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EMERGENCY BULLETIN 42

International Emergency Committee To Defend The Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

Address: BCM . IEC, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC 1N 3XX, U.K. Telephone / Fax : 44-71- 482 0853

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Members of 5th IEC Delegation Talk with Ex-Prisoner of War:

When the 5th IEC Delegation was in Lima in late October, some delegates were able to talk with a former political prisoner who was recently released from the dungeons of the Fujimori regime. Following are excerpts from comments of this ex-prisoner of war:

"First of all, I want to emphasise the work of the Communist Party of Peru, a Party of new type which has led the victorious People's War for more than 13 years. As an expression of that organisation, which is rightly and correctly led by our Chairman Gonzalo, in the prisons where prisoners of war are held, we live in an organised way, under the direction of the PCP... The prisoners carry out their tasks with overwhelming optimism and happiness.

"...For a long time, since the first prisoners of war were detained, the Peruvian State has been applying a plan of annihilation, a genocidal plan against the prisoners of war. The situation of the prisoners of war is not disconnected from the situation in the country as a whole. It is an expression of the struggle between the new and the old, and that is also going on in the prisons...

"...Fujimori is continuing the policy [of the Belaunde and Garcia regimes] of annihilation and genocide against prisoners of war. We know the facts of the 5 April 1992 coup d'etat. This was a necessity for Fujimori and the state that he heads. After this event, he created excuses by saying that prisoners of war were able to do whatever they wanted; that they were acting like they were the owners of the prisons; and that it was necessary to reestablish the "principle of authority". (Since Belaunde, Garcia and now Fujimori, the "principle of authority" has always been used as an excuse to apply their policy of genocide. They also use this as an excuse to transfer prisoners in order to systematically isolate and kill them.)...

"Through an agreement with state representatives, the regime carried out inspections in the prisons. They said that we had arms, and that we had built tunnels. These were pretexts for inspections. We had to go through a legal battle to prove irrefutably that we did not have those things. A commission that included representatives of the state, representatives of the police, and representatives of the prisoners of war, and with the mediation of the Red Cross, carried out some inspections - mainly in Pavillions 1A and 4B [sections of Canto Grande Prison where prisoners of war were held] but they were unable to prove that any of these things existed. Some days later a human rights commission from the OAS came into the prisons to confirm and certify the prison conditions. They did not find anything... This happened before 1991, in Canto Grande.

"...Fujimori carried out his coup d'etat on 5 April 1992. Then, in May the reaction intensified its campaign. One of the things it promoted was a transfer of the prisoners of war - in this case to Chorrillos. One of the things I want to emphasise is that prisoners did not oppose the transfer. They only demanded some guarantees for their lives. Because they knew that a genocidal attack was imminent, they wanted the presence of the Red Cross, their relatives, and their lawyers. And what was the Peruvian State's answer? Genocide... On May 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1992, they committed genocide...

"From all this you can see the nature of the conditions we have had to endure. For example, there are problems with the food. The amount of food that has been provided to us does not correspond with the food intake that is normally provided to prisoners in other areas. Basically, our food has been provided by our relatives... There are other constant problems, such as physical aggression against prisoners of war, beatings, torture, kidnapping...

"After the genocide of May 1992, came the transfers. While some previous regimes have concentrated prisoners, this time they applied the practice of disper-

sion. What for? To create better conditions in which to apply their policy of annihilation against prisoners - that is the reason. One condition they created is the denial of the right to visits. By dispersing prisoners they are also able to deny other rights that have been fought for. For example, the right to freedom of expression is completely violated: singing, movements, even playing ball is prohibited.

Members of the delegation asked about the policy of isolation which is now being forced on many of the prisoners of war to prevent the kind of political organisation seen in the video "The People of the Shining Path":

"The policy of isolation is expanded. This policy of isolation has been applied to Dr Guzman in strictest way. See, for example, that an international commission came to see him specifically and was not allowed to enter...

