WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND CHAIRMAN GONZALO

SPECIAL SECTION

Something New in the New World:
A Report on the People's War in Peru
The following report came from the S.F. Bay Area:

FREE CHAIRMAN GONZALO!
Statement from a group of Bay Area Immigrant Activists

The arrest of Chairman Gonzalo of the Communist Party of Peru is supposed to stop our struggle. But we will show what it is to follow the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism of Gonzalo with the masses. This will not stop our struggle. Instead it will push our struggle ahead on the only road forward which is revolution!

I was surprised by a show of unity of the masses. When I went to work a fellow worker asked me, “What are we going to do about the arrest of Chairman Gonzalo?” I had no idea this fellow worker was with our ideology. I was surprised and not able to respond at first. But now I answer, we will do “The Impossible” so that they won’t be able to harm him in any way. Among us masses we demand his freedom!

Chairman Gonzalo is the leader of the People’s War in Peru which relies on the people in Peru and the masses of people of the world who follow this and have confidence in the ideology he has taught. He knows that the masses struggle for a better life and only by struggle will we win. Our purpose it to win victory and we are firm that we are not going to allow them to take away this great leader. We, like the people in Peru, need to unite and show that we support the revolution in Peru and will do our part here to aid the revolution all over the world.

"UNTIL COMMUNISM SHINES AND ILLUMINATES THE WHOLE WORLD!"

In the Pico Union area of Los Angeles—on July 24—a concentration of working people from Central America and an area known for revolutionary politics—when supporters of the RCP heard the news of Chairman Gonzalo’s arrest, they lined this road:

FREE CHAIRMAN GONZALO!
VICTORY TO THE PEOPLE’S WAR IN PERU!
LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PERU!

To the proletariat, the oppressed and all who aspire to liberation:
THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT, LOYAL SERVANT OF IMPERIALISM, says they have in their clutches Abimael Guzmán, “Chairman Gonzalo” of the Communist Party of Peru. If this is true, we should raise our voices and demand: FREE CHAIRMAN GONZALO!

For more than 12 years, the PCR, led by Gonzalo, has been waging a relentless people’s war. While phony communists in other countries are giving in (for example, South Africa and El Salvador), Chairman Gonzalo has been leading a people’s war which is advancing towards communism, building base areas where the new power is acting, preparing the nationwide structure of power and thus constituting to the world revolution.

Such a leader is worth more than gold. We must defend him! Fujimori has vented his hatred and is scared; he says that Gonzalo is a “degenerate, terrorist, the devil.” Since Fujimori’s and his master’s “god” is the dollar, the world could use more “devils” like GONZALO.

Fujimori has proclaimed September 24 a “holiday” to “celebrate” the capture of Gonzalo, and called on people all over the world to raise the Peruvian flag. With this “holiday” they hope to lay the basis for killing Gonzalo. The oppressed are fighting in their international press for a military tribunal to execute him or if he should commit suicide, to “celebrate” the death of Gonzalo.

It’s time to get to work! Let’s build our own international movement, and demand FREE CHAIRMAN GONZALO! as part of our revolutionary preparation right here in the belly of the beast. These are your tasks:

1. Get this leaflet out broadly in your neighborhood, your job, and your hang-outs, to lead and organize others.
2. Call radio stations and express these views to a large audience and to mobilize masses.
3. Raise the RED FLAG on September 24 in the oppressed people’s zones, on walls, trees, poles and doors, under the noses of the police, the INS and other guardians of the oppressors!

Supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Peru
Pico-Union, L.A.
Worldwide Campaign to Defend Chairman Gonzalo

Not a Minute To Lose

As soon as word spread that Chairman Gonzalo (also known as Dr. Abimael Guzmán) was in the clutches of the Peruvian state, people across the globe rallied to defend his life. The following are reports that have reached us as we go to press.

Press Conference in London

On Thursday, September 24, the newly formed International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzmán (IEC) held a press conference in London to publicize their activities and demands. The press conference featured the La Torres, the Defense-lawyer of Dr. Guzmán. In his statement, Mr. La Torres said:

"All the leaders that Fijiomci is keeping in Dr. Guzmán have the very precise criminal objective of creating public opinion to legitimize the assassination of Dr. Guzmán. It is not only as family members that we are raising these denunciations here today before the international press. We are also here as Peruvian citizens, as part of the Peruvian people and the peoples of the world. We cannot, we must not permit this sinister murder plot to be realized against a man of such historical stature for Peru and the world. We protest with all our strength against imposing a military tribunal and war council on Dr. Guzmán. We demand that the government of Peru respect the legitimate rights of Dr. Guzmán that are expressed in the Peruvian constitution and by the international treaties that Peru has ratified. In short, we demand that the government of Peru respect the health, the physical integrity, the judicial rights and above all, the life of Dr. Guzmán. We are calling upon international public opinion, upon the world press, upon the International Red Cross and similar institutions, upon democratic intellectuals, progressives and revolutionaries the world over to develop an intense and urgent campaign in defense of the life of Dr. Abimael Guzmán.

Other participants in the press conference included: John Gerassi, author of The Great Fear in Latin America and former organizer of the Vietnam War Crimes Tribunal with Jean-Paul Sartre; Hugh Stephens, director of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal; A. Shivasud, editor of London publication Race and Class; N. Summugatham, General Secretary, Ceylon Communist Party and renowned political activist in Sri Lanka since the 1940s; Luis Arce Berpa, former editor of the revolutionary Peruvian publication El Diario. In 1998 Arce conducted the only interview with Chairman Gonzalo ever published. This 200 page interview remains the most complete exposition of Chairman Gonzalo's political viewpoint.

