



EMERGENCY BULLETIN 46

International Emergency Committee To Defend The Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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International Call to Action: May 20-21 1994

**Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman! End the Isolation Now!
End the Torture and Killing of Political Prisoners!**

**Hands off Lawyers who Defend Political Prisoners! Free the Democratic Lawyers!
Expose and Denounce the US-Fujimori Regime! Yankee Go Home!**

Dr Guzman remains in isolation and his life continues to be in danger. More democratic lawyers have been arrested. The murderous conditions imposed upon political prisoners are continuing. Fujimori is intensifying his psychological war against the Peruvian people in his attempt to crush the People's War. The repression of the poor in the shantytowns is escalating. The Army is massacring peasants in the countryside. The IMF is dictating the economy. The military is keeping Fujimori in control.

The US-Fujimori regime must be exposed and denounced around the world. Every person who believes in justice for the people; every person who supports the right of the oppressed to fight against their oppressors, must come together with one voice to deliver a united and powerful indictment. As the Call to Action says: The US-Fujimori regime must be made to pay such a high political price that they will be forced to back down! There must be no place for them to hide.

Organise for International Days of Action on 20-21 May!

Plan to protest or picket at the Peruvian Consulate or Embassy in your area. If there is none, the US offices will do just fine.

Show the IEC video, "You Must Tell the World", everywhere.

Peru's Military Denounced for Torturing and Killing Civilians, Raping Women and Children, Burning Homes, and Bombing Villages from Helicopter Gunships!

On 25 October 1993 Fujimori announced that he was going to create a "little Vietnam in the Jungle", where large numbers of indigenous people, like the Ashaninka, have joined the People's War. Since then there have been sketchy reports of "skirmishes", but there have been no details since the jungle areas are in the "Emergency Zones". No one, including journalists, is allowed to enter the area. But now the secrecy has been broken, and the horror of the US-Fujimori's "Vietnamisation Plan" is being revealed..

According to a Reuters Wire Service (21 April): **'Peru's army has killed, tortured and raped undetermined number of civilians in a two-week sweep in the nation's eastern jungle, said a human rights group and a congressman Thursday, quoting witnesses.'**

"The National Human Rights Coordinating Committee [an umbrella group of 31 Peruvian human rights organisations] showed videotaped testimony from witnesses who fled areas along the left bank of the Huallaga River, about 220 miles (350 km) east of Lima, which recently came under army fire.

"Committee officials read testimony given to a prosecutor in the departmental capital Huanuco by a woman who saw her husband and eight others, including a 13-year-old girl, being tortured and killed April 8 near the Moena area.

"After several hours under detention, and despite repeated denials of my husband (of links to the guerrillas), the captain said, 'You are a terrorist' and hit him with his gun until his mouth was bleeding. They did the same with the seven farmers detained... then they started killing them, some with gunfire, others with sharp objects. **When my husband refused to repent, soldiers knifed him to death and beheaded him.'** Both the 13-year old and the woman... had been gang-raped, the woman said in her testimony.

"Committee head Rosa Mujica said the group, which sent a delegation to the area April 16 but was denied access to the area, was unable to document the exact number of deaths. 'But all the witnesses insisted they have seen numerous corpses along the way (on the banks of the Huallaga),' Mujica said.

"Roger Caceres, a congressman and former head of the congressional human rights commission, said witnesses spoke of "the indiscriminate use of machine-gun fire against anything that moved."

According to other wire service reports:

"We have repeated reports... that massive crimes against the defenseless civilian population are being committed as part of the operation, including torture, rape and burning of homes by the military" said Mujica.... **Security forces have killed 101 peasants in separate incidents.** [Reuters 20 April]

"Peru's main human rights group... has accused the army of killing 71 civilians this month, raping women, burning homes and **bombing villages from helicopters.**" [Associated Press; 20 April]

"The report follows denunciations of the deaths in the area of six peasants, including a **6-year-old girl who was reportedly raped, at the hands of uniformed agents.**" [United Press 19 April]

"**One jungle resident told *Caretas* [magazine] she saw a truck pass by her carrying about 20 corpses with hands tied behind their backs.**" [Reuter; 28 April]

"Peruvian congressmen found the bodies of seven civilians... in two separate areas along the banks of the Huallaga River. Five of the corpses had been dismembered, he added, saying they belonged to peasant farmers and that there were no indications, such as shell casings, of clashes between the army and Shining Path guerrillas in the remote area."

