



EMERGENCY BULLETIN 55

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

September 1995

September 1992 - September 1995

THREE YEARS IN THE DUNGEONS OF THE MURDEROUS FUJIMORI REGIME! FIGHT TO END THE ISOLATION!

This September marks three years since the capture of Dr Guzman, his historic speech in the cage, and the beginning of his isolation. Since Dr Guzman's capture, September has been a time when IEC activists and supporters in dozens of countries around the world have stepped up their activities - shining an international spotlight on the crimes of the Fujimori regime and the barbarous treatment of Dr Guzman. These coordinated international events have both increased international pressure against the regime, and have introduced many new people to the truth about what is happening in Peru.

Stepping up the campaign during the month of September is no mere "commemoration". It is a time when the battle lines in the campaign to defend Dr Guzman's life become especially sharp. It is a time when the US-backed Fujimori regime boastfully relives the moments of the capture of Dr Guzman. It is a time when the regime escalates its counter-revolutionary war against the people of Peru and its attacks against the international campaign.

Fujimori's waving of the so-called "letter calling for peace accords" at the UN, his announcement of plans to create a "little Vietnam", his boasting of the imminent defeat of the international campaign to defend Dr Guzman's life, the regime's international media campaign of disinformation about a so-called "massacre of the Ashaninkas" (which later proved to be another campaign of lies and slanders) have all occurred in and around September.

On 21 May 1995 Fujimori announced that Dr Guzman will die within three years, saying "Nobody has a long life in the prison where he is held". This barbaric treatment of Dr Guzman has outraged people around the world, and hundreds have written letters to Fujimori to denounce his actions and to demand an end to Dr Guzman's isolation. The 6th Delegation travelled to Peru and laid an even greater basis to bring the isolation to an end. However, much more needs to be done.

The regime wants the people of the world to forget Dr Guzman and everything he symbolises. The IEC calls on activists and supporters to fight for just the opposite. To intensify the battle to end the isolation, and to once more spread the words of Dr Guzman's 24 September speech everywhere. To reproduce, enlarge, post, distribute, and publish the leaflet attached to this bulletin. To create a visual impact that cannot be missed. On Sunday, 24 September 1995, people living in hundreds of cities and towns on all 5 continents should be exposed to (and reminded of) just who Dr Guzman is and what he symbolises to the oppressed in Peru and around the world, and should be challenged to join the battle to end his isolation. During the month of September the regime must once again be put on notice that their murderous actions are becoming increasingly unmasked, and that tens of thousands of people are united in their determination to continue the battle to defend Dr Guzman and other political prisoners in Peru.

Fujimori's amnesty law for military butchers gives rise to widespread protest and condemnation

On 15 June 1995 Alberto Fujimori signed Law #26479 which grants unconditional amnesty to all military or police personnel who have committed one or more crimes of any nature "with the motive of, or as a consequence of, the fight against terrorism" during the past 15 years.

This law grants immediate release to the military butchers who have already been convicted, such as:

- * Members of the notorious Colina Gang who were found guilty of the kidnapping and murder of 9 students and a professor at La Cantuta University;

- * Those found guilty of the massacre of 32 peasants in Soccos, Ayacucho, in November 1983, when a police patrol raided a wedding party and then detained and assassinated everyone attending.
- * Captain Telmo Hurtado, who was held responsible for assassinating 69 peasants, including 23 children, at Accomarca in 1985. (Hurtado was sentenced in 1993 to 6 years in prison after an 8-year court case.)
- * Those found guilty of assassinating 124 unarmed prisoners who had already surrendered after the prison massacres of June 1986.

So far only 8 cases alleging human rights abuses have been tried in Peru's courts. Those found guilty have now been released. Members of the notorious Colina Gang who were found guilty of the La Cantuta massacre were given a great big party at the Military Intelligence Headquarters (called "The Little Pentagon") upon their release and before being sent abroad with new identities to protect them from the wrath of the people. But the amnesty law isn't limited to those who have been officially tried for so-called "human rights abuses". All military personnel who have been convicted of crimes such as murder, rape, arson, or looting *"with the motive of, or as a consequence of, the fight against terrorism"* may also be released and pardoned under the broad wording of this law.