In one of its Emergency Bulletins, the IEC announced, "Many prominent individuals and diverse political forces have expressed support for our goal and offered their help. " In the U.S. initiators of the IEC include radical attorney William Kunstler; Father Lawrence Lucas, author of Black Priest, White Church; John Gerassi; Herberto Ocpendo; and Jeff Paterson, the first Marine resister to the Gulf War. The third IEC Emergency Bulletin reports delegations have formed to go to Peru to defend Chairman Gonzalo's life. It says, "Some delegations are already in transit for Peru. Their names will be released upon arrival."

The IEC has issued an urgent call for funds and has called for a worldwide campaign for ONE DAY'S WAGES TO DEFEND THE LIFE OF DR. ABIMAEI GUZMAN. And the IEC has called for an INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION TO DEFEND THE LIFE OF DR. ABIMAEI GUZMAN, October 7.

On September 24, delegations went to Peruvian embassies in a number of countries, including the United States, Germany, France, United Kingdom, and Nepal to press the demands of the IEC. The U.S. Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRED) reports considerable success in gathering a delegation of lawyers, journalists, activists and others to go to Peru. As we go to press, the AW was told this delegation was making final preparations for departure, and that the names of delegates would be released after they arrived in Lima.

The IEC reports a response from countries around the world including India, South Africa, and Turkey. Delegations to Peru are planned from New Delhi, India and Katmandu, Nepal. On September 24 mass rallies were held in Katmandu and New Delhi, organized by the Nepal Communist Party (Mashal) to protest the arrest of Gonzalo and the conspiracy to execute him. A delegation presented a protest note to the Peruvian embassy in New Delhi and sent a copy to Peru. On September 25 another mass demonstration of 5,000 was held in New Delhi. Fifteen organizations have formed a united front to save the life of Dr. Guzmán. Eighty-one members of the Parliament of Nepal issued a statement demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Guzmán.

Bash-Sade, former president of Iran, sent a telegram to the Peruvian Embassy in Paris (where he lives in exile), decrying the treatment of Dr. Guzmán. A statement from the Movimiento Popular Peru in France expressed outrage that "the vile forces of the reactionary Peruvian state have snatched our beloved and Chairman Gonzalo," and pointed out, "Chairman Gonzalo has taught us: 'Look ahead: the leadership could be destroyed, in part, not all, but the leaders that remain must and can follow the peoples struggle, the peoples war.'" These organizations from the Dominican Republic—Fuerza Para Resistencia y Libertad—Popular Popular (FRUP), Partido de los Trabajadores Dominicanos (PDT), and the Movimiento Popular Dominicano (MPD M-L)—issued a joint statement expressing their solidarity with the Peruvian revolution and its Chairman Gonzalo.

Report on Chairman Gonzalo

By September 23, the IEC reports that Alfredo Crespo, attorney for Dr. Guzmán, had been able to visit Dr. Guzmán five times. He reported that Chairman Gonzalo... Continued on page 6
The Parable of Potosí's Silver Mountain

Fifty years after Columbus landed in the Bahamas, a prospector found a 2,000-foot mountain of silver called Potosí (pronounced Po-to-SEE) in what is now Bolivia. By then the Spaniards had plundered the Inca empire for 25 years. A complex system of farming terraces and highways was the basis for a class society among the Incas—with a state and a ruling class that dominated nine million people along the western spine of South America. The Spaniards destroyed all of this, the Inca society collapsed, and the native peoples starved.

Still craving wealth to pay the debts of feudal Spain, the European conquerors developed a new system of production. Africans were brought as slaves to the plantations on the Pacific Coast. And Native peoples from the entire region were forced onto death marches that led to Potosí. Most never returned.

The Indian miners were dropped down shafts bored hundreds of feet into the mountain. They chipped silver from the rock faces for weeks without seeing the sun. And they died, from falling rocks, beatings, starvation and the poisonous vapors of arsenic and mercury. Historian David Shannon estimates the life expectancy of Indian slaves was not more than three or four months—the same as for prisoners in the Nazi rubber plant at the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. Andean miners of today claim that eight million human beings died in Potosí over the last five centuries.

Potosí became the largest city in the Americas and the crown jewel of the Spanish empire. The invaders had created a flesh-eating social machine that sucked millions of the Incas into the mines of Potosí and spit out silver. A Spaniard, Domingo de Santo Tomás, called this mine “a mouth of hell.”

This “mouth of hell” is a good example of how the New World the Columbus Invasion produced. The same relations were created over and over again in a world of new empires. Colonial poverty, feudal land ownership, and merchant capitalism combined to produce for an exploding world market. A river of wealth flowed east across the oceans, enriching the bankers of northern Europe and finally financing the rise of modern capitalist industry.

The violent domination of rich over poor was at the heart of these relations. Indians and Africans were worked to death at the point of a gun—while in Europe peasants were increasingly herded into new-born capitalist factories to work as proletarians.

At one extreme of this new world were a handful of ruling capitalist nations, concentrated in Europe and on the eastern coast of North America. At the other extreme was the vast plundered world of colonial “possessions.” Karl Marx, the founder of communism, wrote: “The discovery of gold and silver in America, the洲esh of the European continent, the development of the world market and the process of production that goes with it, are the real architects of the revolution.”

The modern Potosí—On a World Scale

The capitalist system has refused and expanded this world order, reproducing Potosí across the globe. Look at the Andes today. Look at Peru, where official society mobilizes its armies against the peasant and working class poor.

In Peru today, the living standard of the masses is lower than it was under the Incas. Most people are bitterly poor and a quarter of the population is completely broke and constantly hungry. Seventy percent of the children under five in the shantytowns around Lima suffer from malnutrition. Last year nearly 20,000 children in Peru died from easily preventable diarrhea diseases.

