

# To the Coordinating Committee and to the other members of the Steering Committee

of the

## INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman (IEC)

Dear friends,

As a member in Sweden of the Steering Committee of the IEC, I'm submitting the below proposal, together with my reasons for it, to our Coordinating Committee in London, for circulation also to the other SC members, in those more than 30 countries in five continents where we are represented:

As you may or may not know, on October 7th, 1993, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) issued an important declaration. It reaffirmed that party's determination to continue the people's war. It firmly repudiated and denounced that infamous "peace and negotiations" propaganda manoeuvre which had then recently been started by the reactionary Fujimori regime in Peru, by means of the mass media at its disposal, and which continues today.

"Down with the counterrevolutionary lie!", this statement reads, referring to this propaganda manoeuvre, which it also analyzes as another "attempt at vilification of Chairman Gonzalo" (Dr Guzman) and "a continuation of the ... efforts to annihilate him", as well as being "another trumpeting-out" of the reactionaries' "black dream of Sendero's capitulation".

The declaration states: "We ... once more reaffirm our unshakeable determination to continue the people's war in order to serve world revolution"; "Long live Chairman Gonzalo, leader of the Party and of the revolution!".

Clearly, to us, to the many people around the world who support the campaign to defend the life of the imprisoned Comrade Gonzalo, this document is a very important piece of information indeed.

But so far, the IEC has contributed nothing at all towards making this declaration known to its supporters. It hasn't even been circulated to us SC members. I consider this to be a serious mistake on the part of our organization, which otherwise has done some very good work internationally, and hold that we should now correct this mistake as soon as possible.

I propose that

**the IEC forthwith publish internationally, separately or as part of its fourthnightly  
Emergency Bulletins, the October 1993 declaration of the PCP.**

I appeal to the other Steering Committee members, to all IEC activists, to voice their support for this and to the Coordinating Committee to take the necessary concrete steps for it.

I'd like to add the following reasons why, in my opinion, making this declaration known internationally must be considered to be a part of our, the IEC's, task and responsibility, and an important one.

It is obvious that a very important factor, the most important one, even, for the defence of Comrade Gonzalo's life is the people's war in Peru. The concrete leadership of this war of course must rest, as it always has, with the Central Committee of the PCP.

Now the reactionary regime in Peru and its international backers during the last six months have been claiming that, from their prison cells, Comrade Gonzalo and other captured PCP leaders have been "asking for negotiations and peace". Is there any truth at all in this? Even if it were not a complete lie, this whole thing would still be a foul propaganda manoeuvre, since of course nobody can conduct serious negotiations from within those genocides' and torturers' prison cells.

And the most important question in this situation, the first thing that everybody needs to know, naturally is: What does the CC of the PCP say about developments, what stand does it take in the face of them?

I'm not proposing that the IEC, as an organization of the united-front type, should necessarily take the stand of supporting the October 1993 PCP declaration. I for one am not in agreement with it on every point. But its existence constitutes a very important fact about the entire present situation in Peru. If we go on leaving it out, then we actually continue misrepresenting the situation there in this important respect.

Earlier, the IEC did publish one statement by the PCP, namely, that of December 1992, and this because, as the Coordinating Committee stated in a letter 20.5.93, it was "of particular interest to our readers". This in my opinion was a quite correct and proper thing to do. And in the case of the October 1993 statement, this is even more so.

Not only that. Internationally, precisely this declaration apparently has been subjected to, and still is being subjected to, the most rabid suppression. Probably in many countries, practically nobody even knows of its existence.

Who's behind this suppression? Your first guess is mine: Fujimori's international backer No. 1, U.S. imperialism, and its henchmen. We also know that other reactionaries are equally eager to try to isolate the struggling Peruvian people internationally, liquidate the PCP, snuff out the very idea of people's war against imperialism. Of course we, the IEC, must resist pressure from whichever of those quarters.

What makes this matter all the more serious and the need for us, the IEC, to act against it all the greater, is the fact that some political groups which one would expect to be in the forefront to oppose this suppression are not doing so at all. Certain comparatively influential such organizations, which are describing themselves, as are the PCP and Comrade Gonzalo, as adherents of the ideology of Marx, Lenin and Mao Zedong, and which have often stated their particular support and admiration precisely for the PCP and its chairman, so far have had not one word to say to their followers, in their respective countries, about this vital October 1993 declaration.

Whatever the reasons for this may be, one must fear that this same negative tendency exists in many parts of the world. We most definitely should contribute towards breaking it.

Originally I hoped, and I still hope, that such a letter as the present one could be written on behalf of our entire group of IEC supporters in Malmoe or even on behalf of the entire IEC Chapter in Sweden. But, although many of the friends here in Malmoe have participated in disseminating locally this PCP declaration, which obviously they support, the suggestion of such a letter from us as a group was turned down. Thus, when writing anyway, I'm bypassing our local group's opinion and, making use of my right as SC member to put forward such proposals and to have them circulated, I hope for support from the majority within our international organization. I consider this matter important enough for such action on my part to be justified.

**Malmoe, Sweden, 12.4.1994**

**Rolf Martens**

**IEC Steering Committee Member**