The new law specifically gives amnesty to military and police who are under investigation but haven't yet been charged, and prevents any further investigation. According to Article 6, *"the deeds and crimes understood to be included in the present amnesty, as well as the cases definitively dismissed and those forgiven, are not subject to investigation, inquiry or summary; all of the judicial cases that are either in process or are being executed will be closed with finality."*

According to La Republica, 73 cases charging members of the military with "human rights abuses" were pending in Peru's courts. These included:

- * The Barrios Altos massacre -- when masked military personnel entered a house in Barrios Altos in 1991 and machine-gunned a large group of people attending a neighborhood barbecue the military claimed was raising money for the PCP;
- * The Cayara case - when an army detachment entered the village of Cayara in Ayacucho and massacred 31 peasants to retaliate against a PCP ambush that had occurred the previous day in another village altogether. The press were then prevented from entering the area until the bodies had been disappeared. Remaining witnesses were assassinated; the lawyer who investigated the case had to flee Peru.
- * Cases against Commander Artaza Camion, who is accused of the murder of 50 "disappeared" people who were found in a common grave in Pucayacu in 1984, of the disappearance of journalist Jaime Ayala in August 1984, and of the murder of 6 evangelists in Callqui in 1985.
- * The case against Commander Fernando La Vera Hernandez, accused of assassinating Hugo Bustíos, a journalist, in November 1988 near Huanta. A witness to the assassination was later killed.

Neither will it be possible to re-open cases that were tried in closed military courts, such as the case against those responsible for the 1986 massacre of 118 prisoners at El Fronton who were executed after they surrendered.

This law doesn't limit itself to giving amnesty to a few hundred known butchers who have been convicted or who have already been accused. It prevents members of the military or police from being held responsible for crimes committed at any time during the 15 years of the anti-subversive war. These criminals have systematically tortured thousands of political prisoners during interrogations. (Human rights organisations say they have never interviewed a political prisoner in Peru who wasn't tortured!) They have raped thousands of women and children in the rural areas. (America's Watch stated that rape by Peru's military is "as routine as setting up camp"!) They have robbed and looted the homes of peasants in the countryside and of the poor in the shantytowns. Thousands of people have been disappeared and/or murdered in cold blood. The criminals who have committed these crimes no longer have to worry. The law protects them from ever being accused. It's as though their crimes never happened. They can go on with "business as usual", assured once again that their government will protect them and that they can murder, rape, loot, and burn with impunity!

However, the regime is finding that carrying this out isn't so easy. The new amnesty law has provoked protests and condemnations from many sectors of Peruvian society. According to Apoyo S.A. (a polling group which has been notoriously favourable to Fujimori), 87% of the people oppose the new law.

"Organisations who are defenders of human rights organisations, such as the College of Lawyers, the Democratic Forum... university people who have been silent for a long time, and of course, the self-sacrificing and the unselfish groups representing families of the victims, have reacted in a way that hasn't been seen in this country for a long time." [Caretas, 22 June, 1995]

The amnesty law has also opened up new divisions within Peru's ruling class. Legal opposition parties are denouncing it and an army division held a "tank parade" in the street to protest the release of the Colina Gang (saying the release of members of a known death squad gives the entire military a bad name). Editorials against the Amnesty Law have even appeared in Peru's press:

"La Cantuta was not a confused action taken by a group that was out of control, but rather, it was part of a policy that was not the responsibility of a just a few majors and sub-officials... The chiefs, those who ordered the Colina group, are those who hold power in Peru."[Caretas, 22 June 1995]

In the face of such broad opposition Fujimori has remained intransigent: *"We are not going to repeal anything,"* Fujimori said. *'The law is in force and it will be applied. We are not turning back.'*" [29 July 1995, UPI]

But just why did Fujimori pass such a law, and why is he remaining so intransigent? Peru's legal opposition parties say that the Fujimori regime is controlled by the military, and that the military demanded Fujimori pass such a law. Another widespread view is that investigating and trying the cases against members of the Armed Forces that are pending in Peru's courts would lead to further exposure of the regime and cause more instability than the passage of the amnesty law. These explanations contain some truth, but they leave out one of the most important reasons for the law: that the amnesty law is one more component of the counter-revolutionary war being led by the US-CIA.