"We know that the prisoners who are isolated lack all kinds of things, including the kinds of things that are usually provided by relatives who visit. Because, as you know, visits to prisoners who are sentenced to life imprisonment are prohibited for a year, and even after the year has past they continue to apply the policy of isolation. By looking at what this regime has done, and also by looking at what previous regimes have applied, you can understand how they must be treating Dr Guzman. For example, when a prisoner needs toilet-paper or a toothbrush, they have to ask for it. It is brought to them and then, after the prisoner uses it, it is taken away. The same is true for water. They do not have water. Each time they need water they have to ask for it. It is brought and then the container of water is taken away. This treatment is very systematic and intense. That is what they are applying to Dr Guzman. How do we know this? Some time ago we received a visit from some people who told us these things. That is the treatment he has now. It is very strict. The same policy is applied to those in Puno. Obviously they don't go to the same extent with these measures there. Dr Guzman's isolation is applied more intensely than to other political prisoners.

"...In the case of the prison I was in, prisoners sentenced to life for treason or terrorism can live in groups with other prisoners, but that is only because of the physical structure of the prison. Because of that situation, State representatives, from Fujimori down to the functionaries who obey his orders, have proposed to build a new prison next to the prison there now. This prison is proposed in order to isolate them completely. Each prisoner would be in a cell. For example, right now cells made for one person hold two or three prisoners who are there for life imprisonment because of the overcrowding that exists there. That's the reality. One of the things they are saying is that this overcrowding allows them to become organised, so they are trying to isolate them. They are building a new prison where they are going to be moved very soon, and they are going to be in individual cells without communication between cells.

"...There are also very strict rules for going out to the yard. Sometimes they punish you by not allowing you to go to the yard. For example, if you sing you are not allowed to go to the yard for a certain number of times; if you are intransigent and do not obey the police you do not get to go to the yard. Even if someone demands that his rights be respected, he cannot go to the yard... Sometimes the punishment is no visits for 3 months.... These are abusive and illegal sanctions...

"[After the May 1992 massacre,] some of the prisoners were transferred to remote places, such as to Puno, a place that is intensely cold. Now the prisoners have bronchial, rheumatic, gastric, and digestive problems. Do they solve that? Do they attend them? No, because their policy is to annihilate them, kill them... This is what is happening now. Chorrillos is the same...

Members of the delegation asked about torture of political prisoners:

"[During detention]...the most common methods of physical torture are to tie you up and hang you by your feet. Then they drop you into a cylinder of water and hold you in it for a couple of minutes. Then they pull you out and ask you for information. In other cases they pound nails into your hands. Then they say, for example: "Do you think you are the Saviour?" They mock you. "So now you have to experience the crucifixion!" And then they pound the nails in. Some others have been burned with a red-hot iron. They used an iron to burn parts of your body. And some

others were beaten until they became sick... They also use electric shocks in the interrogation on the genitalia... Sometimes they beat you in the back of the neck, so the person begins to have problems with nervous reactions, or coordination problems. In other cases when people are arrested they shoot to kill them. But although they shoot with that intention, they remain alive. I know of a prisoner - and this is just one among many - who was shot in the back when he was captured. And then they said he resisted arrest... But the truth is that when they captured him they were trying to disappear him by shooting him on the spot.

"Then there is psychological torture... Torture in front of the relatives is not applied in detention prior to going to prison, but it is applied in the countryside. Military operatives apply this policy to peasants in military operations. In particular they rape women.

"[In detention, the authorities] say they are going to kill the prisoner to try to intimidate them and to carry out psychological pressure. Prisoners are held in DINCOTE for 15 days, during which they are tortured. A prisoner is beaten in order to extract information from him. Then in order to make them sign a paper confirming his participation, they are submitted to all kinds of tortures. They torture prisoners to make them sign something that is not true. The most common kind of psychological torture is to threaten the prisoner by saying his relatives are going to be killed, one after the other, in front of him. Or they say that their relatives are going to go to prison.

* * *

"...The conditions are subhuman - very hard for us... The regime has intensified a more systematic policy of genocide and annihilation... But our comrades are optimistic to the maximum, and are continuing to follow the aims they have begun."

