

# Peru Emergency Newsletter



## Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru

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## Abimael Guzmán's Trial and Imprisonment

The International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán has had a profound impact in exposing the fascistic nature of the Fujimori dictatorship, which the international media has tried to hide. But the danger to Dr. Guzmán's life is more critical now than ever.

*No one has seen Dr. Guzmán since October 11.* He is being held in solitary confinement with no legal representation, no visitors, no reading material, and no eyeglasses or proper medical care.

The Peruvian regime has made clear their intent to kill Guzmán legally or "extralegally." After attempting and failing to pull out of a major human rights pact outlawing the death penalty in Peru, Fujimori is now pushing for a "vote" in January to reinstate the death penalty for political prisoners—a vote to legitimize murdering Guzmán. Fujimori's regime has the world's worst human rights record according to the United Nations—torture and disappearances are systematic and commonplace. Despite persistent demands by human rights activists, the regime has given no proof of Guzmán's life or health.

**Abimael Guzmán  
has not been seen  
for 67 DAYS**

## Protest U.S. Congress' Plotting Session

On December 16 the Congressional Research Service, commissioned by the U.S. Congress, will hold a closed conference with the stated agenda, "The Role of the United States and Other Hemispheric Countries in the Peru Crisis." The speakers are counterinsurgency experts from public and private think tanks, and the Pentagon. This conference was called because the revolution continues to advance, even though Abimael Guzmán has been captured. The people's war is very deeply rooted among the people of Peru and inspiring to millions of people around the world.

At a time when the U.S. government has declared that revolution is dead and that from now on the entire planet will be under the boot of their "New World Order," the prospect of a revolutionary victory in Peru is frightening to them. The U.S. government feels a necessity to escalate its intervention. It knows that it will take a massive and bloody counterinsurgency effort to attempt to crush the revolution. This strategy session is about nothing less than planning how to carry out war crimes against the people of Peru with the least political cost. This is outrageous and intolerable, and must be condemned! Their dirty proceedings must be dragged into the light of day!

U.S. intervention in Peru has been carried out under the pretext of the "war on drugs." Vladimiro Montesinos, Fujimori's close advisor and formerly the chief attorney for major drug kingpins in Peru, is the CIA's number one man in Peru. Montesinos wields enormous

power. In his unofficial role as head of the security forces, he coordinated Fujimori's April 5 "self-coup" and, apparently, the capture of Abimael Guzmán on September 12.

The U.S. already has a Vietnam-style firebase in the Upper Huallaga Valley—the largest U.S. military installation south of Panama—with hundreds of Green Berets leading and training Peruvian troops. Military aid to the regime has overall increased in step with repression by the state.

The people of Peru—from students to lawyers to the peasants holding power in base areas in the Andes—have defied arrest, torture and death to continue the revolution. The support for the revolution will not end with the capture of Chairman Gonzalo, and the U.S. knows it!

We in the U.S. can and must act NOW to stop U.S. intervention in Peru. There is a reign of U.S.-backed terror and genocide going down right now. The life of the leader of the revolution hangs in the balance. The U.S. is plotting still more. Join us in Washington D.C. on December 16 to demand:

**U.S. Out of Peru! Yankee Go Home!  
Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán!**

To endorse this call and join the Ad Hoc Committee for the December 16 Protest, contact:

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## IEC Sends Three Delegations to Peru

On October 1, Abimael Guzmán was tried in secret by hooded judges at a 3-hour summary military tribunal while confined in a cage. His lawyer was not allowed to present a case, no witnesses, journalists or legal observers were allowed to attend. The first IEC delegation included lawyers from several countries. Their findings determined that this so-called "trial" violated both the Peruvian constitution and International treaties. The members of the first delegation were Leonard Weinglass, Peter Erlinder (lawyers) and Heriberto Ocasio (translator, spokesperson for the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru) from the U.S., Anne-Marie Parodi (lawyer) from France, and Martin Heiming (lawyer) from Germany.

A second IEC delegation arrived in Lima on October 27. They held a press conference the following day denouncing the travesty of justice and were immediately arrested and expelled! The members of the delegation were Rainer Koch (lawyer) of Germany, Giovanna Pagni and Massimo de Santi (professors) of Italy, Ninia Baehr (author), William Martin (professor), and María Navarro (translator) of the U.S. A seventh delegate, Ragip Zarkola (journalist) from Turkey, arrived after the expulsion and remained for two weeks to do investigative work.

The IEC summed up, "This latest episode is one of several signs that they are determined to continue their barbarous treatment of Dr.

Guzmán, and ultimately they want him dead. It is our assessment that the world public opinion which has been mounted to defend his life up to now has played an important part in thwarting the regime, and efforts must be stepped up."

