



# EMERGENCY BULLETIN 34

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

Address ✉ BCMIEC, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX, U.K.  
Telephone/Fax ✉ 44-71-482-0853

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IEC CALL TO ACTION: 12-24 SEPTEMBER 1993

**DR. ABIMAEEL GUZMAN:**

One Year in the Hands of the Enemy,  
His Life Remains in Danger...

**END THE ISOLATION!  
NO TO THE DEATH PENALTY!**

The IEC is calling for a 12-day escalation of the International Campaign to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman beginning on 12 September to 24 September.

Beginning at 15:09 on 12 September - the day of Dr Guzman's capture by the US-backed Fujimori regime - IEC will make it known across the world that people will not stand quiet while the government schemes to kill Dr Guzman. The torturous terms of his imprisonment and that of the other political prisoners will not be accepted.

From 12-24 September, forums, demonstrations, debates, banners, articles, and radio interviews on the situation with Dr Guzman, as well as the other political prisoners and the lawyers in Peru, must be heard and seen everywhere.

On 24 September 1992, the Fujimori Regime attempted to humiliate Dr Guzman by displaying him to the press in a metal cage, wearing a striped suit with "1509" on it. But Dr Guzman stunned his captors and the world by instead delivering a powerful speech which was beamed across the planet.

On 24 September 1993, IEC is calling on people to find creative ways to bring Dr Guzman's speech to every part of the world once again...in newspapers, on the radio and TV, in re-enactments at parks, bus stations, school campuses, on unexpected loudspeaker systems...

\* \* \*

Dr Guzman, also known as Chairman Gonzalo, leader of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP), has been in the hands of the Peruvian Regime for a year. He has been locked in an underground bunker, a windowless concrete cell. He endures absolute solitary confinement, with no proper medical treatment, no books, no paper, no visits from friends or family. His lawyer, Dr Alfredo Crespo, has himself been imprisoned for life simply for daring to defend him.

This torturous condition of complete solitary confinement must end. IEC is demanding that Dr Guzman receive regular visits from his lawyer, doctor, and family, as well as from the International Committee of the Red Cross which can monitor his situation. Regular contact with the outside world is essential to defend Dr Guzman against the openly declared desire of the regime to execute him.

In a recent interview Fujimori said of Dr Guzman: "[Brazil and Venezuela] 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."

Fujimori's open admission is testimony as to why IEC calls Dr Guzman the most important prisoner in the world. Even while imprisoned in a subterranean dungeon, this recognized leader of millions remains a major threat to the Peruvian regime and to their US godfathers who have their thinktanks busy trying to devise means to crush the PCP.

Peru's President Fujimori is racing to try to reinstate the death penalty in Peru, and is making open threats to use it against Dr Guzman. To reinstate the death penalty Peru would have to violate its own Constitution and withdraw from the San Jose Human Rights Pact. The Peruvian regime is also trying to soften up public opinion for a possible "extra-legal" assassination of Dr Guzman by concocting phoney stories of "escape plots".

The US-led New World Order is trying to set a precedent with Dr Guzman. But many people around the world - even many who do not fully agree with the politics of Dr Guzman - have found the savage treatment of this leader of a revolutionary movement intolerable. Many people are realizing that to allow Dr Guzman to be labeled an "illegitimate" political prisoner helps clear the way for the rulers of the world to eliminate leaders of movements who oppose them.

#### **BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CASE**

Especially since the capture of Dr Guzman, the persecution of the other political prisoners and the lawyers for political prisoners in Peru has become so vicious it is gaining global notoreity. People are routinely imprisoned for simple speech or for providing legal defence to someone accused of being a "subversive". In May, some courageous lawyers in Lima defied extreme repression to submit a petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (associated with the Organisation of American States) detailing the gross violations of international law in the case of Abimael Guzman, the other political prisoners and the lawyers. Support is mounting for this legal case, and this effort is broadening the IEC campaign, including in the world legal community.

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So far Peru's regime has been prevented from killing Dr Guzman - mainly by the struggle of the Peruvian people, and also by the International Campaign to Defend his Life.