Fujimori has promised over and over again that the People's War would be entirely defeated by 28 July 1995 (previously 1 January 1995). But he hasn't been able to carry out his promise.¹ Instead, even Fujimori has been forced to admit that the People's War is continuing to be fought in the mountains, in the jungles, and in the shantytowns. Fujimori's imprisoned butchers are being released to continue their counter-subversive war and unleash further terror against the people. Those who fled the country to escape charges against them are being invited to come back and continue their crimes. But most importantly, those who fear being tried for past crimes are being assured they will not be held responsible - and are being given license to continue committing such crimes with impunity.

Take-over Of the Universities:

On 25 May 1995 Fujimori passed law #26459 which dismissed the faculty and student elected administrations of San Marcos and La Cantuta Universities and reorganised them under the direct authority of the regime².

According to Caretas [1 June 1995]:

"What happened with the law reorganising the universities is another example of how the system works.

On Thursday, May 25th, the law was approved by the CCD.[Congress]

On Thursday, May 25th, Alberto Fujimori signed it.

On Thursday, May 25th, El Peruano³ published it.

On Thursday, May 25th, the police executed it and took over the rectory of San Marcos University.

This is the efficiency of Fujimorism."

The Congressman who introduced the law into Congress admitted that he received his instructions from SIN (the military intelligence service): *"SIN informed me that the universities are infiltrated by terrorists. The word of SIN is God's word."* On the day the proposed law was introduced, the regime also discussed possible international repercussions to the law with an ex-minister from Chile (similar laws had been enacted to take over universities during martial law there). The law was proposed at a closed session of Congress held during the middle of the night and when it failed to get the number of votes required by the Constitution, Fujimori signed it into law

¹The wording of the new law implies that the People's War has been defeated, and that the government's counter-revolutionary war against the PCP and the People's War is over. It then likens the Amnesty Law to those enacted in Chile and in Argentina. In the first place, to be proud of passing laws like those in Chile and Argentina which gave amnesty to everyone guilty of disappearing and murdering tens of thousands of people is outrageous. But this comparison is also an attempt to hide the active continuation of the People's War and the regime's counter-revolutionary war against it!

² The law that was initially submitted to Congress proposed to reorganise all public universities under the direct rule of the regime. The Congress "compromised" by specifying that only selected universities be effected at this time. But the threat is to extend its direct control to other universities as well.

³ The official government newspaper.

anyway. As the law was being signed, the police were already occupying the offices of the university administration. Since then the purge at the universities has continued :

"A Peruvian government commission in charge of reorganizing the San Marcos University on Thursday announced the expulsion of 300 students...Paredes said the commission also was evaluating the San Marcos university's 3,000 professors to decide whether or not they would be ratified in their posts...." [3 Aug, UPI]

The Universities of San Marcos and La Cantuta are two of the most influential and prestigious universities in Peru. They have been centers of resistance and struggle for decades. The faculty and students have fought long and hard for administrative autonomy from the dictates of the state, and for the freedom to debate and criticise. The regimes have done everything in their power to smash this spirit. Troops have occupied both San Marcos and La Cantuta. SIN boasts that they have infiltrated agents into every department. But evidently this wasn't enough to smash the spirit of rebellion and terrify the students and faculty into blind submission. The regime is now attempting to exercise direct and open rule. Such an action is usually a hallmark of martial law.

The take-over of the universities is being opposed by faculty and students, who are especially rallying to protect the powerful education union, SUTEP. The new law has also set off an alarm among many who have mainly remained silent as the regime has carried out its war against the poor. This open take-over of the University, coming right after Fujimori dissolved the country's Elections Board, has especially outraged some of the press, who undoubtedly recognise that regimes that take direct control over universities often take direct control of the press next.

Testimony from Peru:

During its recent trip to Peru the 6th IEC delegation contacted many human rights and religious non-governmental organisations in order to increase pressure against the genocidal policies of the Fujimori regime, and especially challenge them to oppose the isolation of Dr Guzman.