The third IEC delegation went on a fact finding mission during the November 22 elections to legitimize Fujimori's dictatorship. The delegation included Craig Everson (lawyer) from Australia, Mary Blevins Cox (lawyer), Reginald Major (professor), and a translator from the U.S. Our elections report and special report on the torture of political prisoners are based on the information they gathered.

## The Elections and the Armed Strike

The elections of November 22 in no way signal an end to military dictatorship or a "return to democracy" for the Peruvian people. Like Dr. Guzmán's trial, the results are invalid. The elections were conducted under martial law. 100,000 soldiers and police were dispatched for "protection," according to Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente. The elections were boycotted by the two major opposition parties as another self-coup. Fujimori even announced that he would declare the election invalid if he wasn't satisfied with the results. Big surprise that his "New Change" party was the winner!

In opposition to the elections, the PCP called for an armed strike on November 18 and 19. (On the night of the 19th, one delegate heard bombs exploding and gunfire near his hotel.) In a lame effort to disguise the success of the strike, Fujimori declared Friday, November 20, a national holiday. Lima was closed down completely by a general strike on November 20, 21, and most of November 22.

The Peruvian people rejected the elections. Lima newspapers admitted there was the highest number of blank and spoiled ballots in Peru's history—22.7 percent. In emergency zones like Huancavelica, the percentage of spoiled or blank ballots was over 60 percent! A person who knew ballot counters told IEC delegation members that on many of the spoiled ballots was written "Viva El PCP."

Despite all the irregularities, the head of the OAS delegation in Peru to observe the elections claimed they were "normal, exemplary and without any disturbances."

A member of Fujimori's "New Change" party announced a day after the elections that, "In the Congress, the first thing we are going to

propose is establishing the death penalty (for guerrillas) in the new Constitution." (The original plan for a death penalty referendum on the November 22 ballot was postponed to January 29 of next year.) He also spoke of plans for a "national pacification" program.

The elections were held to legitimize Fujimori in the eyes of the world and in the interests of U.S. imperialism. The Peruvian government is intensifying repression against the people and the revolution and opening the way for further U.S. intervention.

From the *Economist*, Sept. 19, 1992:

"After the elections, according to an anti-terrorist source, Mr. Guzmán might well get ill, 'try to escape' or simply not receive the daily medicine he needs for his psoriasis and other ills. To keep Mr. Guzmán alive would be a huge risk: his escape or rescue, or a forced swapping for some big-wig the Shining Path had kidnapped, would be a profound humiliation."

## Martha Huatay and Other Political Prisoners Are Being Tortured

The recently returned third IEC delegation to Peru reports that Martha Huatay, a prominent political prisoner and founder of the Association of Democratic Lawyers in Peru, has been tortured to the point of being unable to speak at her "trial." The delegation learned this from her lawyer, Jorge Cartagena, who was present at her military tribunal and said that it was clear that she had been beaten to the point of complete disorientation. The International Red Cross has examined her and found that she has a fractured skull and brain lesions,

among other serious injuries. Cartagena said that the government's case against her for alleged "terrorism" was very weak. It is presumed by some that she was tortured in an attempt to extract a confession. None was obtained. (It is notable that in an article from a Lima newspaper on the trial, no mention whatsoever was made of Huatay's condition, and in fact they reported that she made a "declaration" in court.) Her "trial" was shorter than Dr. Guzmán's and she also received life imprisonment.

The Peruvian "Colegio de Abogados" (the Peruvian equivalent of the American Bar Association) condemned the "torture and humiliating treatment" of Martha Huatay, as part of eleven declarations on violations of human rights announced on November 5.

The IEC delegation met with other members of the Association of Democratic Lawyers who report that many of their clients, including other political prisoners accused of being members or supporters of the PCP, have now been moved to a newly-transformed military prison at an air force base in Puno near Bolivia. This town is in the far south of Peru where the temperature is often -10° C (14° F), and the prisoners are subjected to what their families describe as "isolation and refrigeration." Although the spirit of resistance among the prisoners remains strong, they are not living under conditions depicted for instance in the "Dispatches" TV report where they were in control of their barracks and could conduct regular political work, cook their own food and so on.

Instead, their conditions are highly barbaric and violate their human rights in unthinkable ways: they are chained 23 hours a day, and allowed only one hour of access to daylight. They are routinely stripped naked and beaten once a week. Their food consists of bread and water in the morning and a thin rice

soup in the afternoon. Tuberculosis and other diseases are common. They are not allowed to have food or medicine brought in by family members on the outside. They are forced to sleep on concrete floors in the freezing dungeons. They are not allowed to see their lawyers, and can only receive infrequent 10-minute visits from members of their immediate family (who must travel days to see them). These same family members have now also become the clients of the Association of Democratic Lawyers because the Government has charged them with being subversives simply for the "crime" of visiting the prisoners.

