

# Fujimori begins new anti-terror crackdown

by Carlos Valdez

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has responded to the demands of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the international banking community that he abandon his war against narco-terrorism, by promulgating several new decrees reaffirming his tough stance.

Just hours after a second OAS delegation departed Lima empty-handed on May 5, Fujimori announced a mandatory 20-year jail term for anyone convicted of involvement with guerrilla groups, and life imprisonment for rebel leaders. He announced that any person who "makes apologies for terrorism or for any person who has committed" guerrilla acts in the news media would go to jail for a minimum of six years. It was clear that the timing of the decrees was intended as a message to the departing OAS mission that he had no intention of retreating from his commitment to smash the narco-terrorists and their support networks in the judiciary, the media, and in the government itself.

Fujimori also announced new laws with harsh penalties against judicial corruption and for acts of guerrilla violence, including life sentences for leaders of so-called "annihilation squads." He set up a procedure for judges to secretly try cases of terrorism, and ordered that the trials take place in the jails, eliminating the dangerous and costly moving of prisoners.

In this context, the Peruvian Army launched an offensive against the urban networks of Shining Path. On April 30, in a raid on the Raucana shanty town on the outskirts of Lima, Raucana chieftain Condor Huamán was arrested. According to Army intelligence reports, as many as 23 other Shining Path leaders were living in Raucana. Immediately, the international human rights lobby began a media drumbeat charging that Peru's Armed Forces is the world's worst violator of human rights.

Undeterred, on May 7, the Army took control of Canto Grande prison after a day-long battle with the imprisoned terrorists of both Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Two policemen and eight rebels died. Canto Grande, as is the case with several other major prisons in Peru, had been under the complete control of some 800 imprisoned Shining Path members.

## Fujimori rejects Colombian model

Since Fujimori dissolved Peru's corrupt and pro-terrorist Congress on April 5, his model has not been that of Colom-

bia, where a narco-terrorist majority dominated a 1990 Constituent Assembly which dissolved Colombia's elected Congress and wrote a "New Age" Constitution for that country.

With the U.S.-backed Colombian model evidently in mind, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson traveled to Peru for a two-day visit on May 1. Aronson threatened Fujimori with a total economic, diplomatic, and financial cutoff if he didn't give in to U.S. demands that he immediately restore constitutional rule. "I told Fujimori that if there was not a resolution to the crisis consistent with the OAS resolution, that I thought those pressures on Peru would intensify," he said.

But Fujimori rejected all demands to make him "turn back the clock" to pre-April 5 Peru. He explicitly rejected pressures for convoking a Colombia-style constituent assembly, which he insisted would operate as an autonomous, parallel power to the government.

Fujimori is staying equally tough with presidential pretender Maximo San Román, his former vice president, and his supporters in the former Congress. On May 1, Attorney General Hilda Cordova announced that as of May 4, she will bring charges against San Román for "usurping functions," an offense which carries a seven-year jail term. On April 30, San Román met with a group of 500 parliamentarians and other dissidents and called for electing a constituent assembly on July 5, as a step toward installing a transitional government on July 28. U.S. Amb. Anthony Quinton has been meeting regularly with San Román, allegedly to hear his proposals for restoring democracy.

But on May 6, as the OAS mission left Lima, delegation head Gros Espiell acknowledged that they had failed to mediate any agreement between Fujimori and his opponents. Fujimori explained that no mediation was necessary, since "national unity exists, at least at the level of the population. Of course, the party leaders don't understand this."

However, Fujimori's vulnerability continues to lie in his anti-nationalist economic policies. In his desperation to curry favor with international bankers, Fujimori retained Finance Minister Carlos Boloña, whom former foreign minister and current ambassador to the OAS Augusto Blacker Miller characterized as a U.S. State Department agent. "Boloña was not acting for himself. The State Department wants to weaken the President in any way possible," insisted Blacker Miller.

Immediately following Boloña's ratification as Peruvian finance minister, Chile's former finance minister and free-market ideologue Hernán Buchi arrived in Lima. Two days later, on May 3, Boloña was reported to be planning a 30% hike in electricity rates, to raise the cash to pay the foreign debts of Peru's electricity companies. The report brings to mind the current crisis in Colombia, where World Bank and International Monetary Fund dictates have led to a collapse in energy infrastructure and electricity rationing of eight hours a day.