

# Peru's Fujimori hits 'human rights' crowd

by Peter Rush

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has followed up his government's month-long string of captures of top members of the bloody Shining Path guerrilla assassins by taking on the international "human rights" apparatus that has defended it and many other terrorist groups, withdrawing from the San José Accord that outlawed an effective response to terrorism, and decreeing that terrorist leaders are legally responsible for the crimes of their followers, even if they are in prison.

Speaking at a Navy Day ceremony on Oct. 8, Fujimori attacked the world's flagship human rights organization, Amnesty International, for a years-long campaign to discredit the Peruvian Armed Forces for supposed human rights abuses in its war against Shining Path, showing absolutely no concern for the fact that the terrorists have been responsible for murdering 10-20,000 Peruvians, many by torture, most of them civilians. "It is necessary to expose the terrorists infiltrated into pseudo-humanitarian institutions and to denounce pseudo-defense-of-human-rights organizations that play the game of solely defending the human rights of terrorists and of ignoring the human rights of their victims," Fujimori said.

"It is quite a mystery that organizations such as Amnesty International can commit such gross errors," Fujimori continued. "Is it possible they have no idea of what is presently occurring in Peru, and therefore of what terrorism is capable of carrying out?" Referring to the recent condemnation by the U.N. and the Organization of American States of a Shining Path massacre of dozens of innocent people as "genocide," he asked, "surely the leaders of Amnesty and other international organizations would by now have meditated sufficiently on the value of objectivity in such cases."

On cue, the Italian branch of Amnesty on Oct. 14 issued a statement saying the chapter has launched a campaign aimed at the press and at the Peruvian government on behalf of Abimael Guzmán, the founder and leader of Shining Path, who was sentenced in early October to life imprisonment for ordering the deaths of thousands and for causing \$25 billion in property damage in Peru. The statement said that access must be granted to documents that support Guzmán's contention that he has merely been engaged in "anti-government activity." Guzmán's main defense is that he is a political prisoner, i.e., that his crime is simply that he opposes the government, which he presumably has a right to do.

Amnesty's decision to adopt Guzmán's defense as their own fully justifies not only Fujimori's query over whether terrorists have infiltrated Amnesty International, but also *EIR's* contention for many years that Amnesty has links to British intelligence and that it has served only to further the cause of genocidal terrorists without concern for the horror they cause.

Peru's *Expreso* newspaper refuted Amnesty, pointing out that the European Community has explicitly prohibited labeling terrorist acts as "political crimes." Amnesty has "expended its credibility, which was its only capital, in the unjustifiable defense of a genocidalist," *Expreso* editorialized. "The organization should now voluntarily open its own doors for an investigation. That is, of course, if it has nothing to hide."

Also giving support to Guzmán is Americas Watch, a Washington, D.C.-based human rights organization which came out "deploring the violation of fundamental rights by the Peruvian government in the trial" of Guzmán. Americas Watch attacked in particular the system of faceless judges. Since Shining Path will try to kill any judge who convicts them, Americas Watch's opposition to the only method available for justice, judges whose identities are hidden, is tantamount to opposing any effort to even capture and try Shining Path criminals.

Fujimori further announced on Oct. 15 that Peru will withdraw from the so-called San José Accord, a region-wide human rights pact dating from 1969 which rules out capital punishment in absolutely every situation, including for war crimes and crimes against humanity of the kind that were tried at Nuremberg after World War II—exactly the kind that Guzmán is guilty of. Fujimori also decreed that leaders of subversive organizations, who are politically and ideologically responsible for the continuing terrorist actions of their followers, can be held *legally* responsible for these acts as well, which means that jailed leaders can be retried—and re-sentenced, including to death, once Peru is out of the San José Accord—so long as their organizations continue terrorist acts.

Fujimori also decreed that teachers who teach Shining Path ideology in the schools can be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison. He pointed out that this teaching has been going on for more than 10 years and that previous governments have made no attempt to stop it. Fujimori said that such "deformation of our children's minds . . . with an apology for terrorism," was intolerable.

Peruvian security forces have continued to score successes since the Guzmán capture, including the capture of Marta Huatay on Oct. 20, possibly the top leader then still at large. Security sweeps through successive districts surrounding Lima have, at least for now, broken the "iron belt" Shining Path had been building around the capital. Shining Path was unable to mount any significant action on Oct. 12, for which day it had planned a terror spree.