



# EMERGENCY BULLETIN 35

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

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### DOWN WITH THE DEATH PENALTY!

18 August 1993

#### PERU'S CONGRESS APPROVES DEATH PENALTY:

*Agence France Presse; 4 Aug 1993:* "Peru's constituent assembly Tuesday approved the death penalty for terrorist offenses, giving Alberto Fujimori a major victory in his bid to eliminate guerrilla violence in the country... Carlos Ferrero, a member of Fujimori's New Majority alliance, said, "Those of us who are in favor of the death penalty are doing what we are doing without joy or enthusiasm, but simply out of necessity in the fight against terrorism."

*Reuter's News Service, 4 Aug 1993:* "Peru's constituent Congress voted on Tuesday to include a death penalty clause for terrorist crimes in the draft of a new constitution... Most of the members of President Alberto Fujimori's party voted in favour of the measure, saying it would serve to dissuade Peruvians from joining guerrilla groups waging a 13-year war against the state... The leader of the largest opposition party, Lourdes Flores, said the death penalty was justified given the damage caused by the guerrilla groups... There has also been concern the death penalty would be applied retroactively against guerrilla leaders like Shining Path chief Abimael Guzman, whom Fujimori said he would be in favour of executing.

On 3 August, the U.S.-backed Fujimori government reinstated the death penalty in Peru. Fujimori has said repeatedly that he wants to use the death penalty against Dr Guzman; when the Congress voted to change the Constitution to permit the death penalty their stated reason was to use it against the People's War. We are now at the beginning of a critical period of heightened danger to the life of Dr Abimael Guzman and the other political prisoners.

Beginning immediately the IEC is calling on people to organize efforts to counter the implementation of the death penalty in Peru as part of our campaign. A worldwide outcry is urgently needed. The Fujimori Regime is serious about killing Dr Guzman and other political prisoners, and has the backing of the U.S. But they have many contradictions that we can expose and take advantage of. It is possible to unite many more people, from different class positions and interests, against the implementation of the death penalty against Dr Guzman and other political prisoners: with press conferences, meetings, letters to the editor from prominent individuals, actions, etc. This is the challenge we face. This is what we must do.

#### THE DEATH PENALTY: THE FUJIMORI REGIME AND YANKEE IMPERIALISM

In earlier EB's IEC warned that Fujimori and his U.S. backers intended to reinstate the death penalty to kill Dr Guzman and other political prisoners. Following are just a few quotes, beginning with those made by U.S. spokespersons soon after Dr Guzman's capture:

"Personally, I think he [Guzman] should be executed." Congressman Torricelli, Sept 1992

"It is anomalous... to suggest an international request for the execution of a prisoner, but... herewith a call for the execution of Abimael Guzman."

William Buckley, Jr., an opinion-maker for the U.S., Washington Times, 14 October 1992

On 23 November 1992, a Senior U.S. State Department Official responded to Fujimori's announcement that he wanted to reinstate the death penalty as follows:

"We in the United States, obviously, are not in very good shape to say you shouldn't have the death penalty -- we have the death penalty."

And in April 1993, Bill McCollom, U.S. House of Representatives, and Chairman of the U.S. House Republican Research Committee Task Force on Terrorism & Unconventional Warfare, said:

"I do think the Shining Path is the single most dangerous terrorist group and now the greatest threat to U.S. national security in this hemisphere. I think the United States government should do everything possible to cause the demise of the Shining Path. In the process, we must make sure President Fujimori understands that if assistance is provided to eliminate the Shining Path, then he will return democracy to Peru. President Fujimori is as much, if not more, interested in seeing the elimination of the Shining Path as the United States. It seems to me that if we made that type of relationship with him it could happen. I don't know that it would happen, but we should try."

