



EMERGENCY BULLETIN 48

International Emergency Committee To Defend The Life of Dr Abimael Guzman

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

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More News on the International Days of Action:

INDIA: Posters appeared on the walls in various centres in Kerala State, and on 20 May there was a day of protest in Kochi which included an exhibition of PCP posters. The IEC Call, letters from people from around the world, Dr Guzman's 24 Sept speech, and excerpts from the Emergency Bulletins were broadcast throughout the day. 176 new signatures were added to the IEC Call, and many fundraising coupons were sold. The event attracted many new people, some of whom were initially confused as to why people in India should be concerned with the defense of Dr Guzman when there are so many problems in India. Supporters report that once people connected what was happening in Peru with current developments in India - in particular the way the imperialists control through the IMF, the World Bank, and the GATT - this was no longer a question.

CANADA: 20 IEC supporters held a spirited and militant picket in front of the Peruvian Consulate in Montreal. IDA leaflets in Spanish, English and French were distributed to passers-by. This action was especially significant because it is the first time the Peruvian Embassy has been confronted directly in Canada.

NEPAL: Prior to the Days of Action the IEC video was shown in villages and cities throughout Nepal. On 20 May a procession wound through the streets of Kathmandu chanting 'Yankee Go Home', 'Defend the Life of Comrade Gonzalo' and other slogans. The marchers then went to the US Embassy, where they staged a militant demonstration and handed a letter to the Embassy officials. Following are excerpts:

"Dr Abimael Guzman (or Comrade Gonzalo, Chairman of the Communist Party of Peru [Shining Path]), an acknowledged leader of the international communist movement, has been in solitary confinement in an underground prison cell in Peru for the last 20 months. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the hooded military tribunal of the dictatorial Fujimori regime of Peru. He was not only denied any legal defense, but his lawyers who attempted to plead his case are themselves serving life imprisonment on treason charges. Since he was sentenced by the military tribunal on October 7 1993 no outsiders, not even his relatives, lawyers and doctors, have seen Dr Guzman in person. It is reported that he is subjected to various tortures by the brutal Fujimori regime and his precious life is in constant danger. It is outrageous that the US Government which makes loud noises elsewhere about the human rights issue, is not only silent about the gross violation of the human rights of Dr Guzman, but is actively backing the Fujimori regime in his criminal activities. We therefore strongly protest and condemn this gang-up of the US government with the Fujimori regime and demand that the US keep its hands off Peru..."

BOLIVIA: More than 70 residents in a poor neighborhood in Cochabamba responded to leaflets and materials about the IEC Campaign and the People's War in Peru by attending a public meeting. After the IDA slogans were sung to music, a speaker from the IEC spoke of the historic significance of the defense of Dr Guzman's life. The video "The People of the Shining Path" was shown to an enthusiastic audience, who took the IEC Call and other materials to neighborhoods for distribution.

Leaflets were distributed in an Amazonian neighborhood in Santa Cruz. Photographic displays were set up, and IEC materials and pamphlets were sold at a bookstall. More than 60 residents came to a meeting where the video "Barricades and Prisons in Peru" was shown. The showing of this video inspired many people to speak about their own experiences, and their sentiments in solidarity with the People's War and with Dr Guzman. A music group sang and danced to music from the La Cruz area.

The IEC Campaign was also taken to a remote region of Potosi for the first time. Because the area has no electricity the videos weren't shown. However, the campaign was so enthusiastically received that plans are being made to bring in a generator to show the videos at a later date.

On 20 May a large banner was hung from a nearby mountain, and a program was held to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the People's War. The main speaker, speaking in the Quechua language, stressed the importance of the IEC campaign, and the pride they felt to be part of it.

On the 21st of May large IEC displays were taken into the community, along with photographs and other materials. The displays emphasised the achievements and international nature of the campaign, and the importance of the participation of the Bolivian people. People participated with red banners, and by learning and singing the "Internationale".

AUSTRALIA: IEC supporters in **Melbourne** mobilised people to telephone the Peruvian Consulate to demand an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman. More than 20 people, holding very diverse views, did so - some more than once. Letters and resolutions from individuals and organisations were also sent to Fujimori and the Consulate. Supporters in **Brisbane** held showings of the IEC video, and report that it "is of great encouragement to us in this part of the world."

