

What Is The INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE To Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman?

The IEC was formed within days of the arrest of Dr. Abimael Guzman and very quickly an international campaign arose on all five continents. People everywhere saw him on TV and in newspapers make his defiant speech from a cage in the Lima prison, and a call went out to prevent the Fujimori regime from killing him as other revolutionary leaders had been assassinated in prison like: Steven Biko in South Africa, Charu Mazumdar in India, or Ibrahim Kaypakkaya in Turkey, and many others.

There was recognition among people of different viewpoints that Abimael Guzman is a leader of millions of Peru's "wretched of the earth", and that defending his life meant defending their hopes and struggle for change. Even those who did not fully agree with his politics could not tolerate the savage treatment handed out to him by Peru's regime and its U.S. backers.

Since the IEC Campaign was initiated tens of thousands have signed the Call of the IEC. There have been demonstrations involving thousands in Nepal, Colombia, the U.S., Germany, South Africa, Australia, India, Italy, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Mexico, and many other countries. Four delegations (22 prominent individuals from 7 countries) have been sent to Peru to observe the "trial" to investigate, and to protest the outrageous treatment of Dr. Guzman and other political prisoners. More than 1,000 delegates from 32 countries attended the IEC Founding Conference in Germany in February 1993. On May 14 & 15 people in more than 30 countries participated in IEC International Days of Action.

The IEC Campaign has involved people from all walks of life - peasants, lawyers, industrial workers, prisoners, artists, intellectuals, and others - who have come together to protest the treatment of Dr. Abimael Guzman, a recognized leader of millions of peasants, workers, students, intellectuals and others of various walks of life in Peru. His life, and the lives of other political prisoners are still in imminent danger.

It is urgent that many more voices be heard to demand that the Peruvian State respect the international conventions concerning the treatment of political prisoners. We urge you to join the Campaign.

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE To Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman

IEC LEGAL PROJECT

"We haven't seen anything like this in decades... a prisoner exhibited in a cage, a clandestine summary proceeding, the president of a country announcing the sentence before the trial begins. This is clearly just an index of what life is like in Peru today."

- Leonard Weinglass, Lawyer for political prisoners, on returning from 1st IEC delegation to Peru, Oct 1992.

* On 12 Sept 1992 Dr Abimael Guzman, leader of the Communist Party of Peru, was captured by Peru's Fujimori Regime. The powers of the world, particularly U.S. and Peru governments, declared him "World Public Enemy #1," and went out of their way to set him up to be killed (either officially or unofficially). With his arrest, trial, and imprisonment, the Peruvian Regime trampled on the most elementary rights of defence. And today Fujimori is attempting to reinstitute the death penalty in order to execute him.

* The Peruvian government has repeatedly murdered political prisoners, and since April 1992 prison conditions have worsened. Thousands of political prisoners are being held in conditions that can only be meant to kill them.

* Lawyers who represent political prisoners are routinely being arrested for "treason" or "apology for terrorism" for no crime other than defending clients of their choice. ("Apology for terrorism" is punishable by 12-yrs to life imprisonment; "treason" a mandatory life sentence.)

The actions of the Fujimori government are against international treaties to which Peru is a signatory, as well as the Peruvian Constitution, and are setting a new precedent for the treatment of political prisoners in Peru and the world. Victory in the struggle to defend the life of Abimael Guzman and other political prisoners, and achieving real improvements in their situation, can only be won by the efforts of millions worldwide. But the legal arena is an essential part of this, and one where the rulers cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

Enclosed is my contribution of: £10 £20 £50 £100 £200 Other: £

Please send me a copy of the legal packet (This packet includes a copy of the petitions filed by the Lima Lawyers, letters from lawyers and legal organizations, the latest information on the Legal Project, and a summary of the three petitions. It costs about £2 to reproduce and mail; contributions are helpful!).

Enclosed is £5 for the complete set of petitions (80 pages), plus the legal packet. Please state whether you want the original Spanish petitions, or the English translation.

I would like to become involved in the legal campaign, and would like someone to contact me.

Please send me more information about the work of the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Country: _____

* Donations are accepted in any form, but it is best to send cheques in £ sterling, drawn on a bank with a branch in Britain (British bank branch address must be on cheque). This will assist us in being able to cash the cheque quickly and in avoiding costly currency exchange fees. To designate your contribution to the Legal Project, indicate this on the cheque. The cheque should be made out to "International Emergency Committee" and sent to:
BOM IEC, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX, U.K. (Tel/Fax: 44-71-482-0853)

PETITION FILED BY LIMA LAWYERS To the Inter-American Commission On Human Rights

In April 1993 a group of courageous lawyers in Lima filed three complaints against the Peruvian Government with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (within the Organization of American States (OAS)).