Alberto Fujimori:

"The political responsibility for the crimes and attacks that occur will fall on the bosses, even though they are in prison." (15 Oct 1992)

"Personally, I would have preferred the death penalty for him. He deserves it." (3 April, 1993)

"The question for countries like Peru, where there is still misery, poverty, and social injustices, is whether such a person as Guzman exists who can act as the detonator. The threat still exists." (4 July 1993)

#### WHY MUST PERU LEGALISE THE DEATH PENALTY

##### WHEN IT ALREADY KILLS ITS OPPOSITION EXTRA-JUDICIALLY?

Why has Peru been so determined to reinstate the death penalty, and what do they and their imperialist backers - mainly U.S. - have to gain? Why are they willing to risk the anger of the Peruvian people, human rights groups, and even harsh words from some other world leaders in order to implement it?

(1) Dr Guzman and the movement he leads continue to threaten the very existence of the Peruvian regime. Implementing the death penalty will add yet another weapon in the Peruvian government's arsenal in their efforts to kill Dr Guzman and other political prisoners, and to wipe out the People's War. They need this weapon.

(2) The Peruvian regime especially wants to threaten political prisoners. The government arrests so many people for political activities that it cannot possibly isolate them all. Rather than risk putting them with other prisoners where they would spread their politics, they often put the political prisoners together. There the the prisoners have trained themselves politically and ideologically, and have engaged in production. The political pavillions in Peru's prisons are known as "shining trenches of combat". These prisoners have inspired millions in Peru and around the world who have seen pictures or have heard about their activities. In 1986 and again in 1992, political prisoners were massacred by the Peruvian government. However, the government has faced an impossible situation - unable to isolate all of the political prisoners, and unable to break their spirit and organization. Now the Fujimori regime wants to use the death penalty to say that their example will not be tolerated.

(3) A government that has to resort to extra-judicial means to defeat its enemy shows its weakness. The Fujimori Regime would appear much stronger if it could kill its enemies openly and "legally". This is the kind of image the U.S. (a country which "legally" executes more than one person each week), wants its repressive puppet regimes to convey. Peru is their test case.

(4) In order to counter the People's War, the U.S., as well as other imperialist countries, are going to have to continue to provide economic and military support for Peru. But there is debate in the U.S. ruling class over how to cover over human rights violations in a country that regularly massacres prisoners, where more than 70 high school students were disappeared in less than a year, where mass graves continue being discovered, where even members of the Peruvian ruling class acknowledge the use of government-sponsored death squads, and where this will undoubtedly continue to be the standard method of operation. The U.S. rulers remember that their mask of democracy was punctured when people found out that the U.S. had knowingly financed Salvadoran death squads, resulting in the deaths of as many as 93,000 people. The fact that the number of disappearances in Peru far exceeds even those recorded during the notorious Pinochet regime in Chile could make trouble for the U.S. rulers if it becomes broadly known. On the

other hand, the hooded judges program and the death penalty are measures the U.S. can openly support (while of course they will continue to provide covert support for "dirty" massacres).

(4) Setting a precedent in Peru will pave the way for reinstating the death penalty throughout Latin America, where the death penalty is now illegal in every country. If Peru can implement the death penalty without serious repercussions, other Latin American countries will be able to do the same, and "legally" kill their opposition.

**THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE DEATH PENALTY INCREASES THE THREAT TO DR GUZMAN'S LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS:**

It is IEC's analysis that the reinstatement of the death penalty represents a very real increase in the danger to the life of Dr Guzman and other political prisoners.

Some people may argue that legalisation of the death penalty is only an attempt to formalize what is already happening extra-judicially, and therefore doesn't represent any real increase in the threat against Dr Guzman and other political prisoners, or even the People's War.

While it is true that the Peruvian Regime and its police and military forces have killed thousands extra-judicially, and will continue to do so, Peru's imperialist backers prefer "clean" and legal mass murders when possible.