In general these non-governmental organisations are part of the Peruvian regime's "loyal opposition" and play a very important role in plans to "pacify" the country by appearing to present a third way out. Many sponsor programmes in poor rural areas and shantytowns that encourage dependency rather than self-sufficiency. Some even act as spies, providing the government with names of people they suspect of supporting the PCP. Some cautiously speak out against the regime's most blatant "human rights" abuses, while vociferously denouncing the people who dare to rise up in arms against the regime. Many work hand-in-hand with imperialist powers. Consequently, it was not surprising that many of the recognised human rights and religious non-governmental organisations either made up flimsy excuses to avoid meeting the delegation or flatly refused. Nonetheless, the delegates were able to meet with some individuals who gave important first-hand reports on the repression of the Peruvian people. Following is a short excerpt from an interview with such a person. Future EBs will contain sections of other interviews. [Texts have been edited to protect identities.]

"My first experience with Sendero was in the countryside... My organisation worked in the villages and Sendero was often organising the peasants in the same village. We worked out good agreements between our two groups because we both recognised that we were working for the self-sufficiency of the peasants and were working for justice in these communities, who are the most oppressed by the government. At first this wasn't very difficult.

"Then the government began to make sweeps of the villages. They would arrest, disappear, or kill those people who were known to be friendly with Sendero. Sometimes Sendero people had to leave. Our organisation would then continue some of the same work Sendero had done and sometimes Sendero would come back. Sometimes when Sendero was driven out of a village where we weren't working, we would come in and replace them until they could come back. We were often doing parallel work and there was no animosity between us.

"Then the government conscripted people into the rondas [paramilitary peasant groups organised and trained by the Peruvian military]. The villages became divided. A lot of the villagers didn't want to be in the rondas but they had to do it. It became impossible for us to carry out our work there. We had to leave the villages because it was too dangerous.

"I am not what you'd call a Sendero sympathiser. But I recognise that they are fighting for justice. I do what I do because I hate the Peruvian military so much. I hate them with all my heart. But the government controls the press. When the military kills peasants, the press says Sendero killed them. The military just goes into the villages and kills the people."

Letters Condemn the Fujimori Regime:

Prior to arriving in Peru, the 6th delegation received copies of many letters condemning Fujimori's latest threats against Dr Guzman. Many also urged the government to cooperate with the demands of the 6th delegation to visit Dr Guzman. Copies of these letters were delivered to the Presidential Palace in Lima by members of the 6th delegation. Copies were also given to members of Peru's press.

From Mexico:

"The signatories below come from the most diverse sectors of the Mexican people. We make clear our energetic rejection and repudiation of each and every action that your government is carrying out against the rights of the Peruvian people, of the democratic lawyers, of the political prisoners and all those who raise their voice against the injustices of your regime.

"Recently we learned about the case of Margarita Clavo...We are angered by the barbarous treatment and torture that she has been subjected to. As if that were not enough her two year old daughter was kidnapped by political police agents. This is a clear example of the type of violations that are being committed under the pretext of the supposed "pacification of Peru".

"The latest intervention of the military in the universities, the genocides carried out in the countryside, opening fire in the shantytowns and the assassinations that are carried out daily with impunity by the military who you now propose to excuse, are events that we will not allow to happen without denouncing them energetically.

"It is clear that all the attacks on the people form part of a plan which includes the murder of the revolutionary leader Abimael Guzman, who is continuing to be submitted to one of the worst kinds of torture which is to be kept in total isolation for three years and which is in flagrant violation of all the international conventions that your government says that it respects.

"We demand an end to the isolation of Dr. Abimael Guzman, who has the right to medical treatment, legal defense and visits by family members and friends. We demand that the daughter of Margarita Clavo be returned to her family. We condemn the "amnesty law" and the military personnel responsible for countless assassinations. End the attacks against the democratic lawyers.

"We are following what is happening in Peru very closely and we will not allow more abuses and violations to pass without being condemned and rejected by the entire world.

Signed by 41 individuals and organisations, Mexico

Letters to Fujimori were also sent by the Independent National Committee for the Defense of Prisoners, Persecuted, Disappeared and Political Exiles located in Mexico City, as well as by the American Association of Jurists (Mexican Chapter).

From Spain

"The Free Association of Lawyers of Alicante expresses their repulsion of the violation of human rights that Abimael Guzman is being subjected to in the Peruvian prison and wishes to express its support and solidarity. We demand that the Peruvian Government scrupulously respect the human rights of all its citizens, and in particular those of Abimael Guzman. The infringement of fundamental rights is an inadmissible attack that effects the fulfillment of the dignity of people."

