opposition represented by Dr. Abimael Guzman. We have learned also of the systematic and vicious violations of human rights in Peru and about the attacks against the lawyers who defend political prisoners. We consider that this situation must be condemned at an international level, and we unite with you from our position as defenders of political prisoners....

"Finally, we are sending you our active solidarity and our intention to contribute to the different activities led by the IEC to secure the protection and defense of the human rights and the life of the opposition to the Peruvian Regime."

BOLIVIA: IEC-Bolivia reported that the International Days of Action were taken out in four Bolivian cities: La Paz, El Alto, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz. This represented a significant expansion of IEC work in that country. During the period preceding the International Days of Action (IDA), the campaign was taken to small centuries-old peasant communities where there was much interest. IDA was then popularized in the cities. The IEC call was published in the newspaper Aqui in La Paz, along with a letter to Fujimori which was signed by 127 Bolivians. IDA actions included a very large and beautiful display at the entrance of the University Mayor de San Andres (UMSA), which included posters from the international campaign, articles on Yankee intervention in Peru, IEC materials, and amplified revolutionary music. This display was attacked in the newspaper Presencia, which printed a long article repeating slanders against Guzman, as well as those organising the display. A magnificent banner, three stories high, with a picture of Abimael Guzman was also hung from a 12-story university building. The video "The People of the Shining Path" was shown in three classes.

IEC-Bolivia explained that there was much interest in the IDA campaign in Bolivia, especially because Bolivia borders on Peru. They see a correspondence between the growing interest and support among the people and the "interest" and slanders from the government against the campaign.

IEC-Bolivia sent an article from Presencia (4 April; La Paz, Bolivia) reporting on the 4th IEC delegation in Lima, correctly naming the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman, and the names of the individual members of the delegation.

...AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD:

PUNJAB/INDIA: An IEC committee was formed in the Punjab State on 6 May in answer to the Call put out by the South Asia Regional Conference. A call for actions on 14-15 May was hurriedly put with 6000 leaflets, 3000 in Punjabi and 3000 in Hindi, and handmade posters put up all over Bathinda and surrounding areas. On 16 May a demonstration and conference was held and 500 people attended. "The demonstration was very thrilling and drew the people's attention... Homage was paid to the martyrs of the campaign to defend the life of Dr Guzman [from Turkey]... Various speakers projected the importance of the



international day of action and also the importance of the campaign to the revolutionary and democratic people of Punjab and India. Now the Committee is chalking out a program for a big programme for 12 September 1993..." This committee also announced that £400 was raised for the international office of IEC. This was extremely heartening; readers will recall that IEC reported last week that another large donation was received from people in India, one of the poorest countries in the world.

**DENMARK:** At the time of the Vienna Human Rights Conference, Amnesty International held a solidarity rally in Copenhagen. They asked people to sign post cards demanding more human rights. IEC-Denmark went to the action with a display, a huge banner, and IEC's post cards to AI, and asked people to sign the Call and postcard. Amnesty first asked the IEC to leave, saying "Don't you think this is an inappropriate occasion to attack Amnesty?" IEC supporters responded by saying they thought it was a very good occasion to expose AI's position on Peru and Dr Guzman! People from many countries signed the Call and protest postcards to AI.

**TURKEY:** On 4 July, a number of progressive intellectuals, several of them signatories to the IEC Call, were killed in a fire set by Islamic fundamentalists who were protesting a cultural festival in Sivas, Turkey attended by progressive writers, poets, and musicians. The reactionaries were especially angered by the presence of Aziz Nesin, a progressive writer who had recently translated Salman Rushdie's novel, The Satanic Verses. Aziz Nesin is one of the most popular political satirists in Turkey and the entire Middle East, and he is also a signatory to the IEC Call. Nesin, who is nearly 80 years old, suffered injuries in the fire.

**U.S.:** Yuri Kochiyama, a member of the 4th IEC delegation, recently sent IEC some correspondence following a speech she gave in San Francisco during which she recounted her long history of activism, including her experiences working with Malcolm X. Soon after a letter appeared in a Japanese-American newspaper which commented on Yuri's speech: "She is to be applauded for putting her heart and soul in the cause of brotherhood, equality and justice. Toward the close of the Q&A session, however, Yuri made a few troubling comments. She spoke of her recent trip to Peru in support of lawyers allegedly given life sentences for defending Sendero Luminoso clients... More significantly, she praised Abimael Guzman, the fanatical Shining Path leader..." The writer then went on to openly apologize for the Fujimori government.

Yuri sent IEC her response, which reads in part:

"As for Abimael Guzman, who has been demonized by the U.S. and Peruvian government as a fanatic terrorist, he is loved and esteemed by shantytown dwellers as their Herculean political leader who inspired them to the possibility of creating a new society in Peru. What a stark reminder of how Malcolm X was castigated and villified when he was alive by the U.S. network of press, government, CIA, FBI, and police so that the wide-range middle-class, church, professionals and even working class were so intimidated that they distanced themselves away from him.

"Hopefully, many open-minded Asians and others of whatever class, search out and investigate this most eye-opening, mind-blowing struggle in the western hemisphere - the struggle of the poorest and most marginalized - Sendero Luminoso and the Shining Path people. Peru is where history is being made not only by sheer 'blood and guts,' but by people imbued with clear socialist objectives. Asian Americans must be more visible and vocal in support of the oppressed wherever they are!... Signed - Yuri Kochiyama

"P.S. What kind of country is Peru? Think of what happened to the Japanese in Peru during World War II. Again, it was at the request of the U.S. govt. that the Japanese [in Peru] were apprehended, confined, some killed, many escaping to the mountains and forest; and some 1,800 sent all the way to the U.S. for incarceration."

END