SWEDEN: IEC supporters in **Malmoe** held a public showing of the IEC video at the Latin American Cultural Association, followed by a lively discussion about recent events in Peru.

DENMARK: Supporters in **Copenhagen** set up a large display and literature table at the entrance of the Amnesty International offices. The display exposed AI's failure to act to defend Dr Guzman's life. In the evening the display covered the front of the AI office, and musicians performed at a candle-light vigil.

FRANCE: Members of the IEC Committee in **Paris** held an action at the Trocadero on the Esplanade des Droits de l'Homme (a human rights area). A group of Peruvian musicians performed with them, and leaflets were distributed to passers-by.

NORWAY: On 21 May the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and Immigrants Councils in **Bergen**, Norway, distributed IDA leaflets and posters throughout the city, concentrating in the University area. A bookstall featured large colour posters of Dr Guzman and attracted much attention. More than 50 signatures of support for the campaign were collected, including that of Agot Himie, the Municipal Counselor for Health and Social Welfare, who expressed happiness with the breadth of IEC campaign, and the need for more such actions of international solidarity.

On 24 May a large display featuring colour posters of Dr Guzman and calling people to "Rise up In Defence of the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman" was set up at the City Centre. A bookstall featured information on the campaign, and activists distributed leaflets and spoke with passers-by about Dr Guzman's case. Permission was received from the UN office in Bergen to collect funds at the Civic Centre for one hour, and contributions were sent to the International Office.

New Attacks on IEC Campaign:

IEC-Mexico reports that a North American living in Mexico who has been working on the international campaign with their chapter was arrested by the Mexican police while traveling with her husband on the night of 23 June. She and her husband were held at gunpoint, were denied the assistance of a lawyer, and were intensely interrogated. On the morning of 24 June they were told they were going to be deported. No official reason was given. However, they were unofficially told that it was because of their involvement in the IEC Campaign. That same morning the authorities took the couple and their children to the US-Mexico border and they were expelled from Mexico.

It is interesting to note that within the past months there was a report in a leading newspaper in Mexico that a team from Peru's DINCOTE had been in Mexico to collaborate with their counterparts there. IEC doubts they were there as tourists! Of course US involvement at every level of Mexico's law enforcement agencies is well known, and the expulsion of a US citizen could not have happened without the complicity of the US Embassy.

Democratic lawyers in Mexico have stepped forward to protest the expulsion and is vigorously exposing this dangerous action that has been taken by the Mexican government. Following are excerpts from their press release:

"Our Constitution is very clear. Foreigners in this country do not have the right to be involved in politics on matters of Mexico. But this companera was dedicated to advancing the campaign to defend the life of Abimael Guzman, who has been held in isolation in military prison in Peru for nearly two years. She was not intervening in national politics.

"The above-mentioned Constitutional law was broken by the regional government, which in so doing is demonstrating a total disregard for the law. Through their action they are introducing a climate of persecution ... in preparation for a bigger hit against the Mexican people."

IEC-Mexico has also taken action to protest the expulsion, and issued a press release thanking their companera for her energetic and tireless work on the campaign in Mexico. The International Coordinating Committee, on behalf of IEC supporters around the world, joins IEC-Mexico in thanking her for her contributions in Mexico, and is confident that she will be a strong supporter of the campaign wherever she is.

IEC-Bolivia reports that a journalist who has been a known sympathiser of the IEC campaign was arrested by the Special Center of Police Intelligence (CEIP). Hooded government agents accused her and her companion of having connections with "terrorist groups", and a police investigation was initiated. While the CEIP attempted to keep her in detention during the investigation, the Workers of the Media Federation of La Paz exerted pressure for her release. As a result, she has conditional freedom while the CEIP tries to put together a case against her.

Bolivian journalists are being heavily surveilled and "investigated". Last year 127 journalists signed a

letter of protest to Fujimori circulated by the IEC-Bolivia. Recently the Bolivian government gave the media a list of 127 names and surnames of journalists who are being "investigated" by the intelligence groups in Bolivia for their "organic connections with terrorist groups". This list contained the same names and surnames that had appeared on the protest letter to Fujimori.

IEC condemns these recent attacks by the Bolivian regime, and for intensifying the climate of harassment and intimidation which IEC supporters in Bolivia have reported on.