Another letter was sent by members of the Free Association of Lawyers in Madrid.

From USA:

"I am outraged by your abuse of political prisoners in Peru... In the most well-known case, that of imprisoned political leader Dr Abimael Guzman, I hear reports of your blatant disregard for internationally established standards of treatment for political prisoners and prisoners of war. It is reported that you openly admit that you are holding Dr Guzman in isolation, that you plan to do so until he dies, and that he is very sick. It is reported that you coldly predict that Dr Guzman will die within three years, and say that he suffers from psoriasis, depression and intolerable prison conditions. It appears that you are determined to kill Dr Guzman through torture....

"I support the efforts of the international campaign to defend Dr Guzman's life, and defend the right of international lawyers and activities to speak out internationally and in Peru on his behalf. I join with them in demanding that you immediately end the barbarous isolation of Dr Guzman and that you allow him access to his lawyers, doctors, and other friendly visitors."

Signed: Melvin G. Talvert, Presiding Bishop

The United Methodist Church, San Francisco Area

"I am outraged by the action of your Government against the people of Peru, especially the abuse of political prisoners... it is clear that imprisonment of a political leader such as Dr Abimael Guzman in isolation until he dies is a deliberate breach of the Genocide Convention which your government is a signatory to. Your government's action of adopting torture against political prisoners is also a breach of the International Law of Human Rights. We demand that your government abide by the international conventions..."

Signed Bakhtiar Zuhdi

for: Kurdish National Congress of North America

"I am writing to express my strong support for the international delegation of prominent attorneys, clergy and activists who are going to Peru this week to protest the continued isolation of Dr Guzman and the new threats against his life, and all of the inhumane treatment of Dr Guzman and other political prisoners in Peru..."

"You must know that it is impossible to justify the isolation, torture and killing of Dr Guzman and other revolutionaries and supporters by calling them "terrorists" and "apologists for terrorism". Such dehumanizing and demonizing has been part of the worst crimes in history, such as the genocide of native people who in this country were called "savages".

"As my colleague Rev Yasutake and the other delegates carry out their mission, many of us will be carefully watching to see how they are treated and what takes place to continue. To continue the isolation will only deepen the exposure and indictment of the Peruvian regime in the eyes of millions around the world...I urge your government to treat this esteemed international delegation with the utmost respect and cooperation and allow them to talk with Dr Guzman."

Signed: The Reverend Robert W. Castle

St Mary's Manhattanville Episcopal Church

Dozens of letters were received from lawyers, from religious organisations, and from human rights activists from many different cities in the US.

News on the People's War:

A recent report on Reuters Wire Service said: "...guerrillas in the Huallaga are on the move. Rebels also have stepped up propaganda, infiltrated some unions and community groups and are active along the Central Highway connecting Lima with the highlands." [10 July 1995] Following are reports on a few of the actions that have been covered in the press.

Guerrillas Ambush Police:

According to a report released by the military, PCP guerrillas "ambushed a police truck in the southwestern region of Huancavelica, killing eight policemen...The police troop carrier was destroyed in the explosion." The report also revealed that the ambushed truck was engaged in a mission "pursuing guerrillas in the area" when it was ambushed. [25 July, Reuters] The bodies of the policemen killed in the ambush were found with signs on them saying: "Armed forces and police forces! You think that we have suffered a great blow. You are dreaming! We say go on dreaming. This is merely a bend in the road." [28 July, El Mundo-Spain]

200-Strong PLA Column Confronts Military Patrol:

A day after Lima newspapers announced that the total number of active guerrillas was now less than 170 individuals, their claim became the object of ridicule when the military announced that a PCP Column "made up of between 180-200 rebels" attacked a military patrol in Fujimori's 'Little Vietnam' in the Huallaga. [Reuters 21, July]

According to military communiques, the attack was just one of a series of confrontations between PCP guerrillas and military patrols in the jungle between the villages of Montero (where the military massacred many peasants in April 1994) and Alto Pacae. The military report said: "The insurgents attacked with automatic weapons and at the same time threw grenades and charges of dynamite against a military column that patrolled this vast jungle region of the Alto Huallaga." 21 military personnel were killed and 6 wounded. [La Vanguardia, 23 July]

PCP Rebels Destroy Police Garrison:

According to a report in Reuters [July 10], "a column of 150 Shining Path rebels seized the town of Nuevo Progreso [Huanuco Province] late on Saturday and then pulled out before the army arrived early on Sunday to restore order". The target of the attack was the police garrison. The police installation was completely destroyed following what military reports described as "5 hours of intense fire". Four police agents died. [La Vanguardia, 23 July]

Car-Bomb Targets Proponent of Amnesty Law:

On 1 July 1995 40 kilograms of dynamite exploded outside the residence of Congressman Victor Joy Way of Fujimori's Cambio 90-New Majority coalition.