"Carlos Blanco, a legislator and president of the Congress' Human Rights Commission, said a tour of the affected region in central Peru and discussions with area residents showed that the military burned and destroyed dwellings. Congressman Roger Caceras said 'I don't have any doubt that soldiers of the army are guilty of the deaths of humble peasants.' He said one woman in the Amazon jungle region described air and land attacks on undefended civil populations." [UP; 26 April]

The Huallaga River area is in one of Peru's "emergency zones". No one is allowed to enter without the military's permission. Peru's military depends on secrecy to carry out its crimes. The real number of deaths is sure to be much greater than has been reported.

General Rivas, "denied reports that civilians have been killed or hurt in the attacks... which began April 8. 'I have not any such reports' he said. 'The number of civilians in this area is small. There are no farms.'" [Reuters; 19 April]

Following demands by the human rights organisations and a few Congressmen that the International Red Cross be allowed to go into the area, Reuters [22 April] reported: **"General Nicolas Hermoza said the delegation, which has been denied access to the zone since the offensive against the Shining Path began in early April, would not be granted unlimited access. 'I invite the International Red Cross to come here and to go with a patrol to verify the way our patrols operate. They have my support, they are free to act under Peruvian law, but if they enter a zone where the number one leader of Shining Path is located, this I cannot accept'.** Hermoza denied bombs had been used in the zone, but he said rockets and grenades had been fired from helicopters. He declined to comment on charges by the National Coordinating Committee on Human Rights that civilians were being indiscriminately killed or on the number of casualties that have been inflicted since the offensive began." *[EB readers may remember that General Hermoza was accused by the Peruvian press and even another General of maintaining military death squads, and of masterminding the La Cantuta massacre. When Fujimori moved the La Cantuta trial from the civilian courts to the military courts, the role of Hermoza was covered up and he went free.]*

It is highly unusual for a Peruvian human rights group to speak out against the military, since they could themselves be charged with being "apologists for terrorism". That they spoke out at all is powerful testimony to the extent of the crimes that have been committed against the Peruvian people. Predictably, the US-Fujimori regime lost no time in denouncing the human rights groups:

According to Reuters [28 April] **"Congress has sharply criticised an umbrella human rights group for reporting alleged army killings and abuses of civilians in an offensive against Maoist guerrillas this month in Peru's eastern jungle... Congress' resolution, approved on a 41-11 vote, said the rights groups have marred Peru's image abroad by reporting the claims. It asserted legislators firmly support the armed forces and called on Peruvians to back the government's anti-guerrilla strategy."**

The "Vietnamisation" of Peru is a counter-insurgency plan which deliberately targets the poor peasant communities for their support of the People's War. The atrocities committed against the civilian population in the Huallaga jungle area are not the result of "rogue military hoodlums" but are an element of a conscious plan directed from the highest level of the Pentagon. The only thing they hadn't planned was its revelation to the world!

The US-Fujimori regime has been caught with the blood still dripping from their hands. This latest crime of the US-Fujimori regime must be exposed and denounced around the world. As the IEC said in its IDA leaflet: There must be no place for them to hide!

The Foreign Domination of Peru

Peru has a foreign debt of more than \$23 billion[1]. Its total budget for 1994 is \$5.9 billion. Of this, 20% (\$1.28 billion) is set aside to pay the interest on the foreign debt. But that isn't enough. Peru owes more than \$3 billion in interest in 1994 alone, and has to take out additional foreign loans *just to pay back the interest* [2]. Some financial analysts estimate that Peru's foreign debt will reach \$50 billion by the year 2000.

