

## Dateline Mexico by Carlos Cota Meza

### Guerrero, a new separatist flank

*As EIR warned, irregular warfare against Mexico has broken out in another state, and others are set to follow.*

On June 28, during a commemoration of an anniversary of a massacre at Aguas Blancas, in the state of Guerrero, Mexico, where 17 peasants were assassinated in 1995, a new armed group made its appearance, the Revolutionary Popular Army (EPR). Uniformed and well-armed, 70 hooded people took over the speakers pavilion. "Commander Emiliano" read their proclamation: "Our army also struggles for the profound transformation of society, through means of armed revolutionary struggle."

The leading personality at the event, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas (the principal leader of the separatist forces which seek the territorial break-up of Mexico, the privatization of the oil industry, and the dismemberment of the federal government and its Armed Forces), characterized the EPR's debut as a "pantomime."

Cárdenas's characterization gave the signal for 1,001 versions, of who, and what, is the EPR, none of them, however, going to the crux of the matter: Whatever the local elements which make it up, the EPR is an operation of foreign intelligence services whose goal is the balkanization of Mexico.

*EIR*, in its Nov. 10, 1995 issue ("New Terror International Targets the Americas"), identified Guerrero, Tabasco, and Oaxaca as the states targeted, along with Chiapas, for an insurgency whose ultimate goal is the separation of the south of Mexico, from the rest of the country.

Of what "pantomime" did Cárdenas speak? In a July 4 speech in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, to the "Special Forum for the Reform of the State," at which he and the Zapatista

Army of National Liberation's "Subcommander Marcos" were the principal speakers, Cárdenas decried the "generalized repression . . . unleashed against the people of Guerrero," and claimed that injustices "tie Guerrero today with Chiapas, Chiapas with Tabasco, and Guerrero and with the rest of the Republic."

Guerrero, like Chiapas, is a "pantomime" of irregular warfare, orchestrated at an international level. The puppet theater in Guerrero began on Feb. 25, 1996, eight months after the massacre, when a Televisa journalist, Ricardo Rocha, broadcast a video which purportedly showed Guerrero police massacring peasants in Aguas Blancas. The video, baptized as "The Whole Truth Video," came to the journalist by clandestine means, and was taken as a credible basis upon which to start an investigation against the governor of Guerrero, Rubén Figueroa Alcocer.

In the first week in March 1996, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Gali made an unusual three-day visit to Mexico, during which he received, at the Foreign Ministry itself, a group led by a Guerrero senator from Cárdenas's Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), Felix Salgado Macedonio, who handed him a copy of "The Whole Truth Video." Included in the delegation which accompanied Boutros-Ghali, was PRD national leader Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, in his capacity as Mexico's former ambassador to the UN.

On March 3, President Ernesto Zedillo ordered the Supreme Court to investigate Aguas Blancas. On March 12, Guerrero Governor Figueroa

Alcocer was dismissed. On April 23, the Supreme Court ruled that Figueroa was politically responsible for "grave violations" of the individual guarantees of his people.

From London, Amnesty International celebrated that decision as the cornerstone of "new legislation" to handle these type of problems, for Mexico, as for any other Ibero-American country.

As of that decision, the emergence of an armed group in Guerrero was predictable. What name it was to give itself, is the least of it. Eleven armed groups have been identified in Guerrero, an area whose chief distinction is that of being the principal marijuana- and opium poppy-producing region of Mexico.

Two days after its debut, the EPR issued a communiqué which announced that "there is no declaration of war by the EPR, so far, against the government," but demanded that the government "adhere to the Geneva Conventions," and called upon "national and international human rights bodies to intervene and oversee the behavior of the Armed Forces and police forces as events develop."

The government's National Human Rights Commission and the Senate Human Rights Commission immediately announced that they would ensure that the Mexican Army did not violate any human rights. So, when the Mexican Army deployed heavily into Guerrero to locate the EPR, it did so under the rolling films of television cameras and the video cameras of the "human rights defenders."

As *EIR* has warned, if the necessary measures are not taken, it is only a question of time, before another "pantomime" explodes, this time in the state of Oaxaca, to complete the separatist-ecologist-indigenist axis which seeks to slice the southern Tehuantepec Isthmus off from Mexico.