



# EMERGENCY BULLETIN 43

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

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### Continuing Battle to Send International Lawyer to Lima to Visit Dr Guzman

On 31 December, IEC received the outrageous news that Dr Francesc Arnau (the international lawyer who was set to go to Lima to work with the democratic lawyers there) was denied a visa by the Fujimori regime. There is little doubt that the visa was denied for political reasons because the regime knows of Dr Arnau, who lives in Barcelona and was a member of the 4th IEC Delegation. They could assume his reason for going to Lima was to fight to see Dr Guzman and the other political prisoners.

[Another international lawyer (from a different country) who is a known supporter from IEC also applied recently for a visa to Peru. He soon received a letter from Peruvian ambassador lecturing him on how the "treatment received by Abimael Guzman and other 'political prisoners' strictly fits the legal control applicable to the prison system" and that concern for Dr Guzman's treatment was "rather excessive and even offensive." The ambassador said he had referred the visa application to the authorities in Lima. Apparently, the Peruvian government is doing all it can to prevent an international lawyer wanting to visit Dr Guzman from even entering the country! But the battle to defend the life of Dr Guzman and the other political prisoners has always required an uphill struggle with the regime and its US backers, and the people have won many victories in this year and a half. The IEC Coordinating Committee is continuing to work towards sending an international lawyer to Peru, and this too will undoubtedly be achieved. Nothing is more important now for the work of IEC than to fight for the visit with Dr Guzman.]

The story of Dr Arnau's visa denial is instructive. He is known in both Europe and Peru as a lawyer who defends political prisoners. When he first approached the Peruvian Consulate in Barcelona for a visa, they gave no indication there would be a problem. Such visas are given routinely, particularly to professionals. But when Dr Arnau officially applied for the visa after buying the air ticket, the Consulate said they would have to contact Lima first. Then they delayed giving him an answer until after he had missed his first plane reservation. He was still determined to go, but six days later the Consulate told him they had received a fax from Lima stating: "Visa for the lawyer Francesc Arnau is denied".

Following the denial of the visa, Dr Arnau wrote to Fujimori:

"Although I have presented my protest to all the Bar Associations to which I belong -- in Catalunya (Barcelona, Vic, Mataro, Sabadel, Manresa, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Terrassa...) as well as in Spain (Burgos, Toledo ..), I also want you to know some of the questions that other European lawyers who are concerned about the situation of human rights in the world have asked themselves. They have exchanged some views on the following points:

" 'Why does the Fujimori regime deny the visa to this international lawyer? What do they have to hide in relation to the situation of Dr Guzman and the other lawyers and political prisoners? What kind of manoeuvres do they intend now that will not permit them to give the visa to this international lawyer to come to Peru?'

"And all of these matters become more important if we take into account your own internal Peruvian law: for months now, Dr Guzman's period of total isolation has been over; [one year is the maximum] a prisoner can be kept in solitary confinement.

"Sr Fujimori, we are interested in reminding you, meanwhile, that the claims for the rights of the prisoners and their lawyers throughout the world continue to be the same: the right to communicate with one another and to obtain information freely without any kind of censoring; the right to express oneself freely, making their own analysis without any kind of intermediaries.

Faithfully, Francesc Arnau y Arias

Additional signatories to Dr Arnau's letter:

Monseigneur Jacques Gaillot - (Paris, France), Bishop

Denis Langois - (Paris, France), Lawyer

Outer Eastern Network For Peace, Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, and others (Victoria, Australia)

IEC also received copies of many letters protesting the visa denial which had been sent to Fujimori and the Peruvian Consulate/Barcelona, including from:

Gary Leupp (US) - Professor of History, University

IEC Supporters (Hamburg and Berlin, Germany)

Workers in a womens' café (Berlin, Germany)

José Lamberto Gonzalez Ruiz (Mexico) - Lawyer, Secretary of Relations, FNAD  
(National Front of Democratic Lawyers)

Craig Everson (Canberra, Australia) - Lawyer

Andrew Fuller (Melbourne, Australia)

Manuel Fonseca Del Solar (Australia) - Club Hispano de Paz y Amistad

Dr Drew Cottle (Australia) - University of Western Sydney

Deborah Felton (Australia) - Womens' Studies, Australian National Univ.

