

London-backed media, NGOs behind MRTA

by Valerie Rush

The MRTA hostage crisis in Peru was never, for one moment, an autochthonous operation. Before, during, and after the hostage-taking and siege at the Japanese ambassador's residence, the British one-worldists who deploy terrorist movements around the globe, have been deploying the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, just as they have their media hounds and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In January of this year, *EIR* published a special feature on the MRTA (see *EIR*, Jan. 31), which documented how this narco-terrorist organization was manufactured by a British "indigenism" project which has been operational in the Americas since at least the early twentieth century, a project which also spawned Peru's other, more famous narco-terrorist force, the Shining Path. The ideology of each was created by the same radical anthropological networks centered in London and at the Sorbonne in Paris.

The MRTA has operated as part of the São Paulo Forum, a continental narco-terrorist strike force often deploying its cadre in combination with other terrorist members of that organization. The São Paulo Forum has given British intelligence a formidable terrorist capability across Ibero-America, and, in turn, has received recognition, and a forum, by such anglophile institutions as the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue and the Woodrow Wilson Institute. Mouthpieces for the Forum have spoken out repeatedly in defense of the MRTA, since the hostage-taking.

Behind the MRTA: the media . . .

Throughout the four months of the MRTA siege in Lima, the terrorists received propaganda and logistical support from a variety of British-controlled media outlets and NGOs:

- Reuters, London's premier news agency, has been in the forefront of feeding continuous pro-MRTA coverage into the world's media, since the beginning of the hostage crisis. It was Reuters which set the line for all the other media, by calling the MRTA "rebels" and "social fighters," and describing their treatment of their hostages as "gentlemanly." Reuters also prepared a special news broadcast purporting to show MRTA cadre training in an undisclosed jungle camp, for the purpose of proving that the commando team at the Japanese ambassador's residence was not the final remnant of the MRTA, as some had suggested.

After the April 22 military assault on the Japanese compound, Reuters once again took the lead in airing charges that the Peruvian troops had "executed" the MRTA terrorists,

using as its source an MRTA contact outside the compound who had allegedly been listening to the raid on short-wave radio. Reuters has also deliberately played up alleged tensions between the Peruvian and Japanese governments, over handling of the hostage crisis.

Reuters is by no means the only British media outlet to play this role. It was the London *Financial Times* correspondent in Lima, Sally Bowen, who insisted from the beginning of the crisis that a military solution was "impossible," and who has done everything possible since then to publicize the MRTA cause. The *Financial Times* also editorialized in the immediate aftermath of the hostage-taking that the MRTA action was a "wake-up call" to Peruvians, in response to President Alberto Fujimori's "political failings," such as "authoritarianism" and "toleration of human rights abuses"—precisely the MRTA's litany. After the hostages were rescued, the paper cried that a military solution was "hard to justify," given how nicely the terrorists had behaved! Editorially, it exposed its fears: "Peru is still too much of a one-man show for comfort."

One London stringer who got his fingers burned was the Lima correspondent of Britain's Worldwide Television News (WTN), Miguel Real Fierro, who made a rather hurried departure from Peru in early March, after Peruvian Communications Minister Domingo Palermo (also President Fujimori's chosen negotiator for the government) called him onto the carpet for his collaboration with the MRTA terrorists. WTN had maintained a direct line of communication to MRTA commando leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini from the beginning of the hostage-taking, by deliberately leaving behind a two-way transmitter during one of its interviews with him. From then onward, Cerpa had a regular international forum for his rantings, courtesy of WTN.

- Not surprisingly, the *New York Times* came to Real Fierro's defense, in an article complaining, "The [Peru] government has consistently tried to limit publication of the guerrillas' viewpoints." In fact, together with Cable News Network (CNN)—which interviewed pro-terrorist "human rights experts" on Peru throughout the crisis, and which, on the day of the rescue mission, gave MRTA "international spokesman" Iván Velasco 15 minutes to rant against Fujimori and threaten reprisals—the *New York Times* has been a leading mouthpiece for MRTA propaganda in the United States.

Early on in the siege, the *New York Times* concentrated its coverage on comparing the conditions in Peru's prisons to a Hieronymus Bosch painting of the Inferno, an absurdity which nonetheless gave cause to the MRTA terrorists' demand for release of its prisoners. The *New York Times* also regularly regurgitated the arguments of Human Rights Watch and other NGOs about "innocent" terrorists trapped by the "faceless judges." Following the military rescue operation, the *New York Times* revealed its sympathies by blowing up the following quote from its April 24 coverage: "A young guerrilla, distraught, spares the life of a hostage, and then is killed himself."