To those who believe that this new measure won't effect anything, its important to remember the effect of Fujimori's April 5 1992 auto-coup. Some people may have thought that would change very little. Yet, within a month, there was a massacre at Canto Grande Prison. Decrees issued by Fujimori after the auto-coup broadened the powers of the police and military, and authorized sweeping arrests of "suspected subversives" which were carried out through summer 1992. When Dr Guzman was captured, these decrees were used to "try" him by a hooded, military tribunal. Since his arrest, political prisoners have lost any right to defence; their personal property has been confiscated before their trials; they too have been tried by hooded military tribunals in trials often lasting less than two hours; even possessing a leaflet or book labeled "subversive" entitled detainees to the charge of "apology for terrorism" and a minimum sentence of 12 years. Under the cover of these same decrees, the Association of Democratic Lawyers, which had formerly represented political prisoners, was banned and the lawyers themselves were sentenced for "apology for terrorism" and even "treason". By using these new, legalised methods of repression, the Peruvian regime was able to sentence 589 political prisoners within 11 months (August 1992 - July 1993). By contrast, in the 10 years prior to the auto-coup, 575 political prisoners had been sentenced [Japan Economic Newswire; 29 July 1993]. And the numbers being arrested are increasing under the new measures. For example, BBC announced that 300 people were arrested for "terrorism" in Lima on 27 July 1993 alone.

Fujimori has already announced his desire to use the death penalty against Dr Guzman and other political prisoners for actions of their supporters committed while the leaders are in prison. In other words, Peru's regime will hold Dr Guzman and other leaders hostage, and is threatening to execute them for any advances made by the People's War. They reinstated the death penalty in order to use it, and this can have a big effect.

**MASS GRAVE UNCOVERED; PERU PRAISED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS:**

More than a year ago, 9 students and a professor were disappeared from La Cantuta University in Lima. Numerous people witnessed the military arrest of the students and the Army officer in charge of the operation was identified. "La Cantuta" became a symbol of death squads, mass graves, and routine massacres by the government's military and police forces. A year after the incident, the Congress was forced to order an "investigation" of the incident by a special Commission of Congress in order to maintain even the thinnest mask of "democracy." The majority opinion of the Commission was that the students and professors were victims of a government-sponsored death squad. A minority opinion was written alleging that instead the students were victims of Shining Path. President Fujimori accepted the findings of the minority, and ruled that the government had committed no crime. No one believes this. And La Cantuta has become known as yet another indication of the violence and rottenness of the Peruvian Regime. In Peru, it has forced even those who would prefer to blame the

Communist Party of Peru for the crime to instead criticize Fujimori for the whole episode. As for the imperialists, they are shamelessly using the incident to call on Peru to implement "cleaner" methods to terrorize the people. This logic is presented in the U.S. newspaper, the New York Times (13 Aug 1993), in an article entitled "Grisly Find Again Rattles Peruvians". In the first part of the article the discovery of graves of the victims of La Cantuta is used as an example of the measures the U.S. wants to distance itself from:

"...[F]our shallow graves, boxes of bones that had been burned and broken in pieces were excavated in July, the first time in years that secret graves had been found near the capital..."

"...Though the President and the police say the bones that were found were the remains of victims of Shining Path, the Maoist guerrilla group, Western diplomats, human rights groups, journalists and opposition members of Congress disagree.

"They say the bones are those of at least some of the nine students and a teacher who disappeared from a Lima university [La Cantuta] in 1992 and were allegedly killed by a military execution squad that had carried out at least three similar operations."

Then, in an astounding effort to turn reality upside down, the same article went on to praise the Peruvian government for implementing the draconian methods of "justice" decreed at the time of Fujimori's auto-coup, saying:

"A corresponding decline in summary executions of suspected guerrillas by the military is attributed to a military tribunal process in which unidentified judges quickly sentence accused subversives to long prison terms. Army commanders know now that once they capture a Shining Path soldier, he or she is not going to be walking the streets the next week."

"But despite an improved human rights record..."

Clearly it would have been easier for the U.S. if the La Cantuta victims had been detained on charges of "terrorism", and then sentenced quickly to long-term imprisonment or even death. In other words, more systematic methods of eliminating opposition to the government are openly endorsed, while creating some distance from "dirty" death-squad massacres. This is what the hooded judges program and the reinstatement of the death penalty represent.

