

# The RabbleRouser

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**DEFEND THE LIFE OF  
CHAIRMAN GONZALO!  
LONG LIVE THE INVINCIBLE  
PEOPLE'S WAR!**



24 September 1992- Dr Abimael Guzman's Speech from the Cage

He has been held in absolute solitary confinement since 7 October 1992. Thousands of other political prisoners are also locked down in Peru and suffer malnutrition, brutalities, tuberculosis and isolation.

U.S. government agencies

played a key and direct role in hunting down and capturing Dr Guzman. These moves by the government of the richest nation on earth, against the leader of millions of poor and labouring people of Peru who are fighting against injustice and oppression, has amounted to a holy crusade. And this crusade is assisted at every step by the world's media, who have ceaselessly demonized Dr Guzman as "World Public Enemy #1".

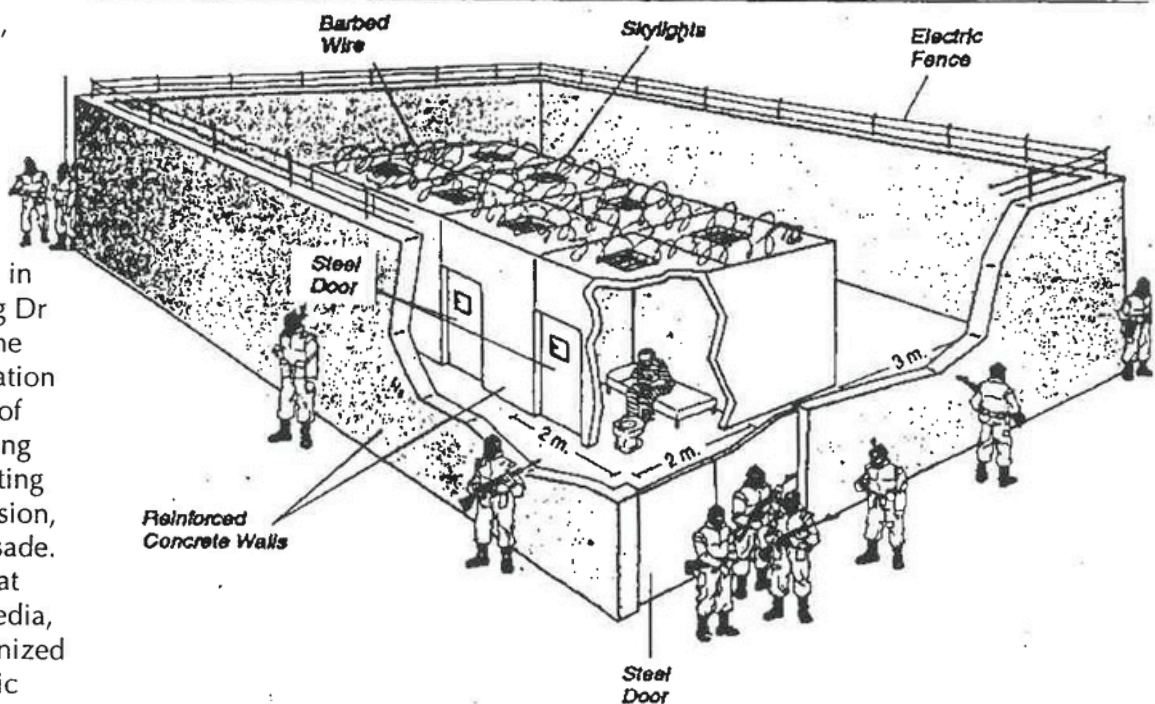


Diagram of Dr. Guzmán's cell published in the Lima magazine *Caretas*.

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## ON THE TREATMENT OF LAWYERS IN PERU



Dr Alfredo Crespo, Dr Guzman's lawyer, being arrested by DINCOTE, January 11, 1993

On 11 January 1992, Dr Guzman's lawyer, Dr Alfredo Crespo, was arrested by the Peruvian Counter-Insurgency Police (DINCOTE). Within a few days he was "tried" for "treason" by a hooded military tribunal, and sentenced to life in prison. All members of the Association of Democratic Lawyers in Lima (who defend the political prisoners) have been harassed and put under surveillance by the police, and the organisation has been effectively banned. Many have received death threats, and some have been victims of death squads, including Dr Jorge Cartagena, a well-known defender of political prisoners, who was wounded by a shot in the head. He recovered but was later arrested with Dr Crespo and given a life sentence. Lawyers who represented political prisoners were singled out for assassination by the Armed Forces during the 1992 massacre at Canto Grande. Many have been assassinated or disappeared.

Lawyers who defend political prisoners are now routinely and openly arrested and given life imprisonment sentences simply because they represent their clients. Dr Crespo and the IEC had several times notified Amnesty International of the threats and demanded they intervene; this was ignored by AI.



Martha Huatay

Martha Huatay, a well-known political prisoner and a founder of the Association of Democratic Lawyers in Peru, was tortured to the point of being unable to speak at her "trial" in October 1992, a fact noted by the Red Cross. She also received life imprisonment.

### DAYS OF HEROISM

17-18 June continue to be remembered by the Peruvian people because on those days in 1986, the political prisoners rose up in massive resistance against an all-out assault by the military on Lurigancho Prison and El Fronton (women's prison). The Peruvian military killed nearly 400 prisoners, many of them in cold blood.

## ON THE TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PERU

On 7 December 1992, Fujimori acknowledged holding 2,479 political prisoners. Undoubtedly, this is far below the real number. The names and locations of only 636 are known. Most of the political prisoners have never had a trial. Many were arrested simply for having a leaflet or book, or even for coming from a certain part of Peru where the PCP is strong.

On 5 April 1992, Fujimori suspended the Constitution and the judicial system, and issued a number of decrees. Under the decrees those arrested on charges of "apology for terrorism" or "treason" have had no right to defence or right to appeal. If there is any trial at all, it is a military tribunal of hooded judges and often the only evidence presented is a police report.

The decrees also suspended many of the rights political prisoners had fought for within the prison system, and since the coup prison conditions have worsened. As many as five prisoners are routinely held in 2x3 metre cells, with no blankets, mattresses or beds. They are led

from a pail once a day and their food is sometimes mixed with glass or kerosene. As many as 40% have tuberculosis and serious skin diseases caused by lack of adequate food and sanitation. Families can visit only 10 minutes each month, and are not allowed to bring food, personal items, or medicines. Families who do visit are often harassed and accused of "apology for terrorism". In many cases the government has not released the location of political prisoners and families do not know whether they are alive.

Within a month after Fujimori issued his emergency decrees, 40 political prisoners at Canto Grande were gunned down in cold blood by the military and police. Recently the government has transferred and concentrated prisoners in a way that indicates that another massacre may be imminent.

A recent report from the Association of Democratic Lawyers told of the conditions of the political prisoners: "They are exposed to sunlight one hour a day. They are held in the

military prison in Puno called Yanamayo. This is at an elevation of 4,000 meters above sea level, and is 10-C (14-F). This is where many of the prisoners from Canto Grande were moved as well. The prison is not heated. They just have their uniform and a blanket. They sleep on the concrete floor."

A delegation from the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OCHR) which was able to make a rare visit to the political prisoners said conditions were "terrible", "incredible". One delegate likened it to psychological torture and doubted that they would live long in those prisons.

Massacre at Canto Grande Prison, May 1992



**DAYS OF HEROISM**  
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Canto Grande Prison - Shantytown in foreground