Joy Way has been an unapologetic advocate of Fujimori's most repressive laws, and the press has attributed the car-bombing to his sponsorship of a bill in Congress which puts the Congressional stamp of approval on Fujimori's Amnesty Law. In its report on the attack Reuters said: "Joy Way last week introduced a bill approved by Congress reaffirming a recent controversial amnesty for soldiers and police accused of violating human rights in 15 years of war against leftist guerrillas. The amnesty, which had been facing a legal challenge, is opposed by more than 80 percent of Peruvians, according to polls." [2 July]

PLA Actions Reported in 11 Provinces:

Peru's Ideele Magazine (May-June 1995) noted that the Peruvian government reported 63 actions in 11 of Peru's 23 provinces during the months of April and May 1995. Military bases in the provinces of Huanuco and San Martin were attacked. PCP columns ambushed military patrols in Huanuco, Junin, Huancavelica and there were numerous battles between the Armed Forces and guerrilla columns in Huanuco and Junin provinces. Police posts were attacked in La Libertad and Ayacucho provinces. High tension pylons were downed, causing black-outs in the Ayacucho and Lima provinces. There were also reports of actions to disseminate PCP propaganda in Lima.

PARTIAL LIST OF NEW SIGNATORIES TO THE IEC CALL:

- * Ahmed Ben Bella, First President of Algeria after liberation from French rule
- * 203 prominent academicians, literary writers, journalists, lawyers, civil rights activists and scientists from the provinces of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, India
- * 78 prominent lawyers and intellectuals from the city of Lucknow, capital of the province of Uttar Pradesh, India.
- * F. Zenasni (UK) - Solidarity with the Women's Struggle in Algeria (SWASWA);
- * Ben Tarfaya Ali (Algeria)
- * Shahrzad Mojab (Canada) - Ass't Professor, Concordia Univ.
- * Rafat Daneshbeh (Canada) - Iranian Women's Association of Montreal
- * Shahrzad Ershadi (Canada) - Human Rights Association - Montreal .
- * Ahmed Moheed (Egypt), and S. Gumaa Shaban (Egypt)
- * S. Hassan (Iraq) - Campaigner for Human Rights
- * A. Ahmed (Iraq) - Lawyer
- * Sana Al-Khayzat (Iraq)
- * Dr Safia Safenat (Sudan) - Lawyer
- * Rama Valayden (Mauritius)
- * Mehmet Kara (Kurdistan) - Journalist with Yeni Politika (Kurdish Daily newspaper)
- * G.J. Christofian and Simon Appady (Cyprus)

EB 53 announced that the US had scheduled the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a political prisoner in the US, for 17 August 1995. However, in the face of national and international protests against the execution, the courts have been forced to grant a stay (postponement) of execution. This stay permits Mumia's lawyers to make additional appeals through the court on Mumia's behalf. However, Mumia remains on death row. The stay is an important victory, but the struggle to free Mumia is continuing. As Mumia's attorney, Leonard Weinglass (who also represents Dr Guzman) said: "There can be no resting at this point...This case is going to be won by the supporters, supporters here and the supporters internationally."

FIGHT TO BREAK THE ISOLATION!

On 12 September 1992 Dr Abimael Guzman (also known as Chairman Gonzalo of the Communist Party of Peru and the leader of the People's War that the US claimed was the greatest threat to their interests in Latin America) was captured by the US-Fujimori regime.

Three years ago, on 24 September 1992, the regime attempted to humiliate Dr Guzman by presenting him to the international press in a cage. Instead Dr Guzman delivered a powerful speech calling for the continuation of the People's War which he had led for more than 12 years - characterising his capture and imprisonment as "merely a bend in the road" in the long fight against the oppression of the Peruvian people. The regime was deeply stung. It was the last time Dr Guzman was permitted to speak to the people.

