

Peru's *El Comercio* charged at the time that Red Cross personnel were pressuring captured terrorists whom they visited to not cooperate with the government, promising that the Red Cross could get them out of the country on "political refugee" status.

Siding with the Zapatistas

In Mexico, the Red Cross openly sided with the Zapatista National Liberation Army, which led an abortive uprising in the southeastern state of Chiapas on New Year's Day, 1994. The Red Cross fed press lies about Mexican Army "human rights violations" in the region, despite a total lack of evidence, and ferried Zapatista terrorists around in Red Cross ambulances.

In March 1994, when the Mexican government was on the offensive against the Zapatista narco-terrorists, a radio communication between EZLN camps was intercepted. It lamented that medicines and food stocks were running low, and observed, "It is necessary to ask more support from the International Red Cross and from the human rights groups, so that the movement doesn't soon disappear." A few days later, a 400-person caravan carrying 180 tons of food and supplies arrived in Chiapas, heading for EZLN camps. The caravan included delegations from Switzerland, Italy, Germany, France, Australia, and the United States. In response to being turned away by the Army, the caravan's organizers called on the military to "abandon the area which belongs to us."

In Colombia, the Red Cross has been heavily involved in ransom negotiations for kidnap victims of the FARC and ELN narco-terrorists, despite a government prohibition on private mediation in kidnappings. According to Colombian Army sources, the Red Cross often serves as mediator in kidnappings of foreign citizens and Colombian nationals, but usually assumes responsibility for transmitting messages between kidnappers and their victims' families, and even delivers ransom money to the terrorists.

Nor are the ICRC's pro-terrorist activities limited to Ibero-America. In the 1995 war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam terrorists and the Sri Lankan Army, the International Committee of the Red Cross refused to put its food ships through government security checks at the port of Kankesanthurai, insisting instead that they be allowed to travel directly to the Point Pedro pier, controlled by the Tamil Tigers. The result is that all food deliveries to the civilian population were directly under terrorist control. Later, the Red Cross was caught red-handed funding the training camps of the Tigers, which prompted Sri Lankan authorities to expel the ICRC from the country.

Similarly, in late 1996, the Sudanese government charged that the ICRC was transporting rebels loyal to the Sudan People's Liberation Army, as well as carrying weapons and ammunition for that group. The Khartoum government was forced to order a halt to all Red Cross activities inside its borders.

The media are playing a criminal role in Peru

by Cynthia R. Rush

A scan of international press coverage of the month-long hostage crisis at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Peru, finds the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) described, not as a murderous narco-terrorist group, but as good-hearted Robin Hoods who have the interests of "the people" at heart. The 20 or so commandos inside the residence, strapped with explosives and wielding AK-47s, have been variously called "social fighters," "gentlemanly," "revolutionary youth," and "a thinking man's guerrillas." And we read that the Dec. 17, 1996 seizure of the residence was a "bold attack," and a "stunning raid," rather than a terrorist assault.

Sally Bowen, a correspondent of the London *Financial Times* and BBC who was briefly held hostage, was swept off her feet by MRTA commando leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini. In an eyewitness report in the Dec. 28 *Financial Times*, she gushed, "His dark eyes burned with conviction as he spoke of martyrdom and structural violence, of the hunger and misery of the poor and marginalized. He was consistently composed, articulate, and courteous."

Courteous? Some former hostages who are afraid to have their names released, told the Peruvian daily *Expreso* that some hostages "have been tortured, physically and psychologically." Vice Adm. Luis Giampietri (ret.) was tied to a chair and had a pistol stuck in his mouth. Generals Rivera and Dominguez received the same treatment. A junior police officer was brutally beaten for two days, and Guillermo Siura, head of the Congress's Defense and Internal Security Commission and the second-highest-ranking hostage after Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela, was subjected to repeated mock executions in which terrorists held an empty pistol to his temple and pulled the trigger.

Siura played a crucial role in getting congressional approval for an amnesty for military officers last year, for which he has been singled out by the MRTA's assassins. A former hostage reported, "They wake him up at night, shine a light in his face, and take him out as if they are going to kill him. Later they return him to the others; that is, they are driving him crazy."

