



EMERGENCY BULLETIN 47

International Emergency Committee To Defend The Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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International Days of Action:

Reports on the International Days of Action are just beginning to come in. From initial accounts, it is clear that people from many countries around the world deepened their understanding of the importance of the campaign, and joined together in united action against the US-Fujimori regime. In the period of preparation for the Days of Action and during the Days of Action, workers, militants, students, human rights activists, communists, artists, and others discussed and debated the significance of the IEC Campaign, the nature of the crimes being committed by the Fujimori regime, what it is going to take to end them, and the necessity to act.

The IEC campaign video was shown around the world - to some who were hearing about Peru for the first time, and to others who have been involved in the IEC Campaign for some time. Supporters report that the video gave people a view of the IEC campaign - its world-wide support and the importance of Dr Guzman's case - which they had not had prior to seeing it. As a result, arrangements have been made for many more showings. Many new people also came to know about the crimes of the US-Fujimori regime through the distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, newspaper articles, and actions. And in a number of countries the Fujimori regime was clearly put on direct notice by way of pickets, demonstrations, and letters.

IDA Reports:

England: More than 50 people braved torrential rains to join a lively picket called by the IEC at the Peruvian Embassy in London. For more than two hours demonstrators denounced the Peruvian regime and its Yankee backers and demanded an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman. Dr Guzman's speech of 24 Sept and excerpts from letters to Fujimori from around the world were read over a powerful loudspeaker and leaflets were distributed to passers-by.

On the evening of the 21st Comite Sol Peru and the Revolutionary Communist Maoists held a program to celebrate the 14th Anniversary of the People's War which was attended by about 50 people. The IEC was invited to show the video and speak on the campaign. The response to the IEC video was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, and contributions were collected for the IEC campaign. Others spoke on the significance of the People's War in Peru, and the necessity for progressive and revolutionary-minded people to support it.

Major articles on the IEC campaign also appeared in two Bengali newspapers, the Notun Din and the Surma Banqla Newsweekly, which are distributed in England and in Middle Eastern Countries.

Colombia: IEC supporters in Colombia didn't hear about the Call for the IDA until 18 May. But they moved into action with incredible speed. Thousands of IDA leaflets were distributed in **Egota**, **Bucaramanga** and **Medellin**. Youth brigades carried the Call to shantytowns, industrial zones and parks. The video was shown in unions. Oil workers in Barrancabermeja who had previously seen the video organised workers, peasants and residents of the shantytowns to show the video at an important meeting of people's organisations held on 21-22 May. Workers who attended this video then showed the video at a union meeting of soft drink bottlers. IEC supporters report that the IEC video has brought a spirit of optimism to audiences wherever it has been shown.

Denmark: Demonstrators set up a display in the Central Square in Copenhagen featuring a puppet of Fujimori and a sign listing the crimes of the US-Fujimori regime. Another display described the kind of society that is being built in Peru's liberated areas. Many people stopped to read the photographs and discuss events in Peru. 700 copies of the IDA leaflet were distributed. The demonstrators then went through the streets of Copenhagen shouting the IDA slogans. The IEC video was shown at an evening meeting.

Mexico: The IEC video was shown at a program in Mexico City attended by more than 50 people who had gathered to celebrate the 14th Anniversary of the People's War. Dr Fausto Trejo spoke on the importance of the International Campaign, and Enrique Gonzalez Ruiz emphasised the need to take up the struggle around Dr Guzman as part of defeating the counter-insurgency tactics of the US. IEC-Mexico reported that "the evening ended on a high note with a spirited kicking, stamping, spitting on and burning of the US flag." IEC-Mexico is also disseminating an information sheet around Fujimori's "little Vietnam" and sent a letter protesting the massacre to the Peruvian Ambassador which was signed by attorneys, intellectuals, human rights activists, and academics.

U.S.: Prior to IDA, Latino artists in **San Francisco** who had seen the IEC Video joined with the IEC-SF in presenting it at a cultural event. About 40 attended. The artists sang, danced, and gave powerful statements condemning US imperialism and intervention in Latin America. The IEC's slogans appeared all over the San Francisco area, and on the morning of the 20th banners hung over central highways. IEC Committee members delivered "Statement of Outrage - End the Isolation" petition letters to the Peruvian Consul General while supporters demonstrated outside of the Consulate. Guerrilla theatre featuring Dr Guzman, peasant guerrilla fighters, the democratic lawyers, the IEC, Fujimori and the US was performed at business and tourist locations, as well as in a large Latino neighborhood. In the Latino area, both Fujimori and the US were stomped on by on-lookers. Afterwards the IEC video was shown at a neighborhood restaurant.