There are still mines in Potosí and countless other sites during the Andes. There, the descendants of the Incas work 12 hours and $2 a day and still die from malnutrition, starvation, and the bullets of soldiers. The modern descendants of the original Indian peoples from the vast majority in Peru, but are despised and brutalized by the capitalists and landowners who descended mainly from European conquerors.

As the imperialists celebrate Columbus and the “rosy dawn of capitalism,” they claim the future is theirs. No, it isn’t. There is a new red glow from the high Andes. It shows that we are seeing the revolutionary dawn of world communism. In the face of the shamalike Columbus celebrations, people need to step up support everywhere for the people’s war in Peru. The future belongs to the oppressed people—if we dare to seize it.

San Luis Potosí, Bolivia, inset, 15th century Spanish silver coin from the Potosí mine.

Quinta fighters led by the Communist Party of Peru.
INFORMATION AS WEAPONRY: LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU

Interview with Chairman Gonzalo

In this unprecedented interview, the leader of the Communist Party of Peru, Chairman Gonzalo, speaks on a wide range of questions facing the Peruvian revolution, including: ideology, the party, the people's war, military strategy, the national political situation, international policy, as well as his own personal development as a revolutionary. Available in Spanish and in a new English translation by the CSRP. $6 plus $1.50 for shipping and handling.

El Diario Internacional, Special international edition of the revolutionary Peruvian newspaper El Diario, which continues to report the truth about developments in Peru in the face of vicious repression by the Peruvian government. Published by Luis Arce Borja and distributed in the U.S. by the CSRP. Available in Spanish and English editions. $20 for 13 issues.

Revolution in Peru—video documentary. This exciting video brings to life the history, aims and achievements of the People's War led by the Communist Party of Peru, from its humble beginnings in 1980 to its most recent advances. Combines inspiring news footage, photographs, revolutionary artwork and Andean music. 40-minutes long, with narration. Available in Spanish and English versions. Produced by the Committee To Support the Revolution in Peru. $15.

Our Red Flag Is Flying In Peru. This article describes the recent advances by the People's War and the revolutionary political power being won by the oppressed masses in the countryside today. It exposes the extent of U.S. intervention against the revolution already and its plans to greatly step up that intervention. Published in issue #16 of A World To Win. Distributed in pamphlet form by the CSRP in English and Spanish. $1.50.


Revolucion In Peru. This pamphlet by the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, published in 1985, goes into the history of the early years of the people's war and explains in a basic way the Marxism-Leninism-Maoist line leading the revolution. 47-page pamphlet. CSRP. $2.50.

Develop the People's War To Serve the World Revolution, by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru. Dated August 1986, this document consists of two parts: "Six Years of People's War" and "One Year of the APRA Government." 84-page pamphlet published by the CSRP. $5.

Revolution In Peru. This pamphlet by the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, published in 1986. Edited with a preface by Luis Arce Borja. (In Spanish) 416 pages. $16.

T-shirt - "Qatarisun Lliu!" ("Let Us Rise Together" in Quechua, one of the Indian languages of Peru). Beautiful silkscreen of woman and man guerrilla fighters, CSRP. $10 (med., large, X-large).

The revolutionary internationalist journal A World to Win carries many important articles and documents about the people's war in Peru.

These publications and other CSRP materials can be ordered directly from the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru at:

Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru
P.O. Box 1246
Berkeley, CA 94701

Many of these publications are also available at Revolution Books stores and outlets, or order from:

Liberation Distributors
P.O. Box 541
Chicago, IL 60608.

For mail orders include postage and handling expenses: $1.50 for first item and $.50 for each additional item.

Messages can be left for the CSRP at (510) 644-4179.
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Shantytowns and Prisons in Peru: The Revolution Advances

Continued from page 3

is under extreme pressure but is not being tortured. Cenpo added that Gonzalo is in good health physically. Cenpo added that Gonzalo is in good health physically. President Fujimori said the international efforts being made to defend his life and says Chairman Gonzalo sent his regards and appreciations.

The IEC repeatedly stressed the extreme urgency and danger facing Gonzalo. IEC reports that Cenpo believes the coming military trial will be held in secret and perhaps within the next very few days. In press reports, Peruvian officials say that the military trial of Dr. Guzmán should be finished "before the end of the month."

Mussaud Rahimi, provisional coordinator of the IEC, pointed out that President Fujimori has publicly supported a death sentence, even though the Constitution of Peru outlawed it. "The only question for the regime is how to kill Abimael Guzmán," said Rahimi, citing an article in the British imperialist magazine Economist which openly argues for the death penalty for Gonzalo and speculates in a blood-thirsty way on all the pretexts that could be used to cover the assassination of Gonzalo. Meanwhile Fujimori, President of Peru's military state, said security measures were being severely tightened to prevent any escape before the trial next week. Chairman Gonzalo has reportedly been moved from the headquarters of the National Anti-Terrorist Directorate (DINCOTE) and handed over to the Navy—the same Navy armed forces who have been severely criticized for covering up the assassination of Gonzalo. The trial will be held in secret somewhere.

A week ago, Fujimori decreed that September 24 should be a day when revolutionary organizations publicly celebrate the capture of Chairman Gonzalo. September 24 is the traditional celebration of the Virgin of Mercy, the patron saint of the bloody Peruvian Armed Forces.

On September 24, Fujimori and the military presented Chairman Gonzalo to the press for the first time. They unveiled him in a huge iron cage—the kind used to transport prisoners at El Frontón in 1986.