International Lawyer Set to Go to Peru - FUNDS Urgently Needed:

The IEC is preparing right now to send another international lawyer to Lima to work with the democratic lawyers there until the visit to Dr Guzman is achieved. The lawyer who will be going is a strong supporter of the IEC campaign, and someone who is extremely capable of carrying out this task and representing the people from around the world who have given their all to the campaign. The lawyer is ready to go. The only thing holding up his trip at the moment is money for the air ticket and accommodation in Lima.

Readers of the Emergency Bulletins will understand the urgency of this trip at this time. The 5th IEC Delegation reported that there are many openings right now for pressing for this visit. The government is clearly on the defensive concerning the denial of the visit to Dr Guzman -- which is flagrantly illegal, even by the regime's laws since Dr Guzman's period of solitary confinement has been officially over since 12 September 1993. This was made obvious to the 5th Delegation when (for instance) while they were there, Fujimori had to go on national television and acknowledge the international lawyers by name, while defensively boasting that he would be the one who decides when and who visit Abimael Guzman.

While in Lima, the international lawyer will also be fighting to visit other political prisoners, Drs Crespo and Cartagena and other lawyers for the political prisoners. They will be working with the democratic lawyers who are at this moment pressing for the visit to Dr Guzman, and are fighting to reclaim the right of lawyers to defend political prisoners. It is the strongly held view of the Lima lawyers that an international lawyer on the ground in Lima at this time will make a great difference in achieving the visit to Dr Guzman, and making breakthroughs in the whole situation with the political prisoners/prisoners of war and their lawyers.

We urge IEC supporters from all corners of the world to go out now to friends and other supporters and raise the money for the journey of the international lawyer. The estimated cost of the trip is \$3000. Nothing is more important for our campaign at this moment than to send this lawyer to Lima. Please contribute generously. Please contribute now.

Life Imprisonment of Dr Crespo and Dr Cartagena Challenged in Lima:

A news article in the Lima press reports that Dr Jorge Avendaño, the head of the Colegio de Abogados (Lima Bar Association), is requesting a review of the case of the lawyer Dr Alfredo Crespo. Dr Crespo was condemned to life in prison in January 1993 for the sole "crime" of defending Dr Guzman. Also, IEC has learned that on 1 October, 10 former law school classmates of Dr Jorge Cartagena submitted a petition to Dr Avendaño asking that the Colegio name 2 lawyers to "go to the Supreme Council of Military Justice and study the cases that have given rise to this drastic sentence." Both Drs Crespo and Cartagena are members of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, a group which defends political prisoners whose members have largely been forced underground, into exile, or have been imprisoned or murdered.

The news article on Dr Crespo reports that in a recent discussion in the Peruvian Congress concerning proposed changes in "anti-terrorist" laws, one Congressman, Enrique Chirinos Soto,

"made a comment to 'clear my conscience' with respect to the case of the lawyer Alfredo Crespo, of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, who defended the leader of Sendero Luminoso, Abimael Guzman. He said that Guzman had a just trial and was sentenced to life imprisonment. But that with respect to the situation of his lawyer, he personally thought that it had not been very clear. 'It concerns me that he may have been convicted for exercising the right to counsel,' said Chirinos... The Congressman from 'Renovacion' party [Chirinos] said that the President of the Lima Bar Association, Jorge Avendaño, will promote a petition to revise the trial."

The Congressman Chirinos is obviously no friend of the people of Peru, but when even forces like him openly question the sentence of Dr Crespo, this indicates certain splits among the rulers and possible openings in the situation in Lima-- openings which must be seized upon.

La Cantuta Massacre Causing More Contradictions for Fujimori Regime:

In November the Fujimori regime announced they were asking the Army to turn over some of the military officers who are accused in the massacre of 9 students and a professor at the university of La Cantuta. It is well known (and documented even in the Lima press) that the military carried out this massacre in July 1992; the scandal has gone international, requiring the regime to make some token efforts towards prosecuting the army officers.