The main room of the Japanese ambassador's residence, where the most serious confrontation took place. One can observe the opening where one of the tunnels leads out, opened by a controlled explosion from below.

... and the NGOs

- The International Red Cross, which has been denounced in several countries for serving as liaison, even ransom-collector, for international terrorists, played a crucial support role for the MRTA. Indeed, its "humanitarian" visits to MRTA prisoners were cancelled, after the Fujimori government suspected the Red Cross of serving as message carriers, or "postmen," for the terrorist commandos in the Japanese ambassador's residence. Peruvian authorities also unofficially charged the Red Cross with facilitating the MRTA's Dec. 31 propaganda show inside the residence, by leaving a door to the compound open so that various media could enter on cue and broadcast interviews with the terrorists internationally.

Repeatedly, the Red Cross had protested maneuvers by Army troops outside the occupied residence, even threatening to withdraw its workers if the government violated a "neutral zone" it had unilaterally defined in front of the residence. Suspected Red Cross complicity with the terrorists forced the Fujimori government to create a three-man medical team to replace Red Cross personnel ministering to the hostages. Medical dossiers would be maintained on every hostage, said a government representative, "with their own name and not under code," as the Red Cross had done.

According to Peruvian investigative journalist César Reategui, the Red Cross had aided and abetted MRTA and Shining Path terrorists various times, including providing false identification papers to a wounded terrorist, so that he could escape authorities, and tipping off terrorists on planned Army raids of terrorist hideouts.

On April 16, less than a week before the rescue operation was launched, Swiss national Jean-Pierre Scharer, number two in the International Red Cross office in Peru, was booted

out of Peru. Although no official reason was given for the government's action, which was greeted with outrage by the MRTA support lobby in the media, the cause became clear a few days later when Peru's Channel 5 broadcast a photo taken from inside the Japanese ambassador's residence, showing Scharer in a grinning, buddy-buddy pose with MRTA leader Cerpa and two other terrorists. The Channel 5 anchorman commented, "Scharer's smile is truly expressive." The picture, published in the majority of Peru's newspapers, was taken by a miniature camera similar to those used in laparoscopic surgery, which Peruvian intelligence had inserted into the compound from the tunnels below.

- The London-headquartered Amnesty International, like the George Soros-funded Human Rights Watch, have supported the terrorist offensive against Peru since it began in 1980, by directing international attacks against the Peruvian government and security forces for so-called "human rights violations." Both groups work closely with such terrorist spokesmen as legislator Javier Diez Canseco, to whom Amnesty demanded in the 1980s that Peru's government hand over the identities of all military men engaged in counterinsurgency operations! Diez Canseco sits on the board of the São Paulo Forum's *América Libre* magazine.

In its 1995 annual report, Amnesty International singled out Peru as one of the six worst human rights violators in the world, and demanded mass trials of Peruvian Army officers, and new trials for all Peruvian prisoners convicted of terrorism by military courts, including the top MRTA and Shining Path leadership. In late January of this year, Amnesty International intervened on behalf of the Red Cross—and the MRTA—by issuing a communiqué protesting the Fujimori government's ban on Red Cross visits to MRTA prisoners, and insisting that many of those incarcerated had been falsely accused or convicted of terrorism.

In Peru, Human Rights Watch coordinates with three main "partners": the Andean Commission of Jurists, the Andean Council of Coca Leaf Producers (CAPHC), and Peru's Pro-Human Rights Association (Aprodeh). The first is one of the leading drug legalization lobbies in Ibero-America, whose executive director, Diego García-Sayan, is also a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, and a leading advocate of negotiating power-sharing deals with terrorists.

The second, CAPHC, is the shock-troop force for the drug cartels, whose self-proclaimed mission is to herd hundreds of thousands of poor Peruvian, Bolivian, Colombian, and Ecuadorean families who are currently enslaved to the cartels, into an armed insurrectionary force to defend drug-growing and trafficking in the region. The CAPHC coordinates with Colombia's FARC narco-guerrillas; the FARC is a member of the São Paulo Forum along with the MRTA. CAPHC leader Evo Morales has publicly defended jailed MRTA terrorists.

The third, Aprodeh, is a group of lawyers who have worked closely with the MRTA leadership since its founding. Aprodeh's leading guru is the Inter-American Dialogue's Javier Diez Canseco.