Turning Armed Forces Day into a Peoples' Victory

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Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru

Interview with Heriberto Ocasio

Following the arrest of Chairman Gonzalo, the RW spoke with Heriberto Ocasio, spokesperson for the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru.

RW: What is the significance of the arrest of Chairman Gonzalo?

Heriberto Ocasio: The capture of Gonzalo is a blow to the revolution. At the same time it represents a challenge, not just to people in Peru but to people around the world. It is a challenge, not just to the Fujimori regime, but to the United States, which supported and funded this regime. It is a challenge to all those who believe in the power of the people to resist and overcome the forces of capitalism and exploitation.

RW: Tell us about the campaign to FREE CHAIRMAN GONZALO.

Heriberto: The point right now is to prevent harm to Gonzalo and the Revolutionary Workers Party, which have been fighting for the people of Peru for decades. The CSRP has joined the efforts of the International Emergency Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRP) and the International Emergency Committee to Support the Liberation of the Americas (IEC/SLA). The CSRP has received a good response from people who have said: "They are doing everything to stop Gonzalo and the people of Peru from organizing and struggling. We need to step up our efforts to support the CSRP and the IEC/SLA." This is a national and international struggle.

RW: What can people here do to oppose the U.S. and its puppet Fujimori at this juncture?

Heriberto: One of the things that is happening this year is that the people are celebrating 500 years of resistance on the continent of the Americas, and that resistance is nowhere more powerful than in Peru today. It is on a qualitatively higher scale and people are looking for this genuine resistance.

Now the intelligence assault the Peruvian government carried out to try to help capture Gonzalo is putting even more emphasis on this revolution. It puts even more of a challenge to us to go out to the masses, arm them with the liberating truth of what this revolution is fighting for, why it has prospects for winning in spite of this rocky and difficult time that it is going through right now. The revolution needs Chairman Gonzalo. This is the battle of the hour.

RW: It was reported in the RW that the CSRP has received harassment, phone threats, car breakdowns, etc., in the last year. Lately there have been FBI visits to my office in Berkeley. They are snooping around and trying to create an atmosphere of intimidation. We call on people to talk to them and not fall into the traps of intimidation of the political police, who are known for their dirty tricks against revolutions and revolutionaries. But the CSRP looks at these attacks as a badge of honor and a credit to the work we are doing. Many of the people who we have told about these incidents have said to us: "Well, you must be doing something right; you must be having an impact or they wouldn't be trying to harass you and intimidate you." But we must say that if their attempt is to harass and intimidate, they are going to fail because we understand the task before us, and we are determined to continue and intensify our work in this important period and we are going to rely on the people to do that. We are going to expose these attacks.

This is a government who wants to carry out their dirty work in Peru, wants to help Fujimori clamp down on the people and the revolution, wants to send in their troops and weapons of mass destruction and have silence here at home—but they won't. They're not going to have it. It makes us even more determined to go to the masses and expose what the government is doing in Peru and the need for people to develop the mass struggle. So that is our basic stand.

The CSRP is sending a message to others, on a delegation to Lima—to demand that the Fujimori government does not harm Gonzalo in any fashion and that they accord him all the rights of a political prisoner and a prisoner of war.
If you want to know about the People’s War in Peru... if you want to get the latest news on the international campaign... "Free Chairman Gonzalo!"... if you want to know how to join the fight to prevent U.S. intervention in Peru... and MORE, then you’ve got to subscribe to the Revolutionary Worker.

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- To order copies of the Revolutionary Worker or other RCP Publications literature for distribution.
- To arrange to contact an RW correspondent.
- To send clippings or reports about significant struggles, national conferences, and other developments in your area. We encourage people to contact us about the overall battle against repression and against legal and political attacks on the RCP.
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Something New in the New World: A Report on the People's War in Peru

On September 12 the world press announced: "Most Dangerous Man of the Decade Captured." Abimael Guzmán, leader of the Communist Party of Peru—known by his war name Chairman Gonzalo—was taken prisoner by the anti-subversive police of the Fujimori regime.

For years, all that people heard in the U.S. media about Guzmán and the Communist Party of Peru, usually called the Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path in the press, were hostile accusations. But with the arrest of Gonzalo—out from under the distortions of the media—a different picture has begun to emerge.

The major attention turned to the arrest shows that Chairman Gonzalo is a revolutionary of worldwide stature with a widespread following in Peru. Revelations about CIA involvement in the search for Guzmán showed that the U.S. government considered the revolution he leads a real threat to its interests in Latin America. "Counter-insurgency experts" cautioned against predictions of a quick defeat of the "Senderos" and warned that the basket-case economy in Peru will continue to drive people toward the PCP. News pictures showed a dignified Guzmán, unbowed in the face of police intimidation, and the women PCP leaders arrested with him—including a former prima ballerina—defiantly raising their fists.

For people whose hearts are with the oppressed around the world, these intriguing glimpses of the Peruvian revolutionaries surely raise more questions. Just who are these Maoists and what are they fighting for? How have they managed to go up against a well-armed U.S.-backed military? What kind of support do they have among the people?
Imagine... a society where homelessness, unemployment, police brutality, men dominating women and other problems have become things of the past. Material goods are not plentiful, but everyone is guaranteed a means to earn a living and collective work is organized. Those who are too sick or elderly to work are looked after by all. No special class of privileged and powerful lord over the people. Respected leaders chosen by the people provide direction, and decisions are made collectively—women and men, old and young participating equally in solving problems and deciding their common affairs.

Is this some impractical fantasy—a kind of just society that many people dream about but think could never come about in today's world where greed and heartless competition are the rule?