In 1986 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suspended all loans to Peru. When Fujimori came into office in 1990 he made agreements with the IMF to restructure the economy of the country in order to again qualify for international loans. Within a year the minimum wage fell by 52%. 13 million Peruvians had an income of \$15.50 per month or less. Those with full-time work made an average of \$50 a month. When Fujimori took office 54% of the people could meet basic consumer needs. A year later only 5% could. And all of this in a country where prices for consumer goods are almost as high as in the US [3]

After taking office, Fujimori began paying the interest on loans from the World Bank at the rate of \$45 million each month (1/6th of the country's gross revenues). And as a reward, in 1993 the US and Japan gave Fujimori a loan of \$930 million to pay back interest to the IMF[4]. The IMF again allowed Peru to borrow money. In return the IMF dictates over Peru's economy. For example, the IMF has decided that Peru can spend only \$450 million of all of the money it receives from the privatisation scheme for all of its poverty related social programs, while it has to pay \$550 million in interest to foreign commercial banks[5]. Peru projects that it will spend \$9 billion on road improvements so foreign investors can get their plunder out of the country[6]. Peru's poor, who own no motorised transportation, will be unable to even get their products to market.

Peru is incredibly rich in natural resources. It currently is the world's 2nd largest producer of silver and zinc, the 4th of lead, and the 5th largest producer of copper. It has some of the world's largest deposits of gold, and vast deposits of oil. In order to pay off the foreign debt, the government of Peru is selling off all of its state-owned companies, including its mines, its rights to oil exploration, its fishing industry (including its docks and ports), its airlines, telecommunications, etc [7] 20 million acres of land is being offered to foreign investors (much of it to foreign agribusinesses) and even the rights to water are being sold.

To attract investors Fujimori has created new investment laws. Licensing requirements have been removed. Profits are subject to limited taxation, or are exempt from taxes altogether.[8]. For example, in order to attract foreign oil investors laws were changed to allow oil companies to dispose of the oil they extracted in any way they wished, taxes on the export of oil were removed, and restrictions preventing offshore drilling were set aside[9]. Environmental laws were also relaxed.

But while foreign investors have been exempted from paying taxes, the IMF has ordered an overall increase in Peru's tax revenues. When Fujimori came into office, tax revenues amounted to 4.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Since becoming President, Fujimori raised that amount to 9.5%. This has resulted in a drastic fall in actual income for workers. But now the IMF has ordered that in order to qualify for further loans, Peru must raise its tax revenues to 13%. Since taxes that foreign investors and their Peruvian counterparts have to pay have been either reduced or eliminated, the burden of raising these taxes will almost entirely fall on the poor of Peru. New taxes on food are already in place and increased taxes on other consumer goods are expected.

So far approximately 30 state-owned companies have been sold at fire-sale prices. If all of their companies are sold, Peru expects to receive between \$3-\$4 billion[10]. In other words, even if Peru sells all of its state-owned holdings at the highest projected prices, it will not even receive enough to pay its foreign debt interest for two years. And Peru's precious resources will be gone. However, the head of Peru's privatisation acknowledges that many of the companies have been sold at prices far lower than what was expected, and the first 16 companies sold for a total of \$450 million [11].

One way the foreign investors have cut costs in their new companies, has been to lay off workers. On average, companies sold to foreign investors have laid off 52% of the company's former workers. In some cases, the government laid off employees before the company was sold. For example, before Cerro Verde Copper Mine was put up for sale, the government cut the payroll from 1,300 to 785 workers[12]. And this is happening in a country that already has a rate of underemployment and unemployment of 90%!

Peru's New Constitution which went into effect in December 1993 creates new laws favouring foreign investment by, among other things, removing regulations on exports, exempting foreign investors from taxes, and allowing currency to move in and out of the country unimpeded by government regulations. It also adds provisions to guarantee debt repayment. But it also anticipates massive unrest as a result of the new economic policies. Fujimori's hooded military tribunals are "legalised", and rights to defense are all but eliminated. The president is given dictatorial rights and can suspend the Constitution at any time. The death penalty for political prisoners was reinstated. Military personnel are not subject to civilian law. Laws protecting worker's rights such as the right to strike and the right to belong to a union are weakened.