Petition #1 charges the Fujimori Regime with violations which occurred during the 12 Sept 1992 arrest of Dr. Abimael Guzman and others accused of being in the Command of the Communist Party of Peru, as follows:

- * The attempt to humiliate Dr Guzman, a recognized political leader, which included being displayed in an animal cage wearing a striped uniform with a number and confinement to a subterranean cell, as well as the degrading treatment of the others;

- * Denial of any right to defence;

- * The announcement of Dr. Guzman's sentence *before his trial*;

- * "Trial" by military tribunal with anonymous hooded judges, at a military installation, with no civilian witnesses;

- * Arbitrary sentences;

- * Denial of health care, legal defence, visitation, books, or other rights during imprisonment.

The Complaint demands that the Commission adopt measures to prevent the assassination or other harm to Dr. Guzman and others; that they investigate the facts; that they interview Dr. Guzman and others; and that these prisoners be afforded all rights guaranteed by International Conventions.

Petition #2 charges the Fujimori Regime with violations against political prisoners, prisoners of war, and the disappeared, including: mass genocide; beatings, rape and torture; and imprisonment in conditions guaranteed to result in death due to lack of food, clothing and medicine. It demands that the Regime comply with international conventions regarding the treatment of political prisoners; that they be held responsible for the life, health, and physical and psychological integrity of the prisoners of war; and that another genocidal attack be prevented.

The Third Petition charges the Fujimori Government with harassment, persecution, detention, disappearances, and murders of lawyers for political prisoners.

It demands: an on-site investigation; protection for the Association of Democratic Lawyers; an end to the isolation of Dr Crespo (Dr Guzman's lawyer), Dr. Jorge Cartagena, and Dr. Martha Huatay; and that the Fujimori government be held responsible for the illegal treatment of lawyers who defend political prisoners.

Finally, the Lima lawyers named lawyers who had gone to Lima with IEC delegations, as well as Peruvian lawyers abroad, to represent them.

THE IEC LEGAL PROJECT

On the July 16-17 an international team of lawyers met to map out a plan to take the crimes committed by the Peruvian government to international courts.

A decision was made to principally focus on supporting and pushing forward the Petitions filed by the Lima Lawyers. Two lawyers, Peter Erlinder and Leonard Weinglass, both from the U.S., have accepted the request to work with the Lima lawyers, and pay special attention to the case of Dr. Guzman and the other political prisoners which is now being considered by the ICHR in Washington D.C. Erlinder is professor of law at William Mitchell College and Pres of the National Lawyers Guild; Weinglass is a well-known defender of political prisoners. Other international lawyers will pursue cases against the Peruvian Regime in the European Parliament and the United Nations.

The IEC will be coordinating this work.

The IEC believes the legal case is a means to further isolate the Fujimori regime and its US backers, and create conditions which make it harder for them to carry out their desire to assassinate Dr. Guzman. It also aims to help force them to retreat from their draconian policies of solitary confinement, no visitors, no lawyers, no reading material, etc. which they have imposed on Dr. Guzman and other political prisoners.

The IEC knows that only the pressure exerted by millions of people world-wide will force the Fujimori Regime from its policies. However, we cannot afford to neglect the important role the legal battle can play, as every front is vital in achieving the Campaign's goals.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contribute money

The lawyers who are working on the Legal Project are donating their time. However, the costs for travel, phone, mail, and copying are tremendous. The IEC has established a special fund for the Legal Project. \$12,000 is needed for this work.

Submit briefs or letters in support of the petitions.

Submit amicus briefs ("friend of the court" briefs) or letters supporting the petitions filed by the Lima Lawyers to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. These need not be written by lawyers, and can support any individual petition or aspect of any petition. These supporting documents must reference **Case No. 11.015**. Send to:

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States
Washington D.C. 20006 U.S.A.

It is essential that a copy also be sent to the IEC office in London so that it can be forwarded to the lawyers.

Build support for the Legal Project.

Publicize it and raise money for it from individuals and in organizations. Encourage organizations such as legal groups, churches, and human rights organizations to send amicus briefs or letters to the ICHR supporting the petitions.

If an organization you are in (or you know) has standing in the U.N. or other international forum, contact the London Office of the IEC about how you can assist in condemning the Fujimori Regime in the legal arena.