But the worldwide battle to defend Dr Guzman's life is not over. He is still in solitary confinement. His life is still in danger. The voices of many more must be heard!

**DEFEND THE LIFE OF DR ABIMAEI GUZMAN!**

#### **RAMSEY CLARK**

#### **SPEAKS OUT AGAINST REINSTATEMENT OF DEATH PENALTY AND THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF DR GUZMAN**

*The following statement was made by Ramsey Clark for use at press conferences and other occasions regarding the reinstatement of the death penalty in Peru. Ramsey Clark is a former attorney general for the U.S. government. He conducted a worldwide War Crimes Tribunal on the Gulf War. He practices law in New York City.*

#### **"STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE EXTENSION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TO POLITICAL ACTS IN PERU"**

"Efforts by the government of Peru to authorize the death penalty for acts it labels 'terrorism' violate the most fundamental principles of the rule of law including basic provisions of international law created to prevent war and political violence. The American Convention on Human Rights, ratified by Peru and most Latin American countries, prohibits the extension of the death penalty in any country 'to crimes to which it does not presently apply' and prohibits all countries from inflicting capital punishment 'for political offenses or related common crimes.'

"No idea is more basic to the rule of law than that ex post facto punishments are prohibited. The American Convention provides: 'A heavier penalty shall not be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offense was committed.' Efforts to enact laws intended to punish an individual, or a class, for discriminatory purposes are equally condemned.

"Harsh lessons of history have taught the need for such protections of human rights if we are to live in peace. In its excessive zeal to threaten its own people and execute Dr. Abimael Guzman, the Fujimori government would corrupt the constitution and the laws of the Peruvian people and risk the enmity of the world community which wants peace and a decent respect for the rights of all.

"I urge the government of Peru to follow the path of peace and justice and

live by the rule of law. Reject the lawless proposals that are so obviously designed to authorize death for political opposition of the Fujimori administration."

- Ramsey Clark, New York, NY, 26 July 1993

**REV. S. MICHAEL YASUTAKE:**  
**STATEMENT AGAINST DEATH PENALTY, FOR DR GUZMAN'S RELEASE**

*The following statement addressed to the Peru Consulate in Chicago was received from Rev. S. Michael Yasutake, who is the Director of the Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project, Chicago, US:*

"Representing the Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project (Prophetic Justice Unit, Racial Justice Working Group, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA) and the U.S./Japan Committee for Racial Justice, we urge President Fujimori government to cease and desist from violations of human rights of Dr. Abimael Guzman and other political prisoners in Peru.

"As an organization dedicated to seeking amnesty for the U.S. political prisoners, we oppose legalizing death penalty, internment of political prisoners, torture and other repressive measures reported widely as being used against Dr. Guzman and others.

"Nothing can be gained by brutal use of violence and force on our fellow human beings. We urge immediate release of Dr. Guzman and other political prisoners.

"At the least, we urge that Dr. Guzman be allowed access to his lawyers, his physician, to reading and writing materials, be provided access to International Red Cross and others who could help relieve his suffering. All punitive conditions must cease."

- Rev. S. Michael Yasutake, Chicago, 21 July 1993

**LIMA PRESS REPORTS FORCED REMOVAL OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AT CASTRO CASTRO**

The 25 July issue of La Republica reports that the Peruvian authorities say they "prevented a massive escape of political prisoners" at Miguel Castro Castro Prison at Canto Grande. They say they infiltrated a police agent into the prison population who said he discovered a "plot" and a cache of arms and explosives.

Since the "discovery" of this alleged "plot" by the government, the political prisoners of Pavillion 4A have been forcibly removed, supposedly so the authorities can "inspect" the area. IEC does not know at the moment what exactly happened at Castro Castro, nor has the government announced where they have taken the prisoners. But in the past, just before the government launched a massacre of the political prisoners, they removed them to another location, or *tried* to remove them. And in the last Emergency Bulletin 33, IEC reported the warning issued by the relatives of the prisoners at Castro Castro that a massacre was "imminent", and that the police chief was himself threatening to kill the prisoners "by the end of the month".