Guarantees of rights of peasants and indigenous peoples are remarkably absent. Free education is restricted.[13].

For the vast majority of Peru's people, increased foreign domination means greater misery and poverty, continued repression and genocide. For workers it means higher unemployment and lower wages. For peasants it means loss of land and livelihood. For the indigenous people it means the penetration of jungle areas by oil and gold explorers and loss of historic hunting areas. And for all Peruvians it means loss of dignity as a people, and increased foreign domination over every aspect of their lives (which the Peruvian people have vigorously resisted for centuries, and are continuing to fight against).

[References: [1] Reuter Business Report, Aug 18 1993; [2] Reuters, Sept 3, 1993; [3] US Federal Document Clearing House; Congressional Hearing Testimony by Cynthia McClintock; 1 Mar 1994; [4] American Banker Bond Buyer, 13 Sept 1993; [5] UPI 10 Mar 1994; [6] Xinhua News, 13 Mar 1994; [7] Financial Times, 29 Sept 1993; [8] UPI Business World, 7 Feb 1993 and New Constitution of Peru; [9] Reuters, 24 Aug, 1993; [10] Agence France Presse, 28 July 1993; [11] UPI, 10 March 1994; [12] AP, 15 Oct 1993; [13] For an analysis of the relationship between Peru's Constitution and Foreign Domination see "Peru: A New-Liberal Constitution" by Jose Enrique Gonzalez Ruiz, available from the IEC.

Letters to Fujimori Demand an End to Dr Guzman's Isolation

During the past month numerous letters have been sent to Fujimori demanding an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman, and/or protesting the attacks on democratic lawyers in Peru. Following are excerpts:

"A team of lawyers including Dr Juan Jose Landinez, Dr Carlos Gamero Quispe, Dr Ernesto Delgado and others are in Lima to defend the cases of Dr Abimael Guzman... We have, however, come to know that they have so far not been permitted to meet with their client, Dr Guzman, who has been kept in solitary confinement for over a year. We regard this as complete violation of international laws, human rights conventions and democratic practices by the government of Peru and strongly disapprove of it. We, the following individuals from Nepal, therefore request that you let the international lawyers see their clients and defend their cases at the earliest."

Signed by 37 lawyers, including the President and Secretary of the Nepal Bar Assn, and 3 members of Parliament. Nepal.

"We, the undersigned from the State of Michigan, USA, urge that attorneys and medical treaters be permitted to visit Dr Abimael Guzman immediately. International lawyers have been to Peru to see their client, as well as Peruvian attorneys, but have been denied access to him... Legal and human rights demand that the isolation of Dr Guzman for the last year and 5 months must be ended now....

"We are very alarmed at reports of numerous government attacks on Peruvian lawyers for merely representing their clients, and the recent government demand to the bar associations to hand over information on 300 lawyers. In particular, we have heard that the DINCOTE police kidnapped the 14-year old daughter of Dr Margarita Chuquiure Silva, a defender of political prisoners, and then arrested her for inquiring about her daughter. She is now facing terrorism charges. We are especially afraid that Lima lawyers Dr Carlos Gamero Quispe and Dr Ernesto Delgado are putting their very lives at risk by publicly taking up Dr Guzman's case. We support these attorneys for providing legal defense for those charged with political offenses and urge that they be permitted to freely pursue these cases."

Kurt Berggren (attorney); Michael Casadonte and Leah Maguire (students, Wayne State Univ); Wm H. Goodman, Michael Haddad, and Paul Sher (attorneys, executive board members of the Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild), and Jeff Ferrah (teacher).