A new IEC chapter was formed in New England (Northeastern US) which held its first demonstration in **Boston** on 20 May. Bright banners and lively chants attracted attention, as well as much debate and discussion about events in Peru.

In **Washington D.C.** IEC supporters marched to the White House, to the Peruvian Embassy, and to an international neighborhood with the IEC slogans. The IEC video was also shown to small groups. They report that reception was especially positive in the neighborhood, where many leaflets were distributed.

On the morning of the 20th supporters in **Cleveland** held huge banners (20ft x 8ft) on freeway overpasses. They later went to the US Federal Building with the banners, where their presence was very controversial and people stopped to debate. In the evening supporters attended a meeting of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, where participants were particularly interested in hearing about the struggle of the democratic lawyers and the political prisoners. On the 21st a team took a banner to a downtown shopping center, and to Central American and Puerto Rican neighborhoods. The video was shown to small groups. Some Black people were especially moved by the statement made by Imrann Moosa at the IEC Founding Conference on how such an effort could possibly have saved the life of Steven Biko.

Australia: IEC supporters, including representatives of the Kurdish, Turkish and Filipino people in **Melbourne**, picketed the Peru Consulate on 20 May. The entrance to the consulate was blocked, and the Fujimori regime was loudly denounced. Although security guards blocked the entrance to the Consulate, picketers made their way into the stairwell below the consulate and the area was covered with IEC stickers. A public meeting was held later in the evening.

Italy: Meetings on the People's War in Peru were held on 18/19/20 May at a bookstore, with a group of left activists, and at the IEC Center in **Rome**. The meeting at the IEC Center was attended by many workers, youth, and militant revolutionaries. The meetings featured the IEC video and a new book written by Giuliano Nario entitled "Sendero Luminoso". Further such meetings in other cities are planned.

Further reports on the International Days of Action will appear in the next Emergency Bulletin.

IEC-Spain Goes to Amnesty Assembly:

The General Assembly of the Amnesty International Chapters in Spain was held on 9, 10 April. Prior to the meeting a resolution entitled "In Defense of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in Peru" was submitted by Francesc Arnau to the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with AI rules. It was then distributed to all Amnesty Chapters in Spain.

The proposed resolution set forth certain facts about the situation in Peru, and resolved that AI: (1) condemn Fujimori for systematic violations of the basic rights of the people of Peru, and for the dangerous precedent that he has set; (2) demand that the Peruvian regime respect international conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war; (3) condemn the treatment of Abimael Guzman, and demand an end to his isolation; (4) condemn any attempts of the Peruvian regime to commit genocide; and (5) demand the immediate release of the democratic lawyers. Finally, it resolved that the International Secretary of AI in London take responsibility and act with regard to the demands of the resolution.

On the day of the Assembly Francesc Arnau, two other lawyers and several IEC activists went to the assembly. The activists set up an information table at the entrance. Many of the delegates took information enthusiastically. However, the AI organisers of the event claimed that the activists were only there to discredit AI.

Meanwhile, Francesc and his colleagues entered the Assembly room. Once inside they were confronted by AI "coordinators", who threw Francesc's colleagues out of the room, saying that only members were admitted to the Assembly (although many other delegates had brought companions who attended the Assembly).

Once Francesc's colleagues had been removed, an AI delegate asked that a vote be taken to decide whether or not the proposed resolution on Peru should even be discussed. The head of the Board of Directors called for a vote to deny any discussion on the resolution. The majority voted in favor.

Francesc then began questioning the Board of Directors on the policies of AI. In fact, Francesc held the floor for two hours, forcing three separate votes to be taken. Out of 200 delegates, 78 voted in favour of Francesc's petitions.

The day after the assembly, four mainstream national newspapers in Spain, including El Pais, recounted the efforts of the IEC at the Assembly.

The proposed resolution was submitted to AI in order to involve delegates in discussion and debate about the situation in Peru, and with the intention that this important assembly endorse the resolution (or pass a modified version). If such a national assembly of AI were to pass such a resolution, it would be an important step. Instead, while AI refuses to consider issues relating to Abimael Guzman and other imprisoned leaders, the danger to their lives continues. It is the leadership of Amnesty International that has discredited itself! Nonetheless, the IEC-Catalunya reported that the issue of Peru is a very "hot and thorny" one, and was either very important or extremely uncomfortable for the AI delegates to take up, depending on each delegate's individual perspective. Francesc Arnau and IEC-Catalunya are to be congratulated in persevering in fighting for the truth, for pressing Amnesty to act, and for expanding the campaign even further.