Marjorie Broadbent (Australia) - Federated Teacher's Union of Victoria

Tom Ryan (Australia) - Gen Sec., Confectioners and Food Preservers Union

Dr Jim Cairns (Australia) - Former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia

Emdad Talukder (UK) - Co-ordinator, Prantik Drama

Neswar Hossain (UK) - Director, Mitali Theatre

Ezaz Mohammed and Ms M Rahman (UK) - Artists, Bilingual Drama

Azad Khan (UK) - Activist, Multi-national Community in London

Rick Best (US) - Executive Director, National Lawyers Guild

Kurt Berggren, Ernest Goodman, William Goodman, Michael Haddad, Paul Sher  
(Detroit, US) - Lawyers

The following is an excerpt of the letter from Rick Best, Executive Director of the National Lawyers Guild (US):

"On behalf of the National Lawyers Guild and its 6,000 members internationally, I protest your government's recent unusual action of denying a visa to human rights attorney Francesc Arnau of Barcelona, Spain.

"...The National Lawyers Guild has carefully monitored your government's prosecution against Dr Guzman. Peter Erlinder, President of the National Lawyers Guild, has twice personally visited Lima to investigate your government's treatment of Dr Guzman; during his most recent visit, Mr Erlinder was denied his request to meet with Dr Guzman.

"This past August, at its annual convention in New York City, the National Lawyers Guild passed a resolution which condemned the Peruvian government for violations of international and domestic law in its prosecutions of Dr Guzman, other political prisoners, and their lawyers.

"We insist that international lawyers, such as Francesc Arnau, be respected in their efforts to investigate violations of human rights law. We urge your government to immediately grant Dr Arnau a visa to visit your country. We further urge you to permit Dr Guzman to visit with his lawyers."

A letter was also sent to Fujimori from Bernard N.R. Mendis, a lawyer and Joint Secretary of the Campaign for Democracy and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (located in London) demanding that Dr Guzman be allowed visits by his lawyers.

The fact that Fujimori still refuses to allow Dr Guzman visits by his lawyers, doctors and family after over 16 months! has provoked broad international protest. The democratic lawyers in Lima are continuing to fight for this visit, and the IEC Coordinating Committee is making its highest priority arranging for other international lawyers to go to Lima on this mission soon.

## Fujimori Refuses to Review Cases of Political Prisoners...

### ...Fearing "Lack of Evidence" (!)

AP - 21 January 1994 - Lima, Peru:

"President Alberto Fujimori has rejected a proposal from a senior US official to review hundreds of secret court trials of guerrillas.

"Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, suggested that the cases be reviewed following reports that innocent people have been sentenced to jail.

"The government refused any review because guerrillas could be freed for lack of evidence, Fujimori said late Thursday."

This is a stunning admission on the part of Fujimori. He knows he cannot afford any review of the cases of those political prisoners convicted of "treason" or "apology for terrorism" because most of the political prisoners arrested in the last year have been tried by military tribunals with hooded judges, no witnesses and no right to legal defence. This judicial program was set up to ensure that hundreds of people would be imprisoned (many for life) on the slightest suspicion of supporting the PCP. The regime was never interested in making a legal case for convicting these people. They were concerned with holding power in the face of the People's War, and this required the most vicious measures and the elimination of many legal formalities. The political prisoners and prisoners of war are now living under extremely severe conditions (described as "slow death" by their relatives).

The fact that Watson (who was US Ambassador to Peru during 1986-89) is now publicly recommending "reviews" of cases of some guerrillas, is intended to sow the illusion internationally that the US is "concerned" about the human rights situation in Peru and throughout Latin America. It is a component part of their economic onslaught of the region as the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) goes into effect. The crude hypocrisy of this current public relations ploy regarding political prisoners in Peru is obvious if one considers that it was the US which funded the hooded judges program in the first place. And in the last year, US officials and media have praised the use of military tribunals and heavy sentencing in the trials of "subversives". The New York Times actually claimed that these fascist procedures have improved human rights in Peru because the military "doesn't have to disappear so many people" since they know political prisoners will be summarily sentenced for life.

Watson's trip to Peru is itself a sign of support for the regime since he is the highest-ranking government official to visit the country since Fujimori's "auto-coup" in April 1992. Reuters also reported that, "Watson congratulated Peru on its war against the two guerrilla insurgencies as well as in restoring democracy and the economy."

## Fujimori Regime's Early Plots to Kill Dr Guzman Further Exposed

A feature article entitled "Guzman Found" by Nicholas Shakespeare appearing in the British newspaper, The Telegraph, 22 January, presents some details on the Fujimori regime's plots to kill Dr Guzman back in October 1992.

Shakespeare's viewpoint is reactionary, and there are many outright fabrications in his account, but he interviewed the head of DINCOTE, General Vidal, who captured Dr Guzman but was soon after dismissed from his post due to infighting over how to deal with Dr Guzman within the Fujimori regime. Shakespeare may not have had reason to lie about the following details:

"...After two weeks of interrogation it is decided to execute [Dr Guzman]. The date is set for October 15 [1992] at 8am and a firing squad is selected. Merino [DINCOTE interrogator] is asked to draw up reasons why he must be shot; the "Decree Law" will be signed by the Council of Ministers...

