



EMERGENCY BULLETIN 44

International Emergency Committee To Defend The Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS IN LIMA!

On 15 February, José Enriqu  Gonzales Ru z, a lawyer from Mexico, arrived in Lima to continue to fight for the visit to Dr Guzman. He worked with the democratic lawyers in Lima filing petitions with the military authorities to visit Dr Guzman. Dr Gonzalez is part of the team of international lawyers which includes Peter Erlinder and Leonard Weinglass who argued the case for Dr Guzman and other political prisoners before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR). Hence, Dr Gonzalez's demand to visit Dr Guzman was related to preparing this ongoing case at ICHR (which is the international human rights commission of the Organisation of American States). This demand was not granted to Dr. Gonzalez, but once again the Peruvian authorities were forced to deal with international public opinion in this matter, and another international lawyer, Dr Juan Jos  Landinez of Bucaramanga, Colombia arrived in Lima on 28 February to carry on this battle. The regime will not be allowed to rest.

While in Lima, Dr Gonzalez and the two Peruvian lawyers, Dr Carlos Gamero Quispe and Dr Ernesto Delgado (who filed the original petitions to the ICHR) issued a press release: "After 1 year and 5 months of incarceration of Dr Abimael Guzman Reinoso, and after 13 months of incarceration of his lawyer, Dr Alfredo Crespo Bragayrac, the defense is reactivating in 2 venues: before the Peruvian tribunals and before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights." The press release announces the discovery of 10 cases pending against Dr Guzman in Lima's civil courts, in which he is named as the "intellectual author" of acts of "terrorism" allegedly carried out by others.

According to Peruvian law, Dr Guzman must be allowed to meet with his lawyers to prepare these pending cases. It can also be noted that if Dr Guzman is found guilty in any of these cases, this gives the regime another opportunity to apply the reinstated death penalty against him for these "new" convictions.

Dr Abimael Guzman has been held in solitary confinement for more than 18 months. Five international delegations have attempted to visit him. Formal petitions to visit him have been presented to the Fujimori government. Lima lawyers have submitted requests to international agencies asking them to intervene. Millions of people in Peru and around the world have demanded an end to Dr Guzman's isolation. But the US-backed Fujimori regime has continued to deny visits by his legal representatives, his doctors, relatives or friends. Today the most important task of the campaign is to end Dr Guzman's isolation.

Having international lawyers on the ground in Lima is an important step in the battle to end the isolation of Dr Guzman. These lawyers do not stand alone in Lima and the Peruvian regime knows this: their strength comes from the fact that they represent thousands of people around the world who are watching and will not allow the regime to continue to hold Dr Guzman incomunicado.

In addition to Dr Gonzalez and Dr Landinez, other lawyers have volunteered to go to Peru to continue to work until the visit to Dr Guzman is achieved. At this point, the only thing holding back these efforts is funds. Donations can be made specifically to the Legal Project.

The international support for the lawyers' efforts must be felt in Lima. Everyone, especially lawyers, should fax Supreme Council of Military Justice to demand that the international lawyer (Dr Landinez) and the Peruvian lawyers be allowed to visit Dr Guzman. (FAX: 5114-337-690) Fax copies to IEC in London.

Another example of what can be done: IEC in the US is gathering signatures on the following "Letter of Outrage" to the Fujimori regime demanding an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman:

"I am adding my voice to the worldwide demand that you end your isolation and abuse of imprisoned Chairman of the Communist Party of Peru, Dr Abimael Guzman. Your government's mistreatment of political prisoners is in flagrant violation of basic international standards. You have personally made statements regarding the 'psychological pressure' that Dr Guzman has been subjected to, and the 'hole' that he is being kept in. You are using U.S. sponsored inquisition-style military tribunals, with hooded officers for judges and little or no opportunity for defense. These 'courts' have even railroaded the lawyers of political prisoners - handing down life sentences for daring to represent their clients. Witnesses have attested to the deadly conditions of these prisoners, including the denial of basic needs and exposure to disease. We will not give your regime silent permission to take away the basic rights of political prisoners.