"As activists who defend human rights, we come to you to express our concern for the human rights situation in your country... You and your government are responsible to the people of the world for human rights violations that are being carried out by the Peruvian State in a systematic and continuous way. We demand that you grant the following rights to Dr Abimael Guzman, lawyers Dr Jorge Cartagena, Dr Alfredo Crespo, and Dr Martha Huatay: (1) the right to communicate freely, and to receive information of any kind without censorship; (2) the right to due process without delay; (3) the right to defence; (4) the right to dignity; and (5) the right to medical assistance. We will continue to denounce any violations against human integrity and dignity."

Colombian Association of Social Workers

"We demand that Lawyers Dr Carlos Gamero Quispe, Dr Ernesto Messa Delgado and International Lawyers be allowed to visit their client, Dr Abimael Guzman. Peru's government must uphold international laws and conventions governing attorneys' rights to visit and defend their clients and practice their profession... We demand the end of Dr Guzman's isolation."

Dr Drew Cottie (University of West Sydney, Australia); Outer Eastern Network for Peace (Melbourne);

Tom Ryan (Gen. Secy Confectioners and Food Preservers Union of Australia); Marjorie Broadbent (Federated Teachers Union of Victoria); and 10 others

"As a man of conscience who works toward the betterment of the human condition, I passionately ask that the forceful, brutish and most reprehensible isolation of Dr Abimael Guzman be brought to an end. ... The poet within me demands an end to Dr Guzman's isolation and rights deprivation; the citizen pledges to struggle toward such an end."

Dr Ricardo Sanchez, Sr Faculty Member, Washington State University

"... I am now writing to you to ask that you allow Dr Carlos Gamero Quispe and Dr Enrique Delgado together with Dr Juan Jose Landinez, to visit Abimael Guzman, and that you will provide every facility to these distinguished lawyers. I would also hope that you would offer them every safeguard.

"... I have been a member of Parliament for 24 years, a member of Amnesty International for more than 20 years, and a member of the All Party Parliamentary Human Rights group in the British Parliament. I hope to meet the Peruvian Ambassador in London in the near future to discuss the whole question of human rights and democracy."

Bob Parry, MP, Liverpool Riverside, England

As Colombian citizens, and as members of the National Bank Employees Union, who defend human rights, we want to inform you that we totally support and we are watching very closely the development of the work of the international lawyers team from 5 continents, headed by Drs Leonard Weinglass and Peter Erlinder, who are representing Dr. Manuel Abimael Guzman Reinoso and other political prisoners in your country. In relation to this, we support the activities carried out by Dr. Juan Jose Lantanas, a Colombian lawyer and well-known defender of human rights, who is a member of the international team of lawyers of Dr. Guzman, who is now in Lima and taking steps to visit Dr. Guzman on behalf of his lawyers...

Alvaro Silva Parra (President); Javier Jimenez Perez (Attorney); Alvaro Quintero Serrano (Treasurer). National Bank Employees Union, Bucaramanga, Colombia

"We are members of a local rock band in Chicago, *Spelling Tuesday*, who are compelled by actions taken by your government against political prisoners, such as Abimael Guzman, to voice outrage at the tortuous conditions these prisoners face. We find it repugnant that your government can maneuver around legal guarantees for prisoners and abuse them as part of your dirty war...

Letters to Fujimori were also sent by lawyers and others in Spain, New Zealand, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Mexico, by the Corporation of Community Professional Services in Bogota, Colombia, and by other groups and individuals in the Philippines, US, and Japan.

News From Around the World:

Nepal: A recent report from Nepal included the following: "Comrade Gonzalo is now a household name in Nepal. Not a single political occasion goes without making a formal resolution on the safety of life and freedom of Comrade Gonzalo. Most recently the national convention of legal practitioners (advocates) of Nepal and the National Convention of Nepal University Teachers Association passed unanimous resolutions to that effect."

Mexico: On 23 April the IEC Mexico held a mass meeting which was attended by more than 50 people. The new IEC video was shown and Lawyer Enrique Gonzalez Ruiz gave a report on his trip to Peru. They reported that the audience burst into applause upon hearing Dr Alfredo Crespo's mother's uncompromising statement, and that there was enthusiastic approval of the video. Dr Gonzalez' talk, which exposed conditions of repression in Peru and the role of the US in creating a legal facade to hide brutal repression was also very well received. Following the showing of the video, one of the new IEC videos was raffled and a collection was taken up, which raised about \$80. People signed up to have videos shown at their schools and workplaces.