Coming under attack is nothing new for IEC supporters. IEC Chapters routinely report that venues for programmes are "mysteriously" unavailable. Keys to get into buildings rented for events are suddenly "misplaced". Appearances on radio and television shows are "cancelled" at the last minute. Agents of the Peruvian government masquerade as "innocent victims of Sendero" at programs, and attempt to turn people against the campaign. IEC activists and supporters are harassed or threatened. During the past several months there have been many such reports.

Much of the recent attack continues to be in the form of media lies and slanders against Dr Guzman and the People's War in Peru. [For a description of the counter-campaign see EB 32.] One particularly incredible recent example is an article which has appeared in newspapers around the world over the past six months. The article, usually headlined "In the Killing Fields of Peru" or "Women who Bloody the Shining Path" by Gabriella Gamini and which initially appeared in London's Guardian newspaper, is an especially vicious attack. Reporting that increasing numbers of women from the universities and from the peasantry are joining the People's War, and that women now make up the majority of the PCP's fighters the author then goes on to slander the PCP and, in particular, the women fighters of Peru with lies and innuendoes. Incredibly, the article also alleges, without any evidence, that the PCP has numerous anti-women rules which enforce submissive behaviour.

These are outrageous and transparent lies to anyone with even elementary knowledge about the Communist Party of Peru, which has been known to many, especially women, for not only attracting a large number of women into its ranks, but for its resolute struggle against the oppression of women. But nonetheless, the lies may be confusing to some who do not know the truth. IEC encourages people around the world to oppose such articles by writing letters to the editor and finding other ways to expose the lies, and at the same time use the opportunity to tell the truth. (If supporters don't have materials to refute such lies, the IEC can provide references.)

These kinds of articles are part of a highly orchestrated media-campaign. When an article such as the one mentioned above appears in a major newspaper, the article is immediately disseminated by the wire services and picked up by other newspapers around the world. Newspapers change the name of the article, and give credit for the article to one of their own staff writers. But the same lies are repeated word-for-word. It may appear to some that the appearance of so many articles, apparently written by different journalists in different countries, tends to confirm information about the PCP or events in Peru. However, in reality, there is only one original source. These articles reflect an orchestrated campaign of lies and slanders, and we suspect that the original source of many of these articles is none other than the US-CIA. To help the IEC understand and monitor this counter-campaign, we encourage IEC supporters around the world to send copies of all major articles on Peru that appear in local papers to the international office.

Who is Vladimiro Montesinos?

Vladimiro Montesinos is seen by many as the most powerful man in Peru. He is Fujimori's "advisor" and controls Peru's National Intelligence Service (also known as SIN), and his connections with the US-CIA are well known. He has been identified, along with General Nicolas Hermoza, as having directed the La Cantuta disappearances as well as other death squad operations, and he is known for his ruthlessness.

No country is ruled by a single person. Rather, personalities who make up a government generally fit the needs of a government to maintain its rule at given times, and often different people play very different roles. Montesinos is just one person in the Fujimori regime. However, the part played by Montesinos in maintaining power in Peru reveals much about the regime - its reliance on death squads and repression, complicity with drug traffickers*, and especially its relationship to the US.

A long article by Gustavo Gorriti which appeared in the summer edition of Covert Action Quarterly (a US journal which exposes US intelligence operations) provides a close look at the career and activities of Montesinos. We note however, that Gorriti has his own reasons for exposing Montesinos, which have nothing to do with the interests of the poor in Peru. Instead, Gorriti is a representative of so-called "united left" forces who are opposing Fujimori's re-election in 1995 and who themselves want to take power in Peru and preside over the same order with a few cosmetic changes.

Gorriti has close links with the US State Department, and serves as one of their many advisors on Peru. Gorriti does not condemn imperialist intervention in Peru. In fact, he has made numerous appeals to the US Government to become more involved in Peru. He openly praises the work of the US Drug

Enforcement Agency (DEA), and his main criticism of the CIA is that they are working with Montesinos. He has repeatedly asked the US to give more aid to the Fujimori regime, openly saying that the funds are necessary to crush the People's War. Nonetheless, especially after Montesinos was openly identified as the "author" of the La Cantuta massacre there has been increasing interest in the role of Montesinos, and Gorriti's article provides much information. The following is based on his article.