"Dr Guzman's sentence of life in prison was to begin with one year of solitary confinement. As you clearly stated in October, 'the one-year period of isolation has ended'. So why are you still keeping Abimael Guzman in isolation? Why have you publicly refused to allow Dr Guzman's Peruvian and international lawyers permission to meet with their client? We demand that Dr Guzman have immediate access to his legal representatives. This is the only way that we can verify his condition on an ongoing basis to ensure his health and status. All political prisoners must be allowed visits with their doctors, lawyers, relatives, and friends. Continued isolation from the outside world is totally unacceptable!

"You have claimed that Dr Abimael Guzman issued a statement from prison calling for negotiations, yet you refuse to let friendly and neutral outside observers into the prison to see him. Dr Abimael Guzman must be allowed to speak for himself! We demand that you end his isolation now!"

(This "Letter of Outrage" was endorsed by 250 people at a "Hearing on Peru" held in Brussels, Belgium on 26 February 1994. The Solidarity Committee with the People of Peru, Netherlands also signed.)

IEC Speaking Tour of the Philippines and Japan:

The IEC Coordinating Committee is happy to announce that an IEC Speaking Tour has just landed in the Philippines! Yuri Kochiyama (a member of the 4th IEC Delegation to Peru), Carolyn Hadfield (a member of the 5th IEC Delegation), along with a member of the IEC Coordinating Committee, are speaking on an IEC Tour of the Philippines and Japan. In the Philippines, the tour is being sponsored by BAYAN, a broad mass organisation with a membership of more than 1.3 million people, including organisations of workers, peasants, women, indigenous peoples, students, lawyers, and intellectuals. Numerous public events and press interviews are planned. The Japan part of the tour is being sponsored by the Japan Adhoc Coordinating Group-IEC/IEC Speaking Group, which was recently formed by various groups in Japan. The tour will be speaking in Tokyo and Fukuoka.

The tour to the Philippines and Japan is especially important for the IEC Campaign. There are millions of people in the Philippines who have been part of fighting a war of liberation for many years. They waged a resolute struggle in defense of their own leader - José María Sison - who was imprisoned by the US-backed Marcos regime for nine years. They, like the people in Peru, have suffered centuries of domination by Spanish colonialism and then US imperialism. Forging solidarity between the struggles of the people of Peru and the Philippines will strengthen the international campaign tremendously, and we think it can have a positive impact in all ways, in the Philippines, in Japan, in Peru, and in the US where Yuri Kochiyama lives.

Because Fujimori is of Japanese ancestry, the campaign of slanders and lies against Dr Guzman and the People's War has been especially virulent in the Japanese media, and Fujimori has been chauvinistically adopted as a Japanese hero. Since Fujimori's presidency, financial ties between Peru and Japan have increased.

The IEC Tour will bring the truth about the role of Japan in Peru, and the challenge to the Japanese people to join the campaign.

The next EB will report further on the events of the tour.

Announcing New IEC Campaign Video:

"You Must Tell the World..."

On 15 March the IEC campaign video, "You Must Tell the World...", will be available for distribution.

This 47-minute video-documentary tells the story of the capture of Dr Abimael Guzman and the international campaign which arose to defend the life of this revolutionary leader of the People's War in Peru.

The video-documentary includes footage from:

The sentencing of Dr Guzman; the 5 IEC Delegations that went to Peru; actions of the campaign from around the world; IEC Founding Conference; Dr Guzman's historic September 24, 1992 speech; the street battles from the eviction of Raucana shantytown; the political prisoners of Canto Grande; interviews with Luis Arce Borja, José María Sison, the wife and mother of Dr Crespo, Heriberto Ocasio... and more.

The entire narration and much of the dialogue in the video is in English. (There are also a number of Spanish speakers shown in the video, and their comments are subtitled in English.) A written translation of the narration will be available in Spanish by the time the video is ready for distribution, and as far as possible we will arrange to have the video narration translated into the many other languages of the people who make up the international campaign.