No. This is for real. It's happening now in revolutionary base areas that are being built in large parts of Peru through a just war of liberation. The oppressed people in Peru are beginning to rule for themselves and change the world around them.

The process of bringing about these liberating changes is not orderly and peaceful. They are being won by an armed people through hard-fought battles with the troops of the old Peruvian state backed up by the U.S.—or the Yankee imperialism, as the Peruvians mean it. The base areas and the People's Committees through which the masses exercise their rule are the results of the Maoist people's war, led by the Communist Party of Peru.

The people's war still needs to achieve final victory over the old state in order for revolutionary power to be established over all of Peru. But in the base areas, people already talk about the old society in the past tense. In the documentary The People of the Shining Path which recently aired on British TV, Francisco, a member of one People's Committee, said: "The old society was unjust. There were landlords..."

The Shining Path's level of control in and around these remote areas is increasing. In the late 1980s RAND pointed out the PCP's strength over a wide region of the key central mountain departments (districts): "The Shining Path's level of control is and around these four departments has now become sufficiently strong and self-reinforcing that it appears that the army will not be in a position to reverse this process in the foreseeable future. While it is impossible to make a precise estimate of the local population that has been directly or indirectly overturned by these events, the number is certainly in the hundreds of thousands, providing the organization with a large pool of potential recruits and an even larger support base with which to continue to undertake its general strategic plan for the region.

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A historic clash is taking place in Peru. On one side is the old order—a setup so rotten that people in Peru today eat food that is practically wiped out in richer countries.

On the other side—something new is rising in the New World, and it is sending shockwaves to all the continents.

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REPORT ON THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU

Imagine... a society where homelessness, unemployment, police brutality, men dominating women and other problems have become things of the past. Material goods are not plentiful, but everyone is guaranteed a means to earn a living and collective work is organized. Those who are too sick or elderly to work are looked after by all. No special class of privileged and powerful lord over the people. Respected leaders chosen by the people provide direction, and decisions are made collectively—women and men, old and young participating equally in solving problems and deciding their common affairs.

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Communique from the
Central Committee of the RCP, USA:

Free Chairman Gonzalo!

On September 12 Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzman) of the Communist Party of Peru was grabbed by the forces of the old state there. These barking dogs of the old colonizers are in a frenzy, racing ahead with their attempt to railroad and even murder this powerful revolutionary leader. Their fear of him is revealed in their own headlines: "Most Dangerous Man of the Decade Captured." Their fear is well-founded, because what he represents is the rise of the poor—those with nothing to lose, who are in fact beginning to win in Peru through revolution and people's war.

This criminal kidnapping was perpetrated by a criminal regime—one that dares to speak of crimes while it overrides the yearly death of 60,000 Peruvian children from malnutrition and a poverty-driven epidemic of children. A lying regime that pretended in a phony election to oppose the other candidate's "economic shock" program and implemented that very program once in power. A regime that cries "terror and murder," while its army courtesys genocide. One that uses its concern for the people, when it robs and starves them daily on behalf of the rich of Peru and toatten the bank accounts of the U.S. and other great powers.

And who stands behind this? Who tries in vain to hide behind a puppet government as it pulls the strings? None other than the U.S. imperialist ruling class and its various discredited, murdering agencies of repression. Do these U.S. godfathers think that they fool anyone by hiding behind their own puppet? No one is fooled. People all over the world hold them fully responsible.

This is a time in the world when many people ask, where are the real leaders? Here is such a leader. Comrade Gonzalo is a leader who cast his lot with the poor. He cast it with the poor of Peru—the workers and peasants—and with the poor the world over. And his vision and daring has changed things. The poor are on the stage now in Peru, because of this leadership, forged through the Communist Party of Peru. With this kind of leadership, the masses of poor have totally redefined politics in Peru, fighting for and winning base areas of new power. All of a sudden the ruling class world media "noticed" the poor in Peru—because they've become a giant problem for them and their system. Change has begun—and is continuing at this very moment. The masses of poor are not about to give up now. They have tasted power and liberation and will not stop. The battle in Peru is our battle. For the poor and all oppressed in the U.S., this is our struggle in Peru. It has been a growing source of worldwide hope and inspiration since the masses of Peru and their people's war burst on the scene and began delivering hard blows to our common enemy.

Now there is a world thinking among the reactionaries and the media that the kidnapping of Comrade Gonzalo means defeat for the revolution in Peru. They hope that some more "reasonable" leadership can arise, someone who can preach to the poor that their interests can be reconciled with those who exploit and murder them. This is a call to bend every effort to defend the life of Comrade Gonzalo. We call upon our proletarian sisters and brothers to pull all out and bust our heart if need be in support of our sisters and brothers, in support of the comrades in Peru who have been doing a magnificent job at the forefront of the world revolution this past decade and we must step up the revolutionary struggle everywhere. We call on proletarians in the U.S. to join with our Party in this battle and contribute everything we can to the common revolutionary cause we share with our comrades in Peru.

Free Chairman Gonzalo!

Victory to the People's War in Peru!

Long Live the Communist Party of Peru!

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Is Invincible!

Central Committee, Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

September 25, 1992

The capture of Comrade Gonzalo is a bitter blow to the revolutionary people the world over, and the danger to our comrade's life is extreme. This attack is also a challenge, a call for us to stand up and successfully prevent the reactionaries from taking the life of Chairman Gonzalo and, through struggle, hand his captors a big defeat. Defending the life of Comrade Gonzalo means defending the right of the masses to rebel, live by the revolution and communism. We will not allow them to take the life of this precious and uncompromising revolutionary communist leader.

MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO DEFEND THE LIFE OF CHAIRMAN GONZALO!