"...the Council of Ministers refuses to sign the execution order. Guzman is condemned to life imprisonment, and in April [1992] he is ... transported by boat from San Lorenzo to the naval base at Callao..."

If this account is true, it confirms the 15 October 1992 execution date reported in a December 1992 article in the French newspaper Le Monde. In that article, a Peruvian government official said that the military wanted to kill Dr Guzman on that date, but were prevented from doing so because of fear of "international repercussions." By October 15, 1992, the international campaign was active in dozens of countries.

## People's War in Peru Continues Strongly

1 January 1994, Associated Press, Lima, Peru:

"Minutes before the start of the new year, leftist guerrillas blacked out the city, renewing what has become almost a New Year's tradition..."

"Rebels blew up power pylons near Lima about 11:50 pm Friday and plunged most of the city into darkness, police said Saturday. The outage lasted 90 minutes."

"At the same time, a large hammer and sickle -- the symbol of the Maoist guerrilla group the Shining Path -- was seen burning on a hillside above a shanty town not far from the city center."

The wire services reported that "Peru's security forces stepped up patrols to repel any New Year's attacks." But despite this, the burning hammer and sickle appeared, an action often carried out by dozens of people carrying torches in formation.

Earlier that week, to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Mao Tsetung on 26 December, two car-bombs blew up sections of the Lima headquarters of the DINCOTE (counter-insurgency police), injuring 13 police agents. This is one of the most heavily guarded buildings in all of Peru. Four Lima banks were also attacked, along with a military barracks, Peru's telephone company, and an air force funeral home. An army recruitment office near the Bolivian border was also attacked.

On 5 January, Reuters reported:

"The head of Peru's civil defence militias [the *rondas* - IEC], the force at the front line in a 13-year Maoist guerrilla insurgency, was killed in a rebel attack in the northern coastal city of Chiclayo. Gilberto Diaz Vasquez, 47, was meeting with militia leaders when three Shining Path guerrillas attacked with bombs and firearms. Police said two men and a woman entered the meeting, asked for Diaz, then opened fire with handguns. They tossed explosives behind them as they fled the scene."

It is also known that many of the actions which take place outside of Lima are never reported in the international press.

## 53 Students Kidnapped from University in Huancayo during 1992-93:

Reuters wire service reported on 20 January:

"Peruvian government prosecutor Enrique Miranda Palma said Thursday that 22 of 53 university students kidnapped in 1992 and 1993 were murdered, 5 were held but later released, and 26 remain unaccounted for."

"The Lima newspaper La Republica said it has evidence that the students were killed as part of a plan of a lieutenant colonel with the last name of Gonzales Campana. All 53 were student leaders in the National Central University in Huancayo, 126 miles east of Lima... The kidnappings occurred at night from the students' homes, streets and the university, which had been put under military control [because of increased 'subversive' activity]."

"Military officials would paint Shining Path and Revolutionary Tupac Amaru Movement slogans to trick local residents into thinking the

disappearances were the responsibility of the two groups, the newspaper said.

"Of the 5 who reappeared -- all were held in a military prison-- one brought charges against the military, but later dropped them. The 22 known deaths were caused by gunshots to the head and heart at a short distance and the bodies showed signs of torture."

## News from Around the World:

### COLOMBIA:

IEC received a letter from political prisoners held at El Barne Prison in Tunja, Colombia. Excerpts follow:

"We, the Collective of Political Prisoners "Leonardo Posada", are sending you a patriotic and Bolivarian salute, wishing you great success in your noble task. The Political Prisoners of the El Barne Prison, in solidarity with our comrade Dr. Abimael Guzman and with all our brothers and sisters in the fight, men and women in different prisons in Peru, and in defence of the right to life, thought and expression of every human being, strongly reject any violations which have been carried out against the physical, moral and intellectual integrity of Dr. Guzman.

"At the same time, we want to call on all the people of Latin America and Peru, Non-Governmental-Organizations, Left Organizations, to be vigilant against the process being perpetrated against Dr. Guzman.

"...Finally, we want to tell our sisters and brothers detained in the prisons of Peru that we are sending a warm embrace, and also our best wishes of success and welfare in spite of the difficult conditions that we share."