We are confident that people around the world will find this video to be an inspiring record of our collective efforts over this past year and a half. Most importantly, the video will be very useful in the continuing work, and we think it will be interesting to a broad audience. So, we want to make every effort to make sure people get copies of the video quickly, while at the same time making provisions for recovering the cost of editing and producing copies of the video. Contact the IEC Coordinating Committee in London for copies.

Cost: £20.00 (including packaging and postage).

If you order 4 or more copies of the video, the cost is £12.50/video.

Please send payment in advance, and specify PAL or NTSC format.

La Cantuta Case Continues to Reveal Savagery of Fujimori Regime:

On 21 February, a military court in Peru convicted 4 soldiers to 15 years for carrying out the La Cantuta massacre. A general, a colonel and a captain were sentenced to 1-5 years for "negligence". The massacre occurred in July 1992, when 9 students and a professor were kidnapped by government soldiers. They were later found in a mass grave shot in the head. Such disappearances are common in Peru, but the scandal over this brutal massacre has not stopped.

The recent convictions are seen by many as a further cover-up: "Some scapegoats have been convicted but the rest of those involved and the planners, as well as those who covered up the crime, have not been have tried," said a lawyer for the victims' families. The families announced they will take the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, part of the Organisation of American States [where the petitions on behalf of Dr Guzman and other political prisoners were filed by democratic lawyers in Lima one year ago].

On 8 February, Peru's Congress approved a law which insured that the La Cantuta case would be heard by a military court, rather than a civilian court. The law, which was reportedly ordered by Fujimori directly, was rushed through Congress without following normal procedures. The law is in direct violation of 4 articles of the *new* Peruvian Constitution, revealing the dictatorial powers Fujimori has assumed. He declared the law should go into effect *immediately*, which is another violation of the Constitution. The Bar Association filed a complaint before the Supreme Court over the law.

Originally Fujimori blamed the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) for the La Cantuta disappearances. When a Congressional Committee found that the military was implicated, Peru's top general, Hermoza, rolled his tanks in front of the Parliament building as a threat. Fujimori declared the military was not responsible. But the case wouldn't go away. General Robles, who was at one time the 3rd highest ranking officer in the Peruvian army and has since fled the country, accused both General Hermoza and Fujimori's security advisor (Montesinos)

of forming death squads, and executing the La Cantuta victims. When the charred remains of the victims were found, Fujimori was forced to concede that there should be a trial which, according to Peru's Constitution, must be in a civilian court. But because of the divisions within the ruling circles and the international notoreity of this case, Fujimori could not risk the exposure of high-level officials which could come out in civilian trial of this case. This was why Fujimori ordered Congress to pass the new law to allow the case to be tried in a military court.

While in Colombia recently, Fujimori defended himself with more self-exposure: "We cannot put at risk our anti-terrorist strategy. We cannot put at risk the Armed Forces. Furthermore, those who are objecting to the ["Cantuta"] law were part of past governments where flagrant cases were also dealt with by military courts. The most notorious example is the prison massacre where approximately 300 prisoners were shot in the head..."

The opportunism Fujimori exhibits here verges on the absurd: defending the death squad massacres carried out by his own henchmen by claiming that his predecessors did the same thing earlier to 100s of political prisoners (the 1986 El Fronton massacre), which of course they did. The bottom line for Fujimori is revealed in his next comment: "[The anti-terrorist struggle] is a national objective of Peru... [We cannot permit] the diminishing of the moral and operational capacities of the Armed Forces... We are going to defeat Sendero Luminoso. I will defeat it. And after that, there will be human rights."

The scandal over the La Cantuta case continues to cause big problems for the regime, indicated by the fact that Bustamente, Peru's prime minister, recently resigned over the issue. Jorge Avendaño, dean of the Lima Bar Association, said: "This is direct interference by Congress in the work of the judiciary. The separation of powers has ended." And General Robles is continuing to expose the high-level officials who are behind the death squads. After the convictions he made public a letter to Fujimori: "I reaffirm my denunciation... The [decision of the] Supreme Council allows the important actors in the chain of command in this case to remain in hiding. These are the real planners and accomplices: *Vladimiro Montesinos*, your counselor who is really commanding the SIN and who made use of the instruments of your system, giving precise orders and instructions. *General Hermoza*, who can not hide behind his supposed ignorance of the case and deny his responsibility. It's shameful to see this general, who implicates his own people and who uses all the resources of his position to save himself, Montesinos and the rest of the responsible authorities."