From a statement by the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, September 16, 1992

A political education session conducted by guerilla fighters under the leadership of the Communist Party of Peru.

Mao Tsetung in China.

In April of this year Fujimori and the military pulled off a coup to grab back the counterrevolution. New counterreform regulations and emergency laws greatly tightened the repression in Lima. But much of the countryside has already been under a fascist state of emergency for years. As Amnesty International and others have documented, tens of thousands of guerrillas and peasants have been killed or "disappeared" by the Armed Forces since 1980. Under the military's doctrine of "collective responsibility," entire villages accused of helping the guerrillas are attacked, overthrown and burned villages near a highway in the Upper Huallaga Valley where an Armed Forces convoy had been ambushed. At least 80 peasants were killed.

The brutal counterrevolution is being carried out under U.S. direction. The U.S. government has sent millions of dollars in military aid as well as Green Berets and other military personnel to train and lead the Peruvian police and army. In February 1990 a U.S.-built command/reconnaissance base opened at Santa Lucia in the heart of the Upper Huallaga Valley is the eastern sierra foothills, one of the regions where the PCP is strong. It provided New York Times reporter of heavily fortified U.S. lribes in Vietnam.

What has enabled the People's Guerrilla Army to withstand such assaults and go forward? The key to their success is the PCP's application of Mao's central principle for waging people's war: "Weapons are an important factor revolutionary victory; it is people, not things, that are decisive.

PGA guerrillas are not only trained in military skills and tactics but intensively educated in the Party's line and policies, so that they are fighting with a clear sense of the overall goals and strategies of the revolution. The guerrillas rely on the masses to provide food, shelter and intelligence on the enemy, and in turn take part in production to help the people. PGA military actions are combined with mass political mobilization of peasants. As for weapons, PCP Chairman Gonzalo says that the PGA follows Mao's principle—"the enemy has them and we must use the problem is to seize them from him."

A journalist described the PGA as a "youth movement supported by their parents," since so many of the fighters are in their teens. But all types of people become PGA fighters. Reporters from the Peruvian daily "El Diario" wrote after a visit to a base area: "Among the soldiers of the PGA, neither physical traits nor skin color count. There are mestizos, whites, blacks, Asians, men and women of all ages: the elderly, adults, youth, and children. Everybody looks after one another. They walk, talk, eat and live together." The masses come
mainly from the peasants, but there are also workers, students and others.

Women play an active role in the PGA at all levels, from the top command to the fighting forces. From the early days of the movement in Ayacucho, women's liberation has been a focus of the PGP. Sociologist Carol Andres explained why the PGP draws so many women, especially among the poor. They know they will not be treated as a "Shining Path soldier; they will not be humiliated and degraded for being poor, for being Indian, or for being female. Lack of formal education will not be held against them, and their interests will not be compromised for personal gain.

In one of the first actions of the people's war in 1980, the guerrillas led a mass meeting in Ayapamba in the department of Ayacucho where peasants aired their grievances. Hundreds of peasants were mobilized to burn down the house of a particularly hated and greedy landlord, and the crops and livestock were divided among the people. When the police came to restore the feudal order and terrorize the villagers, the guerrillas took the struggle a step further and burned down the police station.

Since then the military actions by the PGP have grown much larger in scope and size. In August 1988 the PGP carried out a successful "armed shutdown" in wide areas of the Huamanga department. Reporters from El Diario described how the guerrillas and peasants blocked the main road in the region and crippled the mobility of the Armed Forces. "At the edge of the district around Ayapacu, a town located on the last asphalted section of the roadway, a certain number of villagers had already begun work in the darkness to completely block the road. About 5,000 people appeared before our eyes, working like ants. Peasant axes felled giant coconut trees across the roadway. Cries of "Death to the landlord!" rang out constantly amidst the thick dust. At dawn, when the villagers completed their prodigious efforts, trucks, tractors, and cars were completely cut off 300 kilometers (185 miles)." All this took place under the watchful eyes of a strong guerrilla unit, who stood ready to fight in case of an attack.

It is mainly through the PGP that the Communist Party of Peru carries out mass work—organizing the new political power in the countryside and developing all kinds of mass organizations. Political education is a major part of the work of the PGP. Special attention is given to popular forms to reach illiterate masses with the revolution. The new political power piece by piece is being organized so that the peasants can work together and help each other. This also builds the basis for the future socialist society. If there are leftover crops, part of the harvest or lands are given to peasants who need it most. There is also communal raising of chickens, ducks and guinea pigs and collective work on irrigation projects.

NEW LIFE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY BASE AREAS

"If you have a broken shoe, what do you do? You change it. And what do you do with the old one? You throw it away. That is how we are. This society is utterly corrupt. We have to destroy it and plant something new."

PCP Commander Cuta, in the video "The People of the Shining Path"

A recent AP wire report said: "The guerrillas destroy railroads, bridges, power pylons, agricultural research stations—any target that signifies progress." But what little infrastructure that has been built up in the countryside has not fundamentally changed the conditions of the people there. Under the present economic system, these modernizations are a means for the ruling class to lock profits out and for the Armed Forces to keep the people down. That's why they become targets of PGP action.

It is in the revolutionary base areas that real progress is taking place. This is where a completely new society is being built.

The new political power is destroying the material basis of semi-feudal oppression by confiscating land from the big landlords and distributing it to the poor and middle peasants. The rich peasants are generally allowed to keep their land—as long as they work it themselves. No subleasing or inheritance of land is allowed.

At the same time, collective planting and harvest are organized so that the peasants can work together and help each other. This also builds the basis for the future socialist society. If there are leftover crops, part of the harvest or lands are given to peasants who need it most. There is also communal raising of chickens, ducks and guinea pigs and collective work on irrigation projects.