#### DINCOTE WARNS OF CONTINUING STRENGTH OF THE PCP:

Since Dr Guzman's capture, Fujimori has repeatedly and ridiculously announced the People's War has been defeated...or that it is almost defeated and will be completely wiped out by 1995. When he does this, even Peruvian press is forced to ponder why, if PCP is almost defeated, does Fujimori need the death penalty.

La Republica, one of Lima's dailies, began running a series last week entitled "The War Against Terror" which they allege is based on seven secret reports they obtained from DINCOTE. Following are a few quotes from the article, which was written to emphasize the fact that the People's War is advancing:

"The issues studied by DINCOTE in these documents reveal, without any doubt, that the defeat of Sendero Luminoso, in particular, is not real..."

"...we [DINCOTE] think that there are four aspects of their subversive activities that are important to evaluate and keep in mind'.

"The first one is the presence and development of the so-called 'Open People's Committees'. These are the organisations created by the Senderistas in the marginal urban areas which are not developed or considered by the government..."

"Another point that worries DINCOTE, is that the government is forgetting that Sendero Luminoso has built up an organisation with a base of political and military actions, and that the backbone of its deployment is a protracted war. Therefore, it has an apparatus capable of rebuilding even the strongest reversal... The third aspect of the anti-terrorist struggle that DINCOTE calls to the government's attention is that they [Sendero Luminoso] 'use the prisons as shining trenches of combat and as centers of indoctrination and ideological and military preparation of the terrorist prisoners.' The terrorists have not only been confined in Canto Grande and Yanamayo. There are other prisons in the provinces where the security measures are not as good as in the Lima prisons.

"The last point of worry, and maybe the most important, is in relation to the 'new senderista generation', whose base is the 'Movement of Pioneer Children'. DINCOTE wonders: 'Has a new social group emerged?' 'Does a new terrorist family group exist?' 'What is the role played by the members of these families

to consolidate the new power?'....

"The seed is germinating' concludes DINCOTE, 'the seed of a new terrorist generation', cultivated to 'face what has been established through a struggle of great breadth and wearing away...'"

DINCOTE recommends that stronger measures are needed to defeat the People's War and says: "it is not enough to carry on massive rakings of the shantytowns". In spite of the capture of Dr Abimael Guzman and other leaders of the PCP, the People's War is continuing. The Regime is saying that their very survival depends upon their being able to take even more extreme measures to attack the people.

#### "THE SUBVERSIVES WERE GOING TO DEFEAT US" - General Robles

The following interview with General Robles, a former member of the Peruvian High Military Command who signed the military command for Fujimori's self-coup. Robles was later removed from his post by the Fujimori government. He left the country and has since accused other members of the military of using "death squads", including at La Cantuta, and has given interviews regarding the operation of the Peruvian Regime. The following excerpt from one such interview gives some insight into Peru's necessity (and willingness) to take extreme measures in order to counter the advances of the People's War:

Q: "Why did you support Fujimori at that time [coup of April 5, 1992]?"

A: "...At 10 in the morning of Sunday [April 5] all the Heads of the Regions and the High Command were in the operations room of the Army Command, located on the 5th floor of the so-called "little Pentagon."

"Also there, although it sounds like a lie, was Vladimiro Montesinos, who for the space of an hour, with the aid of documents, photographs and videos of the terrorists, gave us a presentation of the serious situation in which the country finds itself."

"...He showed us an album of terrorists whom he had located, but he indicated to us at the time that subversion was advancing..."

Q: "In how many hours did you decide the future of Peru?"

A: "It was in two hours. One hour for Montesinos's presentation and the other hour for that of Hermoza. They were sure that the subversives were going to defeat us and were going to have control of the country."

In other words, the ruling circles of the Peruvian regime used the advances in the People's War to suspend the Constitution, dismiss the judicial system, and issue decrees to strengthen their repressive laws.

Superficially, Fujimori was condemned by every nation in the world, and human rights organizations issued harsh words. But imperialists continued to give loans and conduct trade relations to strengthen his dictatorial powers. And big human rights organizations (such as AI and America's Watch), have objectively continued to support the Fujimori regime's efforts against the People's War by condemning PCP and suggesting to the regime that they clean up their act.