Montesinos began his career as an Army officer in 1966. From the beginning his greatest ability was to connect himself to very powerful people and to influence Peru's rulers, and he quickly distinguished himself by serving as a link between the Army and the so-called "civilian government". In 1973 Montesinos became the personal aide and advisor to Peru's General Mercado, who was prime minister, minister of war, and commander-in-chief of the army. This was during the period when Peru's president Velasco expelled the US military from Peru and began buying weapons from the Soviet Union. Montesinos provided Mercado with books, wrote his speeches, etc. and had complete use of Mercado's office. While Montesinos was Mercado's advisor, the presidential weekly agenda arrived at the US Embassy almost as soon as it was approved by Velasco. When an important document was missing from Mercado's private safe, it was discovered in the hands of Montesinos. Montesinos admitted taking it, but said it was because of his "intellectual curiosity". But thereafter Montesinos was suspected of spying for the U.S. He was tailed by fellow military officers, who became convinced that he was trafficking in top-secret documents, mainly to US intelligence. However, they were unable to remove him. When Mercado retired, Montesinos became the advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, who was known as a "radical" who had planned a coup against President Velasco. While in this post Montesinos befriended foreign journalists and was again suspected of spying for the US. As a result, in 1976 he was transferred to a remote and isolated post near Ecuador where he was assigned to perform the more routine duties of an Army captain.

Two days after his transfer, Montesinos stole a blank army travel form, falsified it, and went to the US Embassy, where he received an official invitation to the US. There he falsely represented himself as an aide to Peru's Prime Minister and met with the State Department and CIA, and lectured to the Inter-American Defense College. When Montesinos returned to Peru he was arrested and charged with "treason to the fatherland", a charge which then carried a mandatory death sentence. The charge was later dropped but he was convicted of lying and desertion and was expelled from the Army.

Within a few years Montesinos became a prominent lawyer for drug traffickers. He was famous for bribery and kickbacks, and for working with corrupt police and judges. He rented homes for Colombia drug traffickers and managed the disappearances of files. But he also made enemies with certain Army officers, and was again charged with treason. He fled the country in 1983, but lawyers who had worked with him for drug organisations persuaded the Supreme Court of Military Justice to drop the charges. Montesinos continued to defend drug traffickers, and by 1987 became a key advisor to Peru's attorney general. There he arranged the cover-up of the military's massacre in Cayara in May 1988, where 24 peasants were axed to death.

In 1989 Montesinos persuaded SIN that he was indispensable to them by showing them detailed files he had gathered from the Attorney General's office. These were files on 7-8,000 people who had been accused of subversive acts. He became the unofficial but actual chief of SIN.

In 1990 Fujimori was chosen to run for president. However, there were criminal charges against him which threatened to prevent him from running. During one of the previous regimes, some land had been taken from large landlords and was to be distributed to the peasantry and Fujimori had, by cheating, acquired one of the large farms that was being distributed. There were also numerous cases of fraud, tax evasion, and misreporting against him. Montesinos became his lawyer, and by "cleaning up the files" and "persuading" witnesses not to testify, Montesinos got Fujimori off the charges. When Fujimori was elected in 1990, Montesinos became his personal advisor.

Montesinos' links with the CIA became stronger. In 1990 he regularly visited the CIA station chief in Lima. He was invited and went to CIA headquarters in Langley, USA.

By 1991 Montesinos became more involved in the direct control of the drug war. He diminished the role of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and strengthened the role of the CIA. Some disgruntled DEA officials tried to expose Montesinos' ties with traffickers in order to regain their position. However, an embassy official told them: *"If you have a son, are you going to be looking for his defects?"*

Soon afterwards hooded men driving cars belonging to Fujimori's brother and the Vice-Minister of the Interior raided a neighborhood party in Barrios Altos, next to the police station. In less than a minute 15 people were submachine gunned to death. In 1992, based on information leaked from the military, the names of the death-squad members and details of the actions were revealed. A Peruvian magazine ran the story, identifying the chain of command all the way up to Montesinos. No one was charged, and after his 5 April 1992 coup Fujimori promoted all of the officers who were identified as the mass-murderers. Fujimori continued to attempt to blame the PCP for the massacre at Barrios Altos, as he had unsuccessfully tried to do with the Cayara and La Cantuta massacres.