Leader of MRTA Heavily Tortured:

On May 27 the mother of Victor Polay held a press conference to denounce the torture of her son. Victor Polay is the leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). He is being held at Callao Naval Base, along with Dr Guzman. There are only eight cells in this prison. All are the same.

Reuters (27 May) reported: "Authorities have tortured the leader of one of Peru's two guerrilla movements and are destroying him physically and psychologically, his mother said Friday.

"The treatment he is getting is humiliating, degrading, torturing him 24-hours a day,' Campos de Polay told reporters before speaking to Congress's human rights commission. 'He is so thin.' She said he told them he was tortured with electric shocks to his genitals and head, is being held incommunicado in a dimly lit 6.6-foot-by-6.6-foot (2-metre-by-2-metre) cell and is in danger of going blind. 'He looks terrible. Like a caricature of my son.'

"Polay went to Congress on Friday to ask that Peru's laws be changed so that her son and other jailed guerrillas could receive 'humane treatment.'"

As long as the regime is able to hold prisoners in isolation they will be able to hide their systematic use of torture against political prisoners. The fact that political prisoners in Peru are routinely tortured is not a matter of debate. The torture of Victor Polay is yet further evidence of their policy. The US-Fujimori regime must be exposed and condemned around the world, and the people must demand an end to the regime's murderous policy of holding prisoners in isolation in order to hide their crimes!

Colombian Peasants Condemn Fujimori:

During past months many individuals and organisations from around the world have written protest letters to Fujimori. Such letters send a strong message to the Fujimori regime. Even though he may enjoy the backing of governments around the world, he is being condemned by the people. The IEC encourages many more individuals and organisations to send such letters (with copies to the IEC). While we are unable to reproduce most of these letters in the EBs, together they stand as a powerful indictment from the people of the world. Following are excerpts from a letter sent from the Municipal Association of Peasant Users from Barrancabermeja:

...from the heart of the Colombian nation, and on behalf of the thousands of peasant members of this organisation, we want to raise our voice to protest the human rights violations your government is committing...

"You act as if massive violations of the rights of the Peruvian people are nothing. You threaten the rights of prisoners provided for by humanitarian international laws. Evidence of such violations have been the massacres of prisoners in Peru's prisons, which have been carried out by the police and the army of your government.

"We want to raise our voice of protest against the subhuman treatment of Dr Abimael Guzman. He is not only a rebel but a human being, and he must be treated as such. We think that, talking about crime, you are committing much more cruel crimes, such as giving resources belonging to the Peruvian people to multinational and other private companies.

"So as Latin Americans we have a historic duty to protest the abuses of your government against the Peruvian people.

"For the above reasons, this letter has also been made known to human rights organisations, social and political organisations, democratic personalities, and international support organisations. We have done this in order to keep a focus on Peru..."

Cover-up of Military Massacre Continues: Red Cross Accused of being "Shining Path Collaborators":

On 19 April an organisation of 31 human rights groups (Coordinadora) condemned the Peruvian military for the torture and killing of civilians, the rape of women and children, the burning and destruction of entire villages, and for strafing and bombing civilians from helicopter gunships (see EB 46). Since then the US-Fujimori regime has done everything possible to silence news of the massacre. But in spite of all of the efforts to silence news of the massacre, details of the US-Fujimori regime's "Vietnamisation Plan" are continuing to leak.

One issue of controversy is access to the Huallaga River area, which is under a state of emergency. The Red Cross has asked to carry out its investigation of the massacre unaccompanied by the military. This has compelled Fujimori himself to say: "We're at war, that's why we don't allow the Red Cross in". General Alfredo Rodriguez, the military commander in the Huallaga, added that he believes claims made by the human rights groups were part of a propaganda campaign to damage the military offensive and said: "In fact, we have lost the initiative, the surprise factor against Shining Path. Patrols are continuing to press the enemy but we have to re-orient our struggle." But, incredibly, he went even further:

"I believe that Red Cross representatives are tied to and support the Sendero Luminoso. I cannot prove it, but it is a logical deduction based on their conduct and the results of their actions. They insist on working alone, without military presence, and when someone from the Red Cross speaks with captured guerrillas, they change their attitudes and refuse to continue cooperating... For this reason, we do not want them speaking with the prisoners until after 15 days in custody. [Inter-Press Service, 25 April]

Anyone with any knowledge of the work of the Red Cross knows that their guidelines weigh heavily in favour of state governments. They do not release their findings publicly. They negotiate with heads of state regarding government violations of prison conditions. But the presence of the Red Cross does limit the ability of the military to torture detainees with impunity. This is what the regime is protesting.