Accomplices to murder

The truth is, that with their deliberate lies, the international media are not only acting as the MRTA's propaganda machine; they are criminally complicit with the British-led inter-

national oligarchy's offensive to smash the sovereign nation-state. With his tough stance against narco-terrorism, President Alberto Fujimori is an obstacle to be removed. Thus, while the press attacks the President for allegedly resorting to "authoritarian excesses" to defend his country, it favorably covers Cerpa's complaints about his group being called "terrorists." Bowen, also the head of the Foreign Press Association in Lima, went on at length about how "international norms" and the *Financial Times's* style manual prohibited her from using the word "terrorist" to describe the MRTA.

Nor is the press role limited to lying. Foreign and some domestic media have breached security on numerous occasions to get into and near the residence, and in the case of Japanese Asahi-TV reporter Tsuyoshi Hitomi, to serve as a courier for the MRTA. Although Hitomi was found carrying MRTA extortion and ransom messages to the Japanese government and to corporations whose executives are held hostage, Bowen rushed to Hitomi's defense when he was detained by anti-terror police upon his exit from the residence.

When the government publicized the MRTA's extortion demands, Cerpa accused Fujimori of lying, and self-righteously claimed "money does not interest us." The British wire service Reuters backed him up, saying: "Although the MRTA has in the past kidnapped businessmen and politicians to raise money, there has been no evidence that this was their aim in the current crisis." No wonder the MRTA's "international spokesman," Isaac Velazco, whose diatribes are broadcast courtesy of CNN from Germany, put out a message on the Internet saying, "there does not exist a fear on our part of speaking with journalists or to journalists observing what is happening inside the residence."

After the Hitomi incident, the government was reported to be considering widening the security cordon around the residence to prevent unauthorized entries. "The media are hardly helping us," a government source said. "In fact, without them, we would be far closer to solving this." In an article in *El Sol* on Jan. 10, pro-government Congressman Rafael Rey angrily wrote that the MRTA "is a terrorist group, narco-terrorist. That reality won't be changed either by the term 'rebel group' or 'social fighters' which some foreign agencies, such as Reuters, have used." Another *El Sol* commentator, Gonzalo Quijandria, expressed outrage at *Newsweek's* characterization of the MRTA as "young revolutionaries confronting the Peruvian military." One would expect to find such terminology in the MRTA's clandestine propaganda pamphlet, *Rebel Voice*, he said.

The government's public relations firm, Promperu, has countered media lies in a special report sent to foreign correspondents, which describes the MRTA as part of a "terrorist international." And on Jan. 16, police Col. Fernando Zapata ordered reporters who were staked out on a roof opposite the residence, to get down. "You are all coming down tonight," he said. Although local journalists obeyed him, foreign reporters did not, and were not forced to do so.

'Worldwide Web' of terrorists back MRTA

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In a radio interview with "EIR Talks" on Dec. 31, 1996, Lyndon LaRouche warned that the ongoing hostage crisis in Lima, Peru is a foretaste of the kind of terrorism that will soon be unleashed against the United States:

"We now have use of terrorism as an instrument of policy, in the attempt to shape the decline and elimination of the nation-state as an institution, elimination of military

agencies; to come to peace agreements, so-called, with terrorist forces and deal with them as political dissident forces; in general, globalization of everything. So, we're in a period in which one can imagine that any day, some of these terrorists will pull the same kind of stunt, somewhere inside the United States, that they pulled in Lima recently. And you will find that CNN, perhaps, or other news media, will play the same role that CNN International played in the Lima terrorist act."

In the interview, LaRouche noted that the Internet has become the cyber-safehouse for a vast support apparatus, backing the operations of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in Chiapas, Mexico, the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, and other narco-terrorist gangs. "If you look on the Internet inside the United States," he said, "you will find that there are agents of the Chiapas group, the Chiapas terrorists and other terrorist groups, operating as intelligence operators inside the Internet network inside the United States itself. I've even had threats against me coming from these terrorists, aided by agents of international terrorism, operating from inside the United States."

A recent survey of Worldwide Web sites, turned up names such as, "Arm the Spirit (Autonomist/Anti-Imperialist Resource Page)," "MRTA Solidarity Page," "Euskal Herria Journal (Basque ETA)," "Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (Kurdish)," "International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr. Abimael Guzmán," and "Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru," revealing that an extensive communications infrastructure is providing every-



Homepage of the MRTA in Europe