Dr Guzman has been totally isolated since September 1992. He has been jailed in an underground concrete cell designed to kill him slowly. He has been denied access to his lawyers, to adequate medical care, and to direct means of communication. The Fujimori regime boasts of applying psychological torture on him. On 21 May 1995 Fujimori announced that Dr Guzman will die within three years - sadistically claiming that he will die of psoriasis (a disease which is not fatal unless medical treatment is withheld) and adding: "Nobody has a long life in the prison where he is held". Nonetheless, he vowed to continue Dr Guzman's isolation until his death. Premeditated murder!

These murderous actions of Fujimori enjoy the full backing of the US and the support of reactionaries everywhere who are trying to isolate, silence and kill those who exercise the most basic right of the people - the right to fight against their oppression.

But for three years, hundreds of thousands of people in more than 40 countries have exposed the brutality of the Peruvian regime. They have boldly fought against Fujimori's plans to kill Dr Guzman, and have demanded respect for his life and the lives of all political prisoners.

At the same time the Fujimori regime has repeatedly claimed that they have crushed the People's War. They say they have produced an "economic miracle" in Peru, and that the Peruvian people are now happy with Fujimori. But the real truth is very different. The Fujimori regime has indeed been carrying out a brutal



counter-revolutionary war against the people of Peru which has been directed at every step by the US-CIA. In fact, Fujimori even calls it his "Little Vietnam". But they have not been able to crush the People's War, which continues to develop in the mountains, in the jungles, and in the shantytowns of the poor. Neither has the regime been able to resolve its many crises. The reality is that the so-called "economic miracle", although benefiting a tiny minority, really means fewer jobs, more poverty, and more misery for the vast majority. It has also meant bigger debts to the IMF and World Bank, and greater imperialist domination. The only way Fujimori is able to maintain power is through the brute force of its military. This is exactly why he has passed a law giving immunity and amnesty to military death squads. In the face of these failures, the Peruvian regime is even more determined to eliminate Dr Guzman and everything he symbolises.

Today, three years after Dr Guzman's historic speech from the cage and the beginning of his isolation, the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman calls on people in every corner of the planet to step forward to join the battle to break the isolation of Dr Guzman. To compel the Peruvian regime to comply with basic international standards governing the treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war. To allow Dr Guzman access to his legal representatives, to adequate medical care, and to direct means of communication. The US-backed Fujimori regime must not be allowed to murder this revolutionary leader.

**DEFEND THE LIFE OF DR ABIMAEEL GUZMAN!
EXPOSE AND DENOUNCE THE US-FUJIMORI REGIME! YANKEE GO HOME!**

*The International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman
BCM-IEC, 27 Old Gloucester Road, London WC1N 3XX, UK (tel/fax 44-171-482-0853)
September 1995*

"Speech from the Cage" 24 September 1992

Dr Abimael Guzman (Chairman Gonzalo)

**Comrades of the Communist
Party of Peru!
Fighters of the People's Guerrilla Army!
People of Peru!**

We are living through historic events, each one of us knows this to be the case. Let us not deceive ourselves. At this moment we must ready all our forces in order to face the difficulties and to continue accomplishing our tasks! To win new victories and finally triumph! This must be done.

We are here as the sons and daughters of the people and we are fighting in these trenches, this is also combat, and we do this because we are communist! Because here we defend the people's interest, the principles of the Party, and the People's War! That is what we have been doing, what we are doing, what we will continue to do!

We are here in these circumstances. Some think that this is a great defeat. They are dreaming! We say let them dream on. This is merely a bend in the road. Nothing more! A bend along the road. The road is long and we will travel it to the end. We will reach our goal and we will win! You will see it! You will see it!

We must continue with the tasks laid down in the Third Plenary Session of the Central Committee, a glorious event! Let it be known, these resolutions are already being carried out. We will continue to apply the Fourth Plan for Strategic Development of the People's War for the Seizure of Power. We will continue to develop the Sixth Military Plan to Build Towards the Seizure of Power. That will continue! That is our task! We will carry it out because of who we are! Because of our responsibility to the proletariat and the people!