Fujimori's US backers are also having trouble justifying (or white-washing) this heinous crime before the world, as the international notoreity of Fujimori's "death squad democracy" continues to fester at a time when massive international investment in Peru is being promoted in all the imperial capitals. Officially, US government officials have had to announce that "the resolution of the La Cantuta case will signal the return of democracy in Peru." But the "resolution" is nowhere in sight.

Rape = Routine Procedure by Peru Armed Forces

From AP Wire services report, 2 February 1994:

When Maria de la Cruz took food to her cousin in prison, security police said they needed to question her about his terrorism case. That night, they blindfolded Maria, took her to a remote beach and gang-raped her. She became pregnant and gave birth. "I myself took her to the lion's den," said her mother, Julia. "Now I'm fighting so the guilty will be punished."

Thousands of women like Maria, 20, have reported being raped by security forces during the 14-year war against the Shining Path insurgency. Human rights activists say none of the rapists has been punished.

"Rape is a common part of interrogation. They do it often just for fun," said Yoffre Depaz of the National Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared, which investigates hundreds of rape cases every year. "A man in uniform feels he's untouchable and can do whatever he wants." This attitude stems from the near-absolute power uniformed forces wield in the remote jungle and highland "emergency zones" under military control, where half of Peru's 22 million

people live.

Juan Mendez, head of Americas Watch, a human rights group based in Washington, said in Lima last year that abuses by the armed forces are a major reason the poor and powerless join guerrilla movements. An Americas Watch report issued in 1993 documented 40 cases of rape by Peruvian security forces.

...Most rape victims are dark-skinned, poor, young or members of suspected groups, such as student or teacher unions... One reason for the rough treatment of women detainees is the prominent role women play in the Shining Path leadership. Also, women are considered to be the group's most ferocious fighters, often firing the "coup de grace" bullet in assassinations or public executions.

Women are sometimes raped during interrogation to break their morale, but more often they are seen simply as the spoils of war. Human rights activists say there is even a pecking order in the rapes: officers first, followed by the lower ranks. Military leaders appear to have done nothing to stop the practice. Gen. Petronio Fernandez, a Defense Ministry official, was quoted in the Americas Watch report as saying: "These boys are far from their families and suffer a great deal of tension because of the nature of combat."

...Many victims cannot afford the costly, complicated legal paperwork and are ridiculed by police or the military, human rights activists say. "The armed forces treat the whole thing like a joke... They laugh and tell the victim, 'Just wash yourself afterward. You probably liked it, didn't you?'"

Pakistan: Human Rights Forum Takes Up Campaign

The Human Rights Forum (a national group of Pakistan) recently sent a report on their efforts on behalf of the IEC Campaign:

"We are pleased to know that you are doing exemplary work for the rights of Human being. Please accept our full support for this noble work. The free legal committee of our Human Rights Forum is trying its best to save the life of Dr Guzman from the cruels... We are submitting briefs in favour of the petitions to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights."

They enclose recent articles from various Urdu language newspapers in Lahore, Pakistan including Daily Jang (a large-circulation daily), Daily Musawaat, Daily Pakistan Lahore.

In the English language newspaper, Frontier Post, the article reads: "President of Human Rights Forum Pakistan (HRFP), Ishtiaq Ahmad Hashimi... said that Dr Abimael Guzman was renowned political leader of Peru... He revealed that the court did not give any chance to him to defend himself. He termed the conviction fake and unjust.... HRFP will start a movement against this decision of the Fujimori government, he added."