While the situation confronting Fujimori in April 1992 is not exactly the same as now, the regime's hold on power is tenuous and severe measures are required to maintain their grip. Implementation of the death penalty is one of them.

#### THE U.S. HAS ALREADY PUT ITS PUBLIC STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE DEATH PENALTY:

One week after Peru reinstated the death penalty, "Clinton told Congress ... that Peru qualified for duty-free treatment of its products under the Andean Trade Preference Act, 'an important step for Peru in its effort to fight against narcotics production and trafficking.'" (NY Times; 13 Aug).

The U.S. has long said that one consideration in extending a country favorable trade agreements is their record on human rights. Not only is the U.S. approving Peru's reinstatement of the death penalty it is giving a signal to other countries that such measures as the death penalty are both necessary and desirable.

As readers of the EBs know, in order for Peru to reinstate the death penalty it would have to withdraw from the San Jose Human Rights Pact (part of the Organization of American States). However, the OAS has been remarkably silent about the reinstatement. It is not impossible that some "deal" has been made since it's well known the U.S. has maximum influence in OAS. Or it may be that the blessing of the U.S. is more important than being in the San Jose Pact.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BY A DESPERATE GOVERNMENT:

Accompanying the reinstatement of the death penalty, the Fujimori regime is

also escalating its propaganda campaign of psychological warfare. On 27 July, La Republica carried full-page headlines claiming that Dr Guzman had called for an end to the People's War and alleging they had a video to prove it. Radio, TV, and international wire services carried the story. But evidently the only video they had was the 24 September speech, which of course they didn't show. And less than a week later the headlines implied that Dr Guzman was converting to Catholicism! During the coming weeks there will no doubt be more wild fabrications. All of these lies must be recognised for what they are - psychological warfare against the people. A desperate government's effort to undermine Dr Guzman's strength, and demoralise the people. An article in Caretas (5 August), in analysing the non-existent video, made a very revealing statement:

"... the truth is that Fujimori was interested in making Guzman appear with a completely different image than he projected when he was presented in the cage to the world media, in which he gave a speech to his followers... in order for them to continue with the war that they unleashed 13 years ago against the Peruvian democracy."

In other words, the U.S.-backed Fujimori government has been so stung by the speech delivered by Dr Guzman from the cage on 24 Sept, that they have tried to do everything they can to destroy his strong image.

### STATEMENT AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY FROM MPP, SWEDEN

The IEC received a statement from Movimiento Popular del Peru, Sweden (People's Movement of Peru). It reads in part:

"The genocidal and traitorous dictatorship of Fujimori, following the commands of Yankee imperialism and using the reactionary, opportunist, and revisionist services of the so-called "democratic constituent Congress", has established the death penalty in Peru. This sinister move is no more than the logical consequence of the genocidal policy against the people, carried out by the bloody dog Fujimori, in application of his counter-revolutionary war of 'low intensity'. With these actions the Regime is bringing a more reactionary character to the old and rotten Peruvian State. They are dreaming of the annihilation of the growing and successful People's War, which is spreading around the country.

"As a part of their necessity to restructure the rotten State, which is breaking into many pieces, the Peruvian reaction intends to "legalize" the genocide that has been practiced with impunity since 1980...."

### **THE THREAT TO DR GUZMAN'S LIFE HAS INCREASED!**

**URGENT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN!**

**DOWN WITH THE DEATH PENALTY!**

President Fujimori and his U.S.backers have a strategic necessity to crush the leadership of the People's War. Now that the regime has legalised the death penalty, they are gambling on being able to commit even more crimes against the people in the near future and still hold power. But to do it they have to take great risks. Within Peru sections of the government's "loyal opposition", and even the Catholic and evangelical churches, have organized a "No to the Death Penalty Campaign". The reasons they give are: religious, the fear of international financial sanctions, and the fear of making martyrs out of the PCP leaders who would be executed. And groups like Amnesty International have reprimanded Peru for reinstating the death penalty. Their reason? That the death penalty isn't an "effective" way to wipe out the Communist Party of Peru.