Colombia: Supporters in Bogota reproduced 250 music cassettes "in one of the best sound studios of the region". They immediately recovered the cost of production, and \$450 toward the Dr Landinez' legal expenses. They also report that increasing numbers of human rights organisations and trade unions are supporting the campaign, and that the campaign is expanding.

The Regional Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in **Barrancabermeja** sent the following message to the IEC:

"The Regional Committee for the Defense of Human Rights declares its support for the IEC, and to defend the life of Dr Abimael Guzman Reynoso, and for the right to a visit from an international commission of lawyers. It also voices its solidarity with the struggle carried out by the people of the world for the defense of the lives of political prisoners and the democratic lawyers Alfredo Crespo and Jorge Cartagena, including that they be guaranteed the liberty to carry out their profession as lawyers in Peru."

US: Joey Johnson (the spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade [RCYB] in the US, and the flagburner whose case to the US Supreme Court), along with Lea, another RCYB activist, have been found guilty by the Los Angeles Court for taking the campaign to defend the life of Abimael Guzman to tens of thousands of Latino immigrants attending a Los Angeles fiesta (street festival) during the 14-15 May International Days of Action.

As part of the international days of action, a group of youth took banners and displays to the fiesta, along with leaflets advertising a program about Dr Guzman and the People's War in Peru. Police on horseback attacked the youth, viciously beating and kicking Joey and another revolutionary. People attending the Fiesta who witnessed the beating began throwing rocks and bottles at the police. Joey and Lea were arrested. The cops claimed Joey and Leah "pushed them". Joey faces up to 2 years in jail and a \$2,000 fine; Leah faces a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. They are appealing the convictions and a Campaign has been launched in the US to free them. One of the slogans of the campaign is: "It's No Crime to Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo!"

Japan: *Shinsei* (Newspaper for Mass Democracy), carried a full-page interview with an IEC delegate on the Asia Tour on the International Campaign, and the crimes of the Fujimori regime. It especially exposed Japan's support for Fujimori. A member of the staff of the newspaper reported to the IEC the response to the interview by the readers of the newspaper was very good, and that they were "quite shocked about the relationship of our government and Fujimori." *Patrone Magazine* featured several articles on Peru in their April issue, including pictures of the IEC International Campaign and coverage of the IEC Speaking Tour in Japan.

Spain: IEC activists in **Galicia** report that a special resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Peru, and protesting the genocide of the people and the continuing isolation of Dr Guzman was presented to the Constituent Congress of the Confederation of Inter-Unions of Galicia in **Santiago**. Although the resolution was not passed, many people learned about the IEC Campaign for the first time by taking the resolution to this forum. And another proposal presented at the II Assembly of the Nationalist Left organisation in **Monforte** was approved.

Galicia activists also cooperated with IEC **Catalunya** to bring a speaking tour entitled "Peru today, revolutionary reality" to Galicia. The tour began with a conference in **Coruña**. More than 50 people attended another conference in **Monforte**, where there was a large-screen showing of "People of the Shining Path" and a lively discussion. The campaign was also taken to the 15th anniversary of the youth organisation "JARRAI" in **Pamplona**, where plans were made to disseminate the IEC Campaign even further.

When the Peruvian regime denied a visa to Francesc Arnau, many people in the city of **Santander** in the Cantabria region signed a letter to Fujimori protesting the refusal. Since then a growing number of people have come to support the IEC Campaign. Dozens of Santander residents have signed the Call and a support group has taken up other activities. This is yet one more example of how even an attack can be turned into its opposite.

[Correction: In a report on activities in Bergen, Norway, Emergency Bulletin 43 the name of the group supporting the IEC campaign was inaccurate. The name of the group that has actively taken up the international campaign is "The International Federation of Iranian Refugees and Immigrants Councils; Bergen, Norway".

- End -