Colombia: Fujimori Faces Protests and Dead Rat Effigies

On 14 and 15 February, enormous dead rats appeared hanging with a banner "Fujimori- Mass Murderer" in different places in Bogota: next to the Peruvian Embassy, near the Consulate, in the main entrance to the National University and in the downtown area of Bogota. On 14 February in the afternoon, around 2 dozen youth did a street theatre performance protesting the visit of the mass murderer Fujimori and denouncing his role as "chumbeque on the bayonets of the military and lackey of Yankee imperialism". Two activists, a very young woman and man, wearing red clothes denounced the dictator and spoke about the importance of defending the life of Chairman Gonzalo. While this was going on, other activists held a big rat with the banner "Fujimori, Mass Murderer of the Peruvian People, Lackey of Yankee Imperialism". Dozens of pedestrians paid close attention to the theatre presentation which was carried out in the Plaza de las Nieves, in the heart of Bogota. During the previous week, information about Peru was sent to 19 newspapers, TV and radio stations.

Rage Against the Machine: On the Revolution in Peru

In an interview with The Planet, a magazine from Connecticut, US, Tom Morello, a member of the immensely popular US band Rage Against the Machine, had this to say about the Peoples War going on in Peru:

"One of the causes we endorse is the Senderistas in Peru, who are Maoist guerrillas.... their politics are tailored to the situation. In Peru, where the division between rich and poor is tremendous, there is a segment of the working class which has basically been co-opted by the elite.... I think the lines are drawn pretty clearly in Peru."

As we have reported in past EBs, the music-video currently being made for the band's song "Bombtrack" contains scenes from the People's War in Peru and the situation with Dr Guzman. The video, which is not yet completed for release, is scheduled for MTV in Europe and alternative video channels in the US.

India: IEC Supporters Raise Funds for Campaign:

Below is a copy of a coupon being sold by the Kerala Communist Party to raise money for the IEC campaign in India:

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വിലപ്പെട്ടതാണ്**

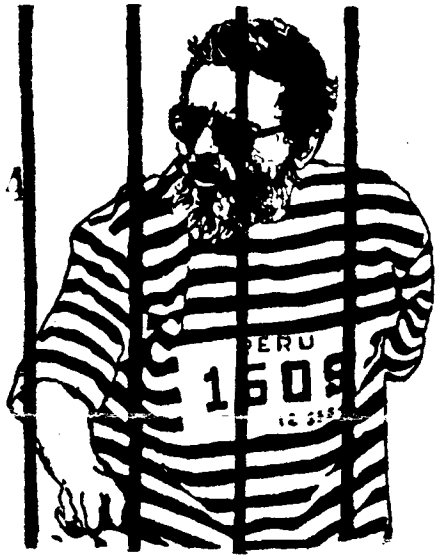
ഒക്ടോബർ 7, 1992 മുതൽ ഏകാന്തതയിൽ കഴിയുന്ന ഈ വ്യക്തി സാമ്രാജ്യത്വ ശക്തികൾക്കും പിന്തിരിപ്പൻമാർക്കും ഇന്നും അപകടകാരിയാണ്. അവർ കൊലപാതകികൾക്ക് മുൻപാണു കൂട്ടുന്നു.

പെറു കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് പാർട്ടി ചെയർമാൻ സ: ഗോൺസാലോയുടെ ജീവൻ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സാർവ്വദേശീയ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ പിന്തുണയ്ക്കുക.

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"THIS LIFE IS PRECIOUS"

"This person in solitary confinement since October 7, 1992 is still a big danger to imperialism and reaction. They are whetting their butcher knives. Support the International Campaign to Defend the Life of Comrade Gonzalo, Chairman of the Communist Party of Peru."

The coupons sell for 2 rupees a piece, the equivalent of 3 English pence or 5 US cents. 4 rupees amounts to about one-hour's wages for many Indian peasants and workers. IEC in London recently received a £90 contribution from IEC supporters in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India.

New Signatories on the IEC Call:

- Gabriel Garcia (Mexico) - Medical Representative of Chiapas
- Tom Morello (USA) - Musician, member of Rage Against the Machine
- N.L. Khalid (Sri Lanka) - Teacher
- M.K.M. Sakreet (Sri Lanka) - Journalist
- 2 Social workers, 2 students, painter, and political refugee from Bern, Switzerland