A need exchange, as set up to promote scientific seed selection and planting a variety of crops. Small and medium merchants are allowed to continue their businesses—the new power liberates them also. But a ceiling is set on profit rates. For example, the profit on fertilizers is limited to 30 percent. It used to be as high as 300 percent, forcing the peasants to go deep into debt.

The organization of new relations of production is spurring improvements in the quality and amount of harvests. There are even the beginnings of management of products like clothes and tools to help the base areas become more self-sufficient and meet the needs of the people. The PGP considers the question of self-sufficiency to be extremely important. It is key to advancing the people's war, allowing the revolutionary army to rely on the people for food and supplies as they engage in war. And building self-sufficiency today is preparation for the future when an independent Peru can hold out against imperialist encirclement and aid other revolutionary and liberation movements.

In the base areas in the "coca zones" of the Upper Huallaga Valley, the peasants are encouraged to cut their dependence on the export of coca and receive help in growing other crops. Under the old economic system, 200,000 peasant households have been driven to grow coca to survive, because it has not been possible to live by growing food crops for the domestic market. The Western press has been filled with stories that the PGP is involved in drug trafficking. But in reality, the revolution offers the only hope to end this dependence on the coca crop. Even the reactionary Peruvian magazine SI was forced to admit that "Sendero has accomplished in a few years what the government has not done for many decades: the cultivation habits among the peasants, as a beginning to doing away with drug trafficking."

The People's Committees are at the hub of these radical changes. The Committees are an expression of the united front under PGP leadership—the workers and peasants, along with the progressive forces from among the middle classes. The weak and vacillating national bourgeoisie—whose interests are opposed to those of the big capitalists tied to foreign imperialism—does not participate in the united front today, but they may in the future.

A People's Committee is made up of five members called commissioners. They are chosen by representatives of the village mass organizations of poor peasants, women and youth. A key principle is that the People's Committee stands for political power for the masses, not for personal power. Any commissioner who attempts to abuse his or her position is removed, not before people's trials or otherwise punished.

In a speech in New York City in February 1992, a Peruvian revolutionary described one aspect of how a People's Committee operates:

"The community affairs commissioner is in charge of everything justice and oversees the 'damaged commission' formed on a rotating basis, which assesses fines—for example, when a peasant's cow damages some one else's crops. This commissioner also organizes education, through basic schools which teach four subjects: Spanish, math, natural science—on the basis of dialectical materialism—and social science—on the basis of historical
The PCP also analyzes that Peru is semi-colonial—meaning that the country has an independent government but is in fact subjected economically by imperialism. A stark example is that despite the deep economic crisis, Fujimori has obediently made good every payment to the IMF and foreign banks on Peru's huge S22 billion foreign debt. Whereas a people are on the edge of starvation, the Peruvian government pays out $90 million a month in interest alone to the foreign banks!

The domination by imperialism has led to some capitalist development in Peru. But the PCP characterizes this as a "disfigured concept of development"—generated by imperialism in the backward countries. This "bureaucrat-capitalism" does not challenge the semi-feudal relations in the countryside, and it serves the interests of foreign capital instead of the country's national development.

In PCP's view, applying the programme of "land to the tiller" to eliminate the old feudal relations in the countryside is one of the main aspects of the revolution in Peru. The PCP also analyzes that Peru is semi-colonial—meaning that the country has an independent government but is in fact subjected economically by imperialism. A stark example is that despite the deep economic crisis, Fujimori has obediently made good every payment to the IMF and foreign banks on Peru's huge S22 billion foreign debt. Whereas a people are on the edge of starvation, the Peruvian government pays out $90 million a month in interest alone to the foreign banks!

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The daunting terrain of mud and tank-trap trenches dug into the ground between the shantytown and the nearest contested areas of the central highlands, to mobilize support for others. The Shining Path said, "I have heard rumors from many prisoners' resistances. In the face of torture, death threats and other abuses by their captors, the women and men at Canto Grande continued to hold fast to their revolutionary principles and discipline. They declared that the prison was a "Shining Trench of Combat" and organized communal kitchens, collective work, study and political celebrations. This had a broad effect on how people saw the PCP. A worker in Lima interviewed in the documentary The People of the Shining Path said, "I have heard rumors from many people that point out the good alternative offered by the Shining Path. For example, those in jail are very disciplined. These may be the people who could lead us to a share of power." These developments have disoriented principles and discipline. They declared that the prison was sunk deep roots in Peru and will not be dug out easily. The people of Raucana held out the authorities for a month. The international journal A World To Win reported, "I am sure that the FARC will defeat the people's war in a short time. But more cool-headed assessments by the U.S. media and "counter-terrorism experts" admit that the revolution has sunk deep roots in Peru and will not be dug out easily.

During the 1980s, hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. were part of the movement to support the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and the FMLN guerrillas in El Salvador against U.S. intervention. But by the start of the '90s, the Sandinistas had hiked over power to a U.S.-backed regime. And the FMLN has upped armed struggle and is now negotiating with the U.S. client regime for a "shared power." These developments have disoriented and discouraged some people in the U.S. who now wonder if it is really possible for any liberation movement in Latin America to go up against a powerful foe like U.S. imperialism.