We clearly state that today, the democratic road has begun to unfold as a road to liberation, as a road to people's liberation. These are the circumstances in which we are developing. We should examine this with a sense of history. Let us stop closing our eyes. Let us look at the truth. Let us look at the history of Peru. Let us look at the last three centuries in Peru. This is what we should examine, the 18th century, the 19th century, the 20th century, and understand their lessons! Whoever does not understand this history will remain blind. And this blindness cannot serve the country, cannot serve Peru!

We see that the 18th century offers a very clear lesson. Let's examine this. There was one dominator, it was Spain,

and that domination sucked our lifeblood. Where did it lead us? To an extremely deep crisis. As a consequence, Peru was divided up. From this came the origins of today's Bolivia. This is not our invention, this is history.

Then, in the last century: British domination. Where did their contention with France lead us? To another great crisis, the '70s of the last century. The result? War with Chile. Let us not forget this! What happened? We lost territory. Our country suffered a great split, in spite of the blood spilled by the heroes and the people. We must draw a lesson!

The 20th century. How are we faring? In this 20th century there is an imperialism dominating us, principally U.S. imperialism. This is something real and everyone knows it. Where has this led us? Except for the 20's, here and now is the worst crisis of the entire history of the Peruvian people. Taking a lesson from the past centuries, what are we to sum up? Once again the nation is in danger, once again the republic is in danger, once again the territory is in danger, it could easily be lost to foreign interest. This is the situation. They have brought us to this point. But we have a new reality, a Peruvian revolution, a People's War, it continues and will continue to advance. How far have we advanced? To Strategic Equilibrium! This we must understand well. It is a Strategic Equilibrium that is being consolidated in a very critical situation. Twelve years [of People's War - IEC] has demonstrated what? It has clearly shown to the world, and especially to the Peruvian people, that the Peruvian State, the old Peruvian State, is a paper tiger. It is rotten to the core. This is what has been demonstrated!

This being the case, we should think about the danger that the nation, the country, may be divided. The nation is at risk, they want to tear it to pieces, they want to divide it up. Who wants to do this? Like always, imperialism, those who exploit, those who dominate. What should we do? What is correct today? It is time to make a leap in strengthening the People's Liberation Movement and we must develop this while directing the People's War. Because the people, it has always been the people, who have defended the country, who have defended the nation.

The time to set up the People's Liberation Front has arrived. It is time to constitute and develop a People's Liberation Army starting from the People's Guerrilla Army. This is what is correct today! We will do this! It is what

we are doing now! It is what we are going to follow through on! You, sirs, shall be witness.

Finally, listen to this. We see worldwide Maoism is marching relentlessly forward in its task of leading the new wave of the world proletarian revolution. Listen well and understand. Those who have ears, use them. Those who have understanding, and we all have it, use it well. Enough nonsense! Enough confusion! Understand this! What is happening in the world? What do we need? We need Maoism to be a living force, and this is happening. We need Maoism to generate new Communist Parties to direct this next great wave of world proletarian revolution that is upon us.

All that they told us, their empty and stubbornly ignorant chattering about the famous "new stage of peace" -where has this ended up? What about Yugoslavia? What about other places? It all was politicized, it was a lie. Today there is only one reality. The same contending powers behind the First and Second World Wars are now preparing the Third World War. This we should know, and we as the sons and daughters of an oppressed country are part of the loot. We cannot let this happen! Enough of this imperialist exploitation! We should finish them off! We are part of the Third World, and the Third World is the base for world proletarian revolution, with one condition: that the communist parties develop and direct it. This is what we must do!

Here is what we think: next year will be the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Chairman Mao. We must celebrate the centenary! And we are organizing this with the Communist Parties. We want a new kind of celebration, a celebration that recognizes the conscious understanding of the importance of Chairman Mao in the world revolution. We will start the celebration this year and it will culminate next year. It will be a great program of celebration. I want to take this opportunity to salute the international proletariat, the oppressed nations of the world, and the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

**Long Live the Communist Party of Peru!
The People's War Will Inevitably
Be Victorious!**

**We Salute the Future Birth of the
People's Republic of Peru!
We say: Glory to Marxism-Leninism-
Maoism!!**

**Finally we say: Honour and Glory
to the People of Peru!!**