In July 1992 members of the same death squad massacred 9 students and a lecturer at La Cantuta. The crime was linked to Montesinos and General Hermoza from almost the minute it took place. Extensive documentation, and even testimony from high-ranking military officers exposed their roles. The case became known internationally, and some low-ranking officers were sacrificed in an attempt to clean up Fujimori's image. But in order to protect Montesinos and Hermoza, Fujimori took the risk of defying his own new Constitution, and moved the trial from the civilian courts to the military courts. Neither Montesinos nor Hermoza was ever charged.

It is no secret that Montesinos master-minded Fujimori's 5 April 1992 coup. Hundreds of people who opposed the Fujimori regime were arrested and Fujimori issued new decree laws that have terrorised the people of Peru ever since. Less known is the fact that the files at the Palace of Justice were purged under the direction of Montesinos. The day after the coup more than 10,000 active files of judicial cases were dumped from the windows of the justice building into military vehicles standing below. Among the files that mysteriously disappeared were all of the lawsuits concerning Fujimori and his family, as well as Montesinos.

In 1992 a few US Congressmen raised the question of whether they should continue to work with Montesinos, openly worrying about whether their relationship might prove embarrassing - as it did with Noriega. Not surprisingly, a US Congressional investigation concluded that *"the CIA has a relationship with him. He is a very valuable asset..."*

* For more information on the Peruvian regime's relationship to drug trafficking see "Fujimori and the Drug Trade" written by J.K. Marga and available from the IEC.

"Rage Against the Machine" continues to create controversy:

Controversy continues to swirl around this popular US band's support for the People's War in Peru. At a time when the media claims youth are disinterested in politics, and only care about themselves, sex and money, *Rage Against the Machine's* popularity is driving the reactionaries crazy. Their music video popularising Leonard Peltier, the imprisoned leader of the American Indian Movement, has hit the top of the music charts. And while their video supporting Abimael Guzman and the People's War in Peru has not been shown on television, their support for Dr Guzman and the People's War has become well-known and controversial.

In a two-page article on the band which appeared in England's "New Musical Express" a frustrated music critic moaned that he had tried to get the band's Tom Morello to talk about his family and his pets, but instead Morello would only talk about "issues ranging from women's oppression (against) to the Shining Path guerrillas of Peru (for)". An accompanying picture showed Morello, who is also a signatory to the IEC Call, wearing the IEC T-shirt.

In an interview with a Dutch music magazine Tom Morello announced that *Rage* will give special attention to Latin American guerrilla groups, and most especially to the Shining Path in Peru. An anarchist group which opposes the Shining Path responded by calling on youth to destroy all recordings of *Rage's* music. But instead, music magazines report that youth who are inspired by the band's lyrics are burning the American flag at concerts.

More News From Around the World:

MEXICO: During February, peasants from the Mexican state of Guerrero marched from their State to Mexico City to demand justice, and to support the rebels in Chiapas State. They occupied the front of the official government headquarters, where they camped. IEC supporters went there to tell them about events in Peru and found that the peasants immediately identified with their Peruvian sisters and brothers. A youth ran around the encampment, announcing the showing of "The People of the Shining Path". Mexico-IEC reports: "More than 150 peasants sat down in front of the TV, watching with great attention. They completely identified with the images. A young man near us said at the end: 'It is as if we were watching ourselves in a mirror'." While some leaders of the encampment didn't want the people to see the video, they were opposed by the peasants themselves, some of whom bought the video to show in their communities.

April 10 was the 75 year anniversary of Zapata's assassination. (Zapata was the peasant leader of Mexico's 1910 revolution.) More than 100,000 people - mostly peasants from different parts of the country - attended a demonstration. IEC supporters carried a huge banner on which the painting on the front of the "Panorama Ayacuchano" cassette was reproduced. When the group entered the Main Square the banner and the group received enthusiastic applause, and the public joined in singing the slogans supporting the People's War in Peru and demanding an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman.

SPAIN: On 6 May members of the IEC-Gallego participated in the "Cesar Vallejo, Poet of the People" Conference in **Coruna**, where they were able to tell many university students and others about events in Peru and the IEC Campaign. On 12 May they participated in a similar conference in **Monforte**. On 20 May IEC-Gallego held a picket in front of the Peruvian Consulate. A neighborhood committee in

Monforte also sent a letter of protest to Fujimori and to the Peruvian Embassy in Madrid. On 10 June, 40 people attended a showing of the IEC video in **Barcelona**, where supporters report that it had a profound effect on the audience, awakening them to nature and importance of the IEC Campaign and events in Peru.