But U.S. intervention was not the only factor that led to the defeats in Nicaragua and El Salvador. In fact, the people in Nicaragua and El Salvador showed time and time again that they were willing to sacrifice and fight courageously to defeat the reactionaries and their Yankee masters. The problem is that their leaders were not coming from the starting point of viewing an all-the-way revolution to break their countries out of imperialist domination. Gonzalo pointed out that "Nicaragua carried out an incomplete revolution and their problem is that they didn't destroy the power of the whole bourgeoisie.... A democratic revolution must wipe out the three mountains, and in Nicaragua that has not been done. Instead of relying on the strength and power of the people, the Sandinistas and the FMLN look to the Soviet Union for so-called "aid." Soviet aid was not real in nationalism to liberation movements but a tool in imperialist superpower rivalry with the U.S. And with the collapse of phony communism in the Soviet Union, the Sandinistas and FMLN were left out in the cold. They had to go even more openly down the road of conciliation with the U.S. and reactionary forces. The Maoist revolutionaries in Peru are completely different—even the U.S. has to acknowledged this. Bernard Aronson, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, told a Congressional hearing this March: "Sendero Luminoso is unlike any other insurgent or terrorist group that has ever operated in Latin America. Put out of your mind the FMLN of El Salvador who just signed a peace agreement, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua who allowed themselves to be voted out of office, the M-19 of Colombia and other South American insurgencies that have ended their violent struggle to take advantage of the political space open to the peaceful, democratic left. Sendero Luminoso is in a category by itself."

Seeing the people's war as a serious threat to their interests, the U.S. has geared up its open and covert attacks on the PCP. The arrest of PCP leader Gonzalo is part of these U.S. schemes. But with Chairman Gonzato's leadership, the PCP has been preparing and steeling their ranks and the masses to resist and advance in the face of this rising U.S. intervention.

In a speech commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1949 Chinese revolution, Chairman Gonzato spoke with determination and optimism about the challenges facing the PCP and the revolutionary people of Peru. "Yankee aggression, whether it be direct or indirect by way of puppet governments, is bringing about a war of national liberation, and despite the sacrifice and the efforts that this would require, there will be a magnificent opportunity to unite 90 percent of the Peruvian people, at a time when the Party is calling for a wide-scale uprising of the Peruvian people, a time when the Party is calling for a wide-scale uprising to save the country."

Raucana residents dig trenches to block police assault.

Summer 1991—Residents of Raucana defend against police attack with molotovs and rocks.
A Child of the Class Struggle

Chairman Gonzalo was born Abimael Guzmán Reynoso on December 3, 1934, in Ayacucho, Peru. Ayacucho was a center for peasant uprisings, and his mother was forced to flee with her family when Guzmán was a teenager, the peasants rose up. In his 1988 interview, Gonzalo says: "I'd say that what has most influenced me to take up politics has been the struggle of the people. I saw the fighting spirit of the people during the uprising of Ayacucho in 1950 —how the masses fought with uncontrollable fire in response to the massacre of the youth. And I saw how they fought the army, forcing them to retreat to their barracks. And how forces had to be brought in from other places in order to crush the people... I believe that every communist, I am the child of the class struggle and of the Party."

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The Struggle for a Beginning

Chairman Gonzalo led the struggle to reconstitute the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. And he led this revolutionary vanguard in the difficult struggle to launch the armed revolutionary struggle for power. There were many new problems to solve.

During this period, Chairman Gonzalo traveled twice to China. In those days, Mao was still a genuine socialist leader in the midst of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution led by Mao Tsetung.

Chairman Gonzalo says: "In China, I had the chance which I'd like to see many have, of being in a school where politics was taught, from international questions to Marxist philosophy... I can remember the teacher who taught us about open and secret work... Later they taught us about military questions. But here they also began with politics, people's war, then the forging of the armed forces, strategy and tactics. And through all this, we were taught to think like ambushed, attacks, military movements, as well as how to assemble explosive devices." Gonzalo recalls his teacher saying: "Remember what the masses can do, they have inexhaustible ingenuity, what you've taught the masses will do and will teach you all over again."

In the late seventies, counter-revolutionaries scored power in China after Mao Tsetung's death. Chairman Gonzalo remained true to Mao's teachings, and led the Peruvian communists to oppose the counter-revolutionary coup. When Peruvian Maoists hung dead dogs in front of the Chinese embassy in Lima, it was a political message heard around the world. The PCP later joined with other Maoists, including the KPL-N, in creating the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. From then on, the life story of Chairman Gonzalo merges with the history of the people's war in Peru.

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REPORT ON THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU

Amnesty International

Covers for Yankee Intervention

Setting the Record Straight

on the Shining Path

If you've been trying to learn the truth about the war of liberation led by the Communist Party of Peru, it has been very difficult indeed because of the disinformation campaign being waged by the U.S. government and its media. They constantly lie about the PCP, refer to them as "terrorists" and paint them as a violent group carrying out violent acts against the people. But these are slanders aimed at paving the way for U.S. intervention and military aid. And they are designed by the Peru press, the U.S. press, the Peruvian government, and U.S. and the Fujimori government.

As a result of this disinformation campaign, it has been difficult to hope that the Peruvian government is totally involved in and financially dependent on the drug trade. Articles in the New York Times have admitted that the PCP is not involved in drugs. But few newspapers have reported the real truth that PCP runs drug laboratories and kicks out big-time drug traffickers and that in areas where the revolution has more influence and control, crop substitution is being implemented so that peasants can be freed from dependence on export agriculture like opium poppy.

Unfortunately, the most prestigious and respected human rights organization in the world, Amnesty International, has taken up its own campaign against the revolution in Peru. In November 1991 it issued a major report on Peru, which exposes the atrocities human rights record of the Peruvian army and protests against the PCP. The report, and others around Peru, has also made a point of attacking the revolution in Peru. At first glance, it appears to be based on the propaganda of the Peruvian government's propaganda.

Amnesty repeats some of the charges that have been central to this campaign, again doing the propaganda work of the governments and the propaganda...