Human rights groups and even governments may issue harsh words and warnings, but the reasons they give for opposing the death penalty are very different than the IEC's. It is absolutely necessary that those who recognize that Dr Guzman's life must be defended step forward with all of their strength. We must unite all who believe that the life of a political leader of millions must be defended, and that Fujimori and his imperialist backers have no right to decide which political prisoners are "legitimate" and deserving of "human rights", and which are "illegitimate".

### 12-24 SEPTEMBER CAMPAIGN

The escalation in the Campaign called for Sept takes on more urgent importance in light of the swiftness with which the death penalty is being implemented. The US-backed Fujimori government will undoubtedly mark the same period with their

own reactionary actions - which will likely include calls for the use of the death penalty against Abimael Guzman and other political prisoners.

Between now and 12-24 Sept the IEC must work towards unleashing the worldwide outcry: "Down With the Death Penalty!", making many more people aware of events in Peru and the danger to the life of Dr Guzman and other political prisoners. Beginning at 15:09 on 12 Sept an escalation involving many new forces must be initiated in ways that no one can ignore. Between 12-24 Sept the IEC Campaign must step forward with all of its strength - drawing new people into different types of activities. We must call people to the streets and hound the opposition everywhere - at Embassies and government buildings, on radio and TV, and in the printed media. People in trade unions and neighborhoods must find ways to be heard, while at the same time lawyers and professionals must step forward to take up the battle. And on 24 Sept, Dr Guzman's speech - the speech that stung the U.S.-backed Peruvian government so painfully - must be heard around the globe!

#### FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED!

It is critical that IEC respond to the urgency of the passing of the death penalty in Peru, and expand the Campaign. We cannot afford to "wait and see" what happens. What we do now can affect significantly the freedom Fujimori has to act in this new situation. The London office must be in a position to coordinate this Campaign. A leaflet and a 1-page introduction to IEC are being prepared for wide distribution. A 36-page pamphlet on the Campaign is being prepared. The pamphlet will contain the Call, Dr Guzman's 24 September speech, an essay on why Abimael Guzman is the most important political prisoner, a report on the IEC Delegations to Peru and the IEC Founding Conferences, information on conditions in Peru and U.S. intervention, and dozens of pictures of IEC actions around the world. The IEC Coordinating Office believes it will be a very important tool with which to expand the Campaign. If the pamphlet and other materials are to be available by the 12-24 September escalation, the office must receive funds immediately! The IEC also plans to produce a video on the Campaign, but this cannot be done without significant donations.

#### RESOLUTION PASSED BY NATIONAL LAWYER'S GUILD:

Following is a Resolution that was passed unanimously by the National Lawyer's Guild at their annual conference this month. The National Lawyer's Guild is a 5,000-member organization of progressive lawyers in the U.S. The IEC suggests that this Resolution be popularized, and that IEC supporters encourage other organizations to adopt similar resolutions and act upon them.

#### DEFEND POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR LAWYERS IN PERU AND OPPOSE U.S. INTERVENTION

WHEREAS:

A. President Fujimori unlawfully seized power on April 5, 1992 by dismissing Congress, suspending the Constitution, declaring martial law and ruling by decree. This coup resulted in massive detentions of opponents of the regime.

B. The Fujimori regime has focused its attacks on Dr Abimael Guzman, chairman of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP), and alleged members and supporters of the PCP. In the past ten months, Dr Guzman and 250 alleged members of the Maoist PCP and the Guevarist Tupac Amaru have received life sentences after secret "trials" conducted by hooded military officers.

C. In September 1992, attorneys Peter Erlinder and Leonard Weinglass went on a fact-finding trip to Peru as part of an international legal delegation and found that Guzman's trial violated international and Peruvian law in that it was conducted in secret by a military tribunal; no charges of committing any particular acts were proffered; Guzman's attorney was not permitted to investigate the case, prepare a defense, offer evidence nor cross-examine witnesses; and the verdict was announced by President Fujimori before the trial started;

D. Since October 1992, Dr Guzman has been denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of the medicine he needs for a serious skin condition. He is now being held in complete isolation, in a small underground concrete cell on a naval base.