Jorge Cartagena describes the treatment of the prisoners as not simply "punishment" but a full-blown "strategy of revenge" against the political prisoners. They are being killed slowly.

## International Support Grows

There has been a tremendous outpouring of protest against the railroad of Abimael Guzmán. Tens of thousands of people have signed the IEC Call, including lawyers and judges, scholars, artists, literary figures and parliamentarians. Progressive-minded people from India, the U.S., Nepal, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, France, Turkey, Bangladesh, Great Britain, Pakistan, Italy, Canada and other countries have come together and formed emergency committees. Mass actions, including demonstrations at Peruvian and U.S. embassies, have occurred in countries on six continents. The international headquarters of Amnesty International in London has been flooded with calls and letters demanding that they intervene on behalf of Dr. Guzmán. The IEC's appeal to supporters to donate One Day's Wages has been taken up around the world. While the actions on Dr. Guzmán's behalf are too numerous to list here, a very notable area of support has been from other political prisoners.

**STOP THE MURDER  
OF POLITICAL  
PRISONERS IN PERU  
DEFEND THE LIFE  
OF CHAIRMAN  
GONZALO!!!!!!!!!!!!**

A group of 90 Turkish prisoners on a hunger strike against the inhuman conditions at Buca Prison wrote a letter of protest, which was smuggled out. In the U.S., prisoners at Jackson

Prison in Michigan—the largest walled prison in the world—sent a message of solidarity. On November 11, 500 stickers went up on walls and other surfaces inside the prison (see picture above). A statement written by Elizam Escobar, a Puerto Rican political prisoner and prisoner of war, was read at an October 12 program in Massachusetts called, "500 Years of Colonial Resistance."

A petition initiated by Jaan Laaman of the Ohio 7, was signed by over 150 prisoners at Leavenworth Federal Prison in Kansas, including Leonard Peltier of the American Indian Movement and Sundiata Acoli of the New York Panther 21. It read in part:

*There is every reason to fear for the life of Dr. Guzmán at the hands of one of the world's bloodiest governments. The Peruvian state has repeatedly murdered its political prisoners. A month after his capture, Chairman Gonzalo was railroaded to a life without parole sentence by a secret closed military tribunal.*

*Besides simply supporting the Peruvian people's fight for justice and freedom, Chairman Gonzalo and the revolution in Peru have an importance for people around the world for 3 reasons:*

*1) Especially since the end of the USSR, the U.S.-led new world order has invaded small nations and bullied people around the world. Many Freedom Struggles have felt the need to compromise or accept the orders of the U.S. government. The revolution in Peru has neither backed down nor accepted Washington's orders. Yet it has made steady gains in its revolutionary people's war and so serves as a shining example of what a people, organized and committed to strong revolutionary principles and freedom, can do.*

*2) Besides being a civil war of the have nots against the tiny elite of haves, the struggle in Peru is also in large part a struggle of Indian People against the colonial type domination that has existed since Columbus first invaded the Americas.*

*3) The revolution in Peru, with many Indian leaders and members, consciously fights against the racism and discrimination that dark-skinned people suffer under the capitalist-colonialist system in Peru—all backed by the U.S. government.*

*As political prisoners, POWs and progressive or revolutionary-minded captives in the U.S., we know how easy it is for a government to arrange a so-called accident, to murder a prisoner. So for all the above reasons, we the undersigned men of Leavenworth federal prison join in the International Emergency Committee's effort to defend the life of Dr. Guzmán and call on all human rights groups, revolutionary and nationalist movements, and all freedom-loving people to support this effort.*

## Peruvian Lawyers and Supporters Abroad Under Attack

The democratic lawyers who are defending the political prisoners are themselves in grave danger. Jorge Cartagena, a member of the Association of Democratic Lawyers (ADL), has terrible scars from a head wound received last July 20. He was hit by machine-gun fire while working in his office that evening. The gunmen were not caught, but the delegation reports that after Fujimori's "self-coup" on April 5, 1992, 6 members of the ADL were detained for 15 days, including Cartagena, Rudolpho Ascencios, and Alfredo Crespo, who is Dr. Guzmán's lawyer. Their homes and offices were ransacked in search of evidence connecting them to "terrorism." None was found and they were released. Members of the second IEC delegation overheard security forces making death threats against Dr. Crespo while they were being held. (Amnesty International was made aware of these threats but took no action.)