In early December, the Army made it clear that they would not voluntarily turn over the officers to a civilian court. On 18 December, a civilian judge formally charged 10 of the suspected military officers for the La Cantuta murders. Now the Supreme Court of Peru will decide whether the case can be heard in a civilian court. This clash amongst various branches of the government and military appears to represent rifts among the rulers over how to present to the world a picture "improvements" in human rights, while continuing to step up state terror against the people. This scandal may unravel further and cause more contradictions for the rulers. (The Lima magazine Sí has named up to 40 officers connected with the case.)

Prisoners in Imperialist Countries Declare Their Support for

Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in Peru:

IEC has received an important "Declaration of Support" signed by 70 prisoners from imperialist countries. The statement was issued by "Prison Legal News" a prisoners' publication from the US. The editor circulated it among prisoners throughout the world. He reports that there was censorship of the statement in the prisons in France and Italy, so some political prisoners there were unable to see it. Following are excerpts:

"We, the undersigned, are political prisoners, prisoners of war and progressive social prisoners held captive throughout the imperialist countries. We extend our solidarity through the walls that hold our bodies in captivity to the Peruvian people, the PCP (the Communist Party of Peru, AKA the 'Shining Path') and the prisoners of war

of the Peruvian revolution...

"The fascist dictatorship of Peru holds hundreds of PCP prisoners of war, including Abimael Guzman, the Chairman of the PCP, and many other militants and cadre of the party. We denounce the torture and murder of these political prisoners by the fascist government...

"The heroic example of struggle and sacrifice by PCP prisoners is an inspiration to revolutionary prisoners everywhere. It continues the long tradition of struggle and resistance of progressive prisoners throughout history. Revolutionary struggle continues on all fronts and under all conditions, even within the deepest and darkest dungeons of capitalism...

"The fascist regime in Peru, with its bloody record of torture, murder and 'disappearances', is brazenly seeking 'legal' reasons to execute Chairman Guzman and other PCP prisoners based on the fact that they are communists and revolutionaries. We must oppose this and we do. We call on our sisters and brothers, inside and out, to make our voice heard in opposing this vile move.

"The imperialists are closing ranks on an international scale in order to isolate and crush the revolution in Peru. The revolution challenges their New World Order and exposes its clay feet and gives us a living example of the people in arms. We support the Peruvian revolution as a just war of liberation. The Peruvian peoples' struggle is our struggle.

"It is vitally important that we come together, across political lines, to support this struggle..."

Signatories include political prisoners identifying themselves from:

MOVE Organisation (USA); Sinn Fein (Ireland); IWW (USA); New Afrikan Collective (USA); Fighting Communist Cells (Belgium); American Indian Movement (USA); Revolutionary Movement (Germany); Red Army Faction (Germany); GRAPO (Spain); Accion Directe (France). Twelve signatories identified themselves as "Italian Communist Guerrilla" (Italy); others identified themselves as "Free Spirit", "Libertarian", "Political Prisoner", "Prisoner of War", or "Communist".

A full copy of the text of the Declaration and signatories is available in English, Spanish, French and German, on request from IEC.

Mumia Abu-Jamal Exposes the Reinstatement of the Death Penalty in Peru:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black revolutionary journalist and political prisoner in the US, has written an article condemning the death penalty in Peru. Mumia was framed up for the murder of a policeman several years ago, and was himself sentenced to the death. From "death row" he continues to write powerful and uncompromising articles against the U.S. imperialists. He is a signatory to the IEC Call, and has written several articles which have been reprinted in the EB's and many other publications. Following are excerpts from an article dated 5 November which appeared in Scoop USA:

"Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, in his relentless campaign to reinstate the death penalty in the South American nation, is trying to re-make the most basic principles of law...

"The U.S.-backed Fujimori regime, upon orders of the U.S. empire, has spit on international law, regional treaties and sworn conventions, to attempt to extinguish a man perceived as more threatening to U.S. interests than Peruvian ones... What they really fear is not Guzman, but the growing power and reach of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) a largely indigenous, Indian, Maoist army that will not bow to the imperial masters in Washington.