E. At least nine Peruvian lawyers who have defended political prisoners have themselves been arrested, tried in secret by military officers, and sentenced to life in prison for "treason to the fatherland", including Dr Alfredo Crespo,

Guzman's lawyer. A number of other progressive attorneys have been assassinated and "disappeared" by military-run death squads.

F. On August 3, 1993, President Fujimori's handpicked Congress voted to institute the death penalty for alleged acts of "terrorism." Fujimori has repeatedly stated that he wants to apply the death penalty to Guzman.

G. In May 1993 relatives of political prisoners made an urgent appeal to the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to intervene against the regime's preparations for a massacre of political prisoners at Canto Grande and Chorrillos women's prison. Hundreds of prisoners have been concentrated at these two locations, as stories of "prison escapes" and "rescue plots" are broadcast in the media. Similar signs preceded full-scale military assaults that resulted in the mass murder of more than 300 political prisoners in 1986 and 1992.

H. If the Fujimori regime is able to successfully carry out its repressive campaign, this will set a very dangerous precedent for political prisoners and popular movements in the Americas and elsewhere in the world.

I. The U.S. government is playing a direct and growing role in shoring up the Fujimori regime, from the establishment of a firebase in the Upper Huallaga Valley by U.S. Special Forces, and economic "shock therapy" by the U.S.-dominated IMF, to a \$16 million grant by the U.S. Department of Justice to fund Fujimori's reorganization of the Peruvian military tribunal system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lawyers Guild:

1. Condemns the violations of international and Peruvian law in the prosecution, trial and sentencing of Dr Abimael Guzman, alleged members and supporters of the Communist Party of Peru, and other opponents of the Peruvian government.
2. Demands that all political prisoners in Peru receive medical care, access to legal counsel, visits from relatives, and decent food and living conditions;
3. Demands the immediate release of Dr Alfredo Crespo, Dr. Marta Huatay, and other lawyers who have been imprisoned because of their representation of political prisoners;
4. Opposes any moves by the Fujimori regime toward another prison massacre of political prisoners as occurred in 1986 and 1992;
5. Opposes the institution of the death penalty in Peru;
6. Opposes U.S. military and economic support of the Fujimori regime;
7. Will officially communicate the above-stated positions to the Peruvian and U.S. governments; and
8. Encourages NLG chapters to disseminate information concerning the defense of political prisoners and their lawyers in Peru, and to oppose U.S. intervention and support for the Fujimori regime.

#### DEATH PENALTY DENOUNCED AT SAN FRANCISCO PRESS CONFERENCE

A press conference denouncing the death penalty in Peru was held on 5 August 1993 at the Peruvian Consulate in San Francisco, USA. Speakers included: Rev Paul Sawyer, Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship; Heriberto Ocasio, Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru; Maharani, Meskito Nation of Nicaragua; and Janet Casala (IEC).

It was covered by Spanish television, as well as Radio KPFA. IEC described the coverage they received on KPFA, a major progressive radio station, as the most extensive and sympathetic coverage of our Campaign that this radio station has yet presented. It included an interview with both Heriberto Ocasio and a representative of the Peruvian Consulate.

INDIA: The Punjab Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman report:

"Besides the sending of telegrams, about 1,000 peasant workers, employees, students, and women sent signed protest letters to the President of Peru."

"Punjab Committee has planned a Conference and Demonstration on Punjab level about Dr Guzman on Sept 12, 1993, writing of slogans on walls in villages and cities of Punjab, conducting mass meetings and rallies. Publishing a poster and a leaflet is planned in preparation of the above programme, so that by launching a mass Campaign in Punjab, the issue of the defence of Dr Abimael Guzman may be projected among the masses."

#### NEW SIGNATORIES:

Nettie Pollard, Feminists Against Censorship\*, England  
 J. McCaulsky, Lesbian & Gay Freedom Movement\*, England  
 Ghodrat Moghadampour, Chairman of Refugees' Council of Vaasa-Finland, Finland