In recent months the Fujimori regime has accelerated its attacks on supporters of the people's war who live abroad. Luis Arce Borja, editor of *El Diario Internacional*, has suffered continuous harassment, including death threats. Adolpho Olechea, active with the Comité Sol Peru in London, has also been a target of this campaign. Peruvians living in Sweden have been expelled. These attacks have increased as the international support for the campaign to defend the life of Abimael Guzmán has grown and advanced.

## Peruvian Consulate Shut Down

On November 24 a delegation of 12 people went to the Peruvian Consulate in San Francisco. A High Priestess of the Miskitian nation requested entry to present a petition. When the consulate heard that the petition was on behalf of Dr. Abimael Guzmán they closed for the day and called in building security, police and the State Department. The delegation unfurled banners supporting Dr. Guzmán and performed a skit with a puppet resembling Fujimori (he demanded entry and was also denied!). Finally, the State Department official said one person could enter the consulate. After the High Priestess had entered the consulate to deliver the petition the police arrested five people for "trespassing" and "disrupting business." The Peruvian Consulate and the entire building were shutdown an hour early.



## Your Continued Financial Support Is Needed

*In the time since the last Peru Emergency Newsletter was mailed, two more delegations have gone to Peru, supported in large part by your generous contributions. People receiving the newsletter and hearing about the IEC and its campaign in other ways, have made these delegations possible. As you will see as you read the newsletter, more work must be done, and quickly. Dr. Abimael Guzmán has not been seen by anyone in two months. The international outcry over his abuse must grow in volume and determination. More delegations must be organized and sent to Peru to demand to see Chairman Gonzalo; other organizations must be encouraged to take up the call; U.S. plans for intervention in Peru must be opposed at every turn.*

*We urge those of you who have not already done so to donate One Day's Wages to the IEC. If all the progressive-minded people of the world respond to this call, tremendous amounts of money will be raised to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán! And large sums are what is required to send delegations, pay phone bills, publish newsletters and make other information available to people all over the world. Each contribution helps, no amount is too small to send or too large to be required. With the call for One Day's Wages, the IEC has asked that each of us give according to our ability, for the need is great.*

*Thank you in advance for your continuing support,  
The Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru*

## Special Request for Funds to Publish IEC Call

The CSRP is making a special request to supporters for contributions to help publish the IEC Call to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán, with the complete list of thousands of signatories from around the world, in the *Village Voice*, an important paper with national distribution. The publication date would be early January, 1993, preceding the January 29 vote in Peru to reinstate the death penalty. The purpose of this is to make the level of international support for Dr. Guzmán and the work of the IEC known more broadly to many thousands more people in the U.S., and to increase the pressure on the Fujimori regime and its U.S. backers to respect the international conventions concerning the treatment of political prisoners.

## Benefit in Kent, Ohio

On December 5 a benefit was held in Kent, Ohio to support political prisoners. Dr. Abimael Guzmán, Leonard Peltier, and Mumia Abu-Jamal were the main focus. Hundreds of people came. Banners, stickers, buttons and T-shirts supporting the prisoners were everywhere. Petitions were circulated, 70 people signed the Call to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán, and over 20 postcards were sent to Amnesty International demanding that they take up Guzmán's case.

## What you can do:

- 1. GET ORGANIZED.** Contact the International Emergency Committee (IEC) and the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRP) to get materials and updates, to set up video showings and to discuss what can be done to protect the life of Abimael Guzmán.

### BCM International Emergency Committee

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### CSRP

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Fax: (415) 252-7414  
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- 2. GO TO PERU** as a delegate or send a prominent delegate . . .
- 3. RAISE MONEY!** \$1,000s are needed for delegations travelling to Peru to demand Abimael Guzmán's life be protected and to monitor his treatment, and for the work of the International Emergency Committee and/or the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru. **Make checks out to:** International Emergency Committee. Mail them to the CSRP, Berkeley or to the IEC in London.
- 4. SIGN THE STATEMENT!** Endorse and circulate the Call to create an International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael

Guzmán. Mail or fax copies to the International Emergency Committee c/o the CSRP, Berkeley, or to the IEC in London.

- 5. SEND TELEGRAMS,** letters and faxes, and phone the Peruvian Embassy in Washington, DC, or the Peruvian Consulate in your area demanding that Abimael Guzmán's life be protected and he be treated according to international law and treaties concerning political prisoners. Write to Fujimori demanding that Dr. Guzmán have access to lawyers and doctors.

### Peruvian Embassy

1700 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 833-9860  
Fax: (202) 659-8124

### President Fujimori

Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Plaza de Armas, Lima  
Peru

Mail or fax copies to the CSRP, Berkeley and/or the IEC, London.

- 6. CONTACT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.** Send letters and telegrams to AI demanding that they send an observer to Lima and that they issue a statement in defense of Guzmán's life.

### Amnesty International

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