IEC awaits news on what happened during the removal of the political prisoners reported in La Republica, and where they are now. These removals are normally carried out in a most brutal manner, including looting of the prisoners' few possessions.

We urge readers to send a warning to the Fujimori: attacks on the political prisoners will not be tolerated, and another murderous massacre will not be taken lightly by the people of the world.

We have already received a copy of one letter sent by the National Front of Democratic Lawyers in Mexico to the Peruvian Embassy. It reads in part:

"The members of the National Front of Democratic Lawyers from all over the country express our concern about the possibility that in the coming days a massacre of prisoners of the type which occurred in Peru in June 1986 and May 1992 could happen again... The attacks on prisons by members of the prison security, headed by Colonel Cajahuanca, must stop immediately. To allow this to happen is not only a gross violation of the minimal standards set by the United Nations and by the American Convention of Human Rights concerning the treatment of prisoners. It is also a great responsibility of your government before the people of the world."

## DEATH SQUAD THREAT ANNOUNCED AGAINST EXILE PERUVIANS

In recent editions of two Peruvian magazines, Caretas and Oiga, there were articles reporting that a death squad which is currently active in Peru has announced that they will be moving one section of their operations to Europe. This death squad has already committed heinous crimes against the people of Peru and are now threatening to assassinate Peruvian people abroad who are alleged to be speaking out or doing work against the regime. Peruvian television has actively tried to build public opinion in this direction with shameless "news stories" that paint certain exiled Peruvians as responsible for various unconnected bombings by juxtaposing their faces and names with pictures of blown-up police cars in Europe.

The Fujimori government (as we reported in earlier Bulletins) has launched its own open campaign against politically-outspoken Peruvians. They have issued extradition orders on several Peruvians, accusing them of being "apologists for terrorism" simply for speaking or writing their views. The regime is demanding of the governments in the European countries where they live that they be sent back to Peru where they would face certain prison terms and possibly death. Among those threatened with extradition are the parents-in-law of Dr Guzman, Carlos and Delia La Torre, and the editor of El Diario Internacional, Luis Arce Borja.

It is important that IEC supporters especially in Europe publicize these death squad threats. It is common knowledge that the Peruvian government organizes such death squads as an extra-legal means of extending its authority for the purpose of eliminating the opposition secretly and terrorizing people into submission. The Peruvian Embassies should know the regime will be held responsible for any actions by these death squads.

### INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CASE

Readers of the Emergency Bulletins know about the international legal case recently launched by lawyers in Lima on behalf of Dr Abimael Guzman and other political prisoners and lawyers for the political prisoners in Peru. (See first article above). As one part of the 12-24 September actions, IEC plans to bring into international focus this very important legal case.

The situation in Peru for political prisoners and their lawyers is extreme. As one human rights group puts it, "Quite simply, Peru's prosecution of civilians for terrorism... rivals any in the Americas for flagrant abuse of basic judicial guarantees." The international legal community has a chance now to stand with the courageous lawyers from Lima and make itself heard on this urgent matter.

The basic demand of all 3 petitions is that Peru comply with the San Jose Pact, an international human rights agreement to which Peru is a signatory, and that political prisoners be afforded the right to defence, medical care, visitation, and reading materials. The fact that lawyers who demand this are themselves subject to arrest is a measure of what life is like in Peru today. Fujimori and the ICHR should know that the international legal community is watching this case closely.

IEC is calling on lawyers to write briefs or letters to support the petitions to the ICHR, and to approach professional groups to do the same. Donations are also urgently needed. The lawyers who have assumed responsibility for this work are contributing their time, but expenses (especially for travel) are very high.

A brochure on the international legal case is available now from IEC, along with a packet for lawyers which details how they may take part in this effort.

### NEW SIGNATURES

Muhammad Agam Choudhry - Secretary General, People's Labour Union, Pakistan  
Dr Hakim Nadir Abbas - professor, Lahore, Pakistan  
Riaz Maftoon - journalist, Daily Khabrain, Lahore, Pakistan  
Tanver Qureshi - advocate, Lahore, Pakistan  
Shamoon Saleem - journalist, Netherlands

END