General Secretary of Amnesty International Condemns Fujimori Regime:

Following reports of the massacre in the Huallaga River area, the Secretary General of Amnesty International, Pierre Sane, went to Peru to investigate.

In his report on the week-long visit, Sane accused Peru's military of grave human rights violations which are carried out with impunity, since only 3 such cases against military personnel have been punished in 14 years. He said there are more than 5,000 cases of missing persons and extra-judicial killings, and called on the Peruvian government to make the military responsible for their crimes. [Reuters, 16 May]

"We came to Peru to bring attention to the authorities the alarming increase in the number of people detained, falsely accused, and who are rotting in jail at this moment. There is no serious debate on how to establish mechanisms to review cases of innocent prisoners. The biggest challenge we face lies in winning release of those already condemned and sentenced," Sane said in a press conference.

"Archard [the head of AI's Latin American section] said Amnesty was "extremely worried" that military courts were trying civilians for alleged terrorist crimes, adding that summary trials and the army's role in the war impeded the defendants' right to defence and fair trial." (Reuters, 19 May)

While Amnesty's main concern is with "prisoners of conscience" and the welfare of those who had no part in resisting the Fujimori regime, Sane's report is yet one more indictment of the US-Fujimori regime. Its murderous nature is becoming increasingly difficult to hide.

Fujimori's Decree Laws = Extortion Scheme Against the Peruvian People!

Apologists for Fujimori's outrageous decree laws on crimes of "apology for terrorism" and "treason" often say they aren't as bad as they appear because Fujimori enacted a "repentance law" which the accused can take advantage of as an alternative. However, even these apologists are now beginning to become uncomfortable with the so-called "repentance law". According to an article about the decree laws written by a reporter in the city of Aucayacu, and which appeared in Caretas magazine (10 March 1994):

"...in some regions of the country its use is becoming threatening. It has become a gross method of extortion, since each "repented" terrorist has to produce 40 names to the Security Forces to save himself.

"After each arrest the procedure is as follows: 15 days in the Naval Base of Aucayacu and then 15 additional days at the Los Laureles quarter at Tingo Maria. Then the detainee is turned over to the Police, and finally shown on TV in a striped uniform. Many people who gained their freedom after this procedure talked to Caretas. While subject to the procedure they had lost all of their possessions, and they announced that they had been tortured physically and psychologically.

"A local priest said: 'Now what I want to condemn, and it is my duty to do so, is what the military authorities are doing with the inhabitants in Aucayacu. In order to avoid being presented in the striped uniform, they are being blackmailed. Many people have been released before being accused of any involvement, but they have to buy their liberty with money. Amounts vary according to the accusations against them, and are from \$500, or \$1,000 or even up to US\$4,000."

Peru's "Justice System" Comes Under Increasing Scrutiny:

A panel of lawyers from the New York City Bar Association (the same organisation that hosted Fujimori in New York in Oct 93!) went to Peru during the first week of May 1994 for "meetings to discuss the situation of political prisoners in Peru." [UPI, 10 May 1994] They concluded that "hundreds of Peruvians have been unjustly convicted and sentenced under Fujimori's anti-terrorism and treason laws, and that at least 30% of the 1,375 people imprisoned for treason or terrorism held in Lima's Miguel Castro Castro prison were wrongly convicted."

"The delegation, which included New York judge Jack Weinstein, four lawyers, and a New York prosecutor, called for the revision of all terrorism and treason cases in Peru and the right of all prisoners to meet with family members and lawyers."

"Weinstein expressed support for Peru's fight against the rebel Shining Path group, but also concern for the human rights situation in the country."

While the formal report of this group is not yet available, the panel was clearly partisan to the US-Fujimori regime. Their concern about attacks on the people focused on the fact that "innocent" people are being imprisoned. They were clearly not issuing their report on behalf of those who are in fact *guilty* of standing up against the murderous regime.

The investigation undertaken by the New York Bar Association comes in the wake of another report. From 7-17 September 1993 a Commission paid for by the US Government conducted an investigation of Peru's judicial system. The Commission was made up of: (1) a former Minister of Justice from Argentina who had been a member of the Justice Branch from 1964-1988; (2) a Judge who specialises in "terrorism" cases in Italy and who had gone to Peru in 1990 to "strengthen" their judicial system; (3) a Professor of Law from American University who is on the Board of Directors of numerous non-governmental organisations; and (4) a US Navy Commander from the International Law Division of the US Pentagon, and who has served as a legal advisor to the military in Panama and Spain. Their report, known as the "Goldman Report" was made public on 31 March 1994. This report also finds that literally anyone can be arrested for terrorism, that there is no right to defence, that there is no presumption of innocence and that the military tribunals are neither impartial nor competent. It then advises the US-Fujimori on what it should do to carry out its crimes "legally". This report, in particular, is one more indication that Fujimori's backers are becoming increasingly nervous about the fact that his crimes are so blatant. Efforts are being made from very high places to do some "damage control". This mission was totally in the service of US imperialism.