IEC received a copy of a protest letter addressed to Fujimori from health workers in Bogota, Colombia:

"Health workers in Bogota and other sectors like physicians, students and users of health services, reject and condemn the cruel and inhuman treatment that your government, with the support of the U.S., is subjecting the political prisoners to -- particularly the most important one, Dr. Abimael Guzman, the acknowledged leader of millions of workers, peasants and intellectuals.

"We have also learned about the conditions of physicians, students and other workers in the health services in your country, who have been sentenced and are subjected to inhuman conditions simply for giving medical assistance to political prisoners and those who oppose your regime. Your actions violate the basic rules of medical ethics...

"The prison where you are holding Dr. Guzman, and all the arbitrary actions against the lawyers, physicians and political prisoners are an offence to people around the world who are fighting for their freedom.

"For all the above we demand:

- 1 - Respect of the physical and moral integrity of Dr. Guzman and political prisoners in your country.
- 2 - Allow visits from the International Red Cross, lawyers, physicians and relatives of Dr. Guzman.
- 3 - Respect international Conventions on the treatment of political prisoners.
- 4 - Immediate transfer of Dr. Guzman to a more appropriate place."

-- Signed by 20 people, including:

Ma. Ilda de Carrillo, Juan Raul Gonzalez, Diana Garcia Donoso, Victor Huertas, Dorys Cardenas, Maria Trinidad S., Jacqueline Ramirez

*[Note: While the 5th IEC Delegation was in Lima in October, they saw newspaper articles reporting that several doctors accused of treating supporters of the PCP had recently been convicted of "apology for terrorism" and sentenced to life imprisonment. Many of these doctors were convicted simply for treating people who came into their hospitals.]*

NORWAY: In Bergen, activists from the Iranian Federation of Refugees attended a meeting held by different radical forces in Norway where they raised the issue of Dr Guzman's imprisonment and the conditions in Peru, and invited people to sign a solidarity statement with Dr Abimael Guzman. Many did;

signatories to this statement include Hans Ebbing (member of the central committee of the Socialist Party [SV] and a member of parliament in Norway), as well as members of the Red Election Alliance [RV], the Workers' Communist Party of Norway [AKP], the Communist Party of Norway [NKP], International Socialism [IS], "Neitilef" [EF], and the RUF [M-L].

Posters of Dr Guzman are all over the walls of many city streets and at the University in Bergen. Some Emergency Bulletin articles have also been posted.

**NETHERLANDS:** 2 issues of a newsletter entitled "Peru Nieuwsbulletin" have been produced by a group called "Solidarity with the People of Peru" in the Netherlands. The newsletter is in Dutch and includes news on the treatment of Dr Guzman and the other political prisoners and lawyers in Peru, facts about conditions in Peru and the People's War, and excerpts from some Emergency Bulletins. The J.K. Marga article "Refuting the Big Lies About Peru" has also been printed in Dutch in the newsletter.

The group is planning a benefit concert on March 5 in Amsterdam in solidarity with the political prisoners in Peru. Proceeds will go to the IEC legal project. Musicians from Ghana, Latin America and Turkey are scheduled to perform.

**INDIA:** A strong letter from organisations in Uttar Pradesh, India was sent to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) in Washington DC in support of the petitions sent by the democratic lawyers in Lima on behalf of Dr Guzman, the other political prisoners and the lawyers in Peru.

The letter was signed by the Convenors of:

Uttar Pradesh Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

Disha Chhatra Samuday (Revolutionary Student's Forum)

Dehati Majdoor Kisan Union (Rural Poor's Organisation)

Long Live Marxism Forum

Dayitvabodh (Intellectual's Bimonthly Magazine)

Koshish Chhatra Manch (Revolutionary Student's Forum)

and the Editor of Ahwan Campus Times, (Students' Fortnightly)

### New IEC Materials Available:

\* The French edition of the IEC 36-page Campaign Pamphlet is now available. It can be ordered from the IEC international office.

Price £2, including postage.

\* The Italian edition of the IEC Founding Conference Speeches is now available. It can be ordered from the IEC international office.

Price £3, including postage.

### New Signatories to the IEC Call:

ARCHIE SHEPP (US) - Jazz musician

MORTEZA MIRAFTABI (Iran) - Iranian writer and poet, California, US

B. SIVAKUMAR (Sri Lanka) - Deputy Editor, Sarinihar, Tamil fortnightly

N. PARAN (Sri Lanka) - Sub Editor, Sarinihar

EMINE OZKAYA (Turkey) - Turkish libertarian, London

GUN ZILELI (Turkey) - Turkish writer, London

ERIC TREVETT (UK) - General Secretary, New Communist Party of Britain

RON HAYDUK (US) - New York Voter Assistance Commission