"They fear its spread and emergence in other areas called the U.S. 'sphere of influence' (empire). That is what they really want to kill."

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

Sri Lanka: The videos "The Revolution in Peru" and "People of the Shining Path" were shown at conferences in **Galle** and **Colombo**. As a result, the Student-People Solidarity Movement (an anti-imperialist group) and the All Ceylon Teachers Union (with 40,000 members) adopted resolutions condemning the Fujimori regime and demanding immediate unconditional release of Dr Guzman.

Spain: On 5 December, a Resolution "Solidarity with the Peruvian Lawyers" was passed by a group of lawyers and judges from all over Spain. The group "People of Law" ("Gentes del Derechos") represents 2000 mainly progressive lawyers. It is a very broad grouping which includes public prosecutors and the current Minister of Justice in Spain. Dr Francesc Arnau, a member of the 4th IEC Delegation, introduced the Resolution to the group of 300 assembled in Santiago, Spain. Following are excerpts:

"Very soon, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS will make public its report and recommendation about the petition No. 11.015 [which includes the petition submitted by the democratic lawyers in Lima]. This petition against the Peruvian state has been presented by the North American lawyers Peter Erlinder and Leonard Weinglass on behalf and representing the lawyers of Lima who, due to severe security threats on them, cannot appear publicly on this issue.

"The demand includes in particular a petition asking that the disappearances, persecution, detentions and murders of lawyers of political prisoners stop in Peru. Especially representative of this situation are the cases of lawyers Alfredo Crespo, Jorge Cartagena, Martha Huatay. Crespo, for example, has been sentenced to life in prison for the sole 'crime' of daring to assume the legal defence of Mr Abimael Guzman Reinoso.

"For all of this, we are addressing to the members of the Inter-American Commission asking that their report and recommendations demand that the government of Mr Fujimori appear before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights located in San Jose, Costa Rica. We also demand that, in any case, the Commission accept as theirs our demand for the release of all the lawyers of Peruvian political prisoners who currently are in prison, under the worst conditions, because they dared to carry out their obligation consistent with the rights and duties of defense demanded by this profession."

- Assembly of People of Law, Santiago de Compostela - 5-12-93 - III Congress

Music Video Features Dr Abimael Guzman and the Revolution in Peru

"For 12 years the people of Peru have waged revolutionary WAR against the oppressive U.S. backed government". These words flash huge across the TV screen over scenes of revolutionary fighters in Peru. This is how a new music-video by the U.S. group *Rage Against the Machine* opens. The song is called "Bombtrack" and a rapper delivers the lyrics while a band plays hard-driving rock/punk music. Scenes of Dr Guzman speaking from the cage are interspersed with scenes of the band performing in a cage. Hooded soldiers with rifles hover on top in both. There are electrifying scenes from the battle at Raucana shantytown and the women in Canto Grande Prison. In fast-moving images and a few words, the story of Dr Guzman and the revolutionary war in Peru is told powerfully. The video and the song take the side of the people-- with great beauty and fierceness. One repeating line:

"Landlords and power whores/ On my people they took turns
Dispute the suits I ignite/ and then watch 'em burn"

Rage Against the Machine is a very popular group especially among the youth throughout the U.S. and Europe. IEC has learned that the video is scheduled to begin showing on MTV ("Music TV") in the U.S. and Europe very soon, and possible in other places around the world later on.

New Signatories to the IEC Call:

Aref (Singer) - Iran

Leonard Sanford (USA) - Lawyer

Charlotte Webster (UK) - Revolutionary Communist League

David Dictor/Vocals, Alan Schultz/Drums, Chris Wilder/Guitar,

Erica Liss/Guitar (USA) - members of the band MDC

Don Mattera (Azania/South Africa) - Journalist, Executive member of Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO), BCU

Joe Keigley/Vocals and Guitar, Brian Goble/Guitar (Canada) - members of the band DOA (*Dead on Arrival*)