The significance of these reports is that no one can now dispute what is going on in Peru. And the fact that Peru's judicial system is coming under increasing scrutiny and criticism is not a bad thing. While the reports merely confirm that the Peruvian government is committing crimes that the IEC has reported on all along, they also provide important documentation that the IEC will take advantage of in fighting to defend the lives of Dr Guzman, other political prisoners and prisoners of war, and the lawyers who defend political prisoners.

Dr Guzman's Lawyers Receive Important News Coverage

The 21 March issue of Si magazine carried a two-page article on the efforts of the Lima lawyers, Drs Carlos Gamero Quispe and Ernesto Messa Delgado to represent Dr Guzman. While the article was predictably entitled "The Devil's Lawyers", it informed the people of Peru that these lawyers are defending Dr Guzman, and included important facts about the government's refusal to allow the Lima lawyers the right to interview their client in the "El Diario" case. The article also mentioned the submission of the *habeas corpus* charging violations of Dr Guzman's right to defense, among other things.

The same article announced that the lawyer from Colombia, Juan Jose Landinez, had come to Lima on behalf of US lawyer Leonard Weinglass, "who has denounced the Peruvian government before the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. The condemnation is for the 'violation of the Senderist leader's human rights'. Landinez intends to interview Abimael Guzman."

Former Political Prisoners from Iran Condemn Peruvian Government

The following letter was signed by nine former political prisoners from Iran who are now living in Turkey. It was forwarded to the IEC from the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and Immigrants Councils (IFIRIC):

"We - undersigned - former political prisoners who passed several years of our lives in the Islamic Republic of Iran's prisons and now prefer to leave our own homes rather than condescend to a scandalised government, condemn the arrest and follow all of the arrangements which intend to execute Abimael Guzman, the leader of "the Shining Path" in Peru."

The IFIRIC's newspaper also publicised the International Days of Action in their May issue.

News From Around the World:

Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (Argentina) Defend Political Prisoners in Peru:

Members of the IEC Coordinating Committee first met members of the organisation "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" at last year's UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. These strong women, mothers and family-members of the "disappeared" in Argentina, are known around the world for their resolute struggle on behalf of their loved ones as well as others who have been "disappeared", massacred, or imprisoned by other murderous regimes. In a meeting with IEC representatives in Vienna they pledged their support to the political prisoners in Peru.

The March issue of their newspaper gives an account of their participation at the "Latin American Encounter", an event which included more than 1200 delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean which was held in Havana, Cuba.

"[The Mothers] responded to the Peruvian delegate's attempt to portray the Senderista prisoners as "common" prisoners. 'They are in prison for the good they have done, not because they have done something bad' claimed the Mothers. The audience approved a measure declaring them political prisoners."

Santiago, Spain. On 28 May the First Congress of the Construction Union in Madeira, a member of the Inter-Union Gallega Confederation (CIG), unanimously approved a Special Resolution on Peru:

"As part of our proletarian internationalist responsibility... we want to join in solidarity with the Peruvian people in their just struggle against the genocidal dictatorship of the dictator Alberto Fujimori.

"The systematic genocide of political prisoners and prisoners of war, of indigenous peoples, of thousands of disappeared, etc. are daily realities of the oppression carried out by one of the most bloody dictatorships in Latin America.

"We also express our concern for the life of the leader of the Communist Party of Peru, Dr Abimael Guzman, who since his detention on 12 September 1992 has been held in isolation, without any visits from lawyers, medical doctors, or relatives.

"We, Gallego workers, cannot be silent accomplices of the genocidal Fujimori, and therefore demand that the Peruvian government end the repression, and strictly fulfill international accords regarding conditions of political prisoners and prisoners of war...which guarantee the right to defence and human treatment for men and women whose only crime is just rebellion against exploitation."

New Signatories to the IEC Call:

Jose Maria Vidal Villa (Spain), Director of the Dept of Economics, Barcelona University

Lola Casares (Spain), Teacher. Barcelona University

Fermin Bernabeu Lopez (Spain), Publications Inspector

Jamal Mediani (U.K.), Chairman, Campaign Against Torture and Oppression in Morocco.

Regional Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (Colombia)

Municipal Association of Peasant Users of Barrancabermeja (Colombia)

Peasant Hostel of Barrancabermeja (a shelter for peasants who are victims of violence of landlords and military in Colombia)