On 29 June the IEC supporters in **Santander** held a public showing of "People of the Shining Path" and members of the IEC-Catalunya Chapter gave talks on the campaign and the People's War in Peru. About 40 people, many of whom were young anarchists, learned the truth about what is happening in Peru for the first time. They report that the reception was largely positive. On the following evening another public event was held, at which the IEC video was also shown.

IEC-Santander also collected 75 signatures to protest letters demanding an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman which have been sent to Fujimori.

US: On 13 May supporters of the IEC held a program at Evergreen University in **Washington State**. More than 60 people - mostly students - attended. The IEC Video was shown. Jeff Paterson (the US soldier who refused to go to the Gulf War) spoke about the International Campaign, and Heriberto Ocasio (a member of the 1st IEC delegation) spoke on the situation in Peru. Several Peruvians came to the program to say that the IEC didn't know what was happening in Peru and that only Peruvians had a right to speak. But after seeing the video, there was little they could say. On the following day two similar programs were held - one at **Seattle** Community College, and another at a revolutionary bookstore. Ricardo Sanchez, a well-known Chicano poet and professor recited poetry upholding struggle.

During the week of 20 May, 25 high school students in **Chicago** occupied the school superintendent's office to protest the firing of one of their teachers. The teacher was a delegate to the IEC Founding Conference in Germany, and is an active supporter of the IEC. He had recently been featured in a newspaper article entitled "Teacher Acts Against Peruvian Tyranny". The article talked about the IEC and exposed US support for the Peruvian regime. Within a month of its publication the teacher received a call from the school informing him he was being dismissed because he "didn't fit in with the community", although he had only recently been awarded an outstanding teaching evaluation. 11 students were arrested at the action in support of the teacher, some of whom were also involved in an IDA action in Chicago.

Elsewhere in the US, the IEC Chapter in **Miami** showed the IEC video to farmworkers at an immigrant labor camp, where it was received enthusiastically. The IEC Chapter in **Hawai'i** sponsored several public video showings exposing US intervention in the Americas to raise funds for the International Campaign. Supporters in **Atlanta** performed a play and distributed IEC literature at a human rights festival during the IDA. Supporters in **San Francisco** distributed IEC literature to more than 500 people attending a Zapatista event and report that an increasing number of Chicano/Latino people have shown an interest in the campaign - including many students, activists, and farmworkers. More than 400 letters demanding an end to the isolation of Dr Guzman have been sent to Fujimori.

DENMARK: The 26 May issue of the daily newspaper *Arbejderen* carried a full-page article on Fujimori's "Little Vietnam", reproducing much of the information that appeared in the article on the military massacre in the Huallaga Valley in EB46. On 27 May they reproduced the IMF article from EB 46 as another full-page feature, along with a cartoon on the IMF.

FRANCE: On 10 June members of the IEC Committee held an action at the entrance of a large concert organised by Amnesty International where they held placards and passed out leaflets exposing AI's failure to defend political prisoners in Peru.

New Signatories to the Call:

Jose Maria Gruber, General Secretary of Unitario Sindicato of Cantabria
Joaquin Diaz Munion, former chair of the ICU (Castrena Left)
176 people in Kerala State, India
73 people from Cantabria, Spain

The IEC Coordinating Committee is saddened to inform its supporters that Professor Jens Scheer recently died of a heart attack. Jens Scheer was a strong supporter of the IEC Campaign, as well as of many other struggles of the people. He gave the welcoming speech at the IEC Founding Conference in Germany, and was elected by delegates from Germany to be one of their Steering Committee members. He translated the Emergency Bulletins into German and worked tirelessly on the Campaign in Germany, always determined to defend what was in the interest of the Peruvian people.

Jens Scheer's activities on behalf of the oppressed and against racism in Germany, as well as his outspoken views within his area of expertise and teaching (nuclear physics), made him a well-known political figure in Germany. In the 1970's he openly spoke of his belief in communism, causing the University to attempt to remove him from his position. Many people came forward to defend him, and they were unable to do so.

Jens Scheer was a rebel until his death, and will be sorely missed.