

Guatemalan cult figure Menchú draws applause in India

by Ramtanu Maitra

At the fourth Indira Gandhi Conference just concluded in New Delhi, Indians were treated to a rare spectacle. A gamut of western geopoliticians, including Robert "Body Count" McNamara, feminists, activists, and political scientists from abroad were on hand espousing their concern for the world community. Among them all, the media reports say, the one who "moved to tears" a section of the Indian elite attending this solemn occasion was none other than the Guatemalan activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1992, and pro-terrorist cult figure Rigoberta Menchú.

Weaving her homilies with the modest economic background she comes from, Menchú called for a "worldwide mobilization of people" which could pressure governments. She also confessed that she believes, not in governments or the military as a requirement of every nation, but "peace movements involving women and non-governmental organizations" (NGOs).

Anti-military and pro-terrorist

Menchú, having claimed earlier that she was a proud terrorist once, was at least truthful. She has committed umpteen crimes against her Third World nation, Guatemala, in order to earn accolades from the West. She was instrumental in pressuring former Guatemala President Jorge Serrano by organizing street demonstrations and forming an alliance with the head of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front guerrillas, responsible for the murder of thousands of civilians including hundreds of children, and Shafik Handal, a member of El Salvador's Communist Party. Menchú was reacting against the imposition of emergency rule by the President, who had the support of the Armed Forces. President Serrano had claimed that the emergency rule on May 25, 1992 had become necessary to stop the drug trafficking which had "began to infiltrate sovereign institutions of the left and right." He also pointed out that the quantity of drugs confiscated in Guatemala by then had amounted to \$2 billion which almost equals the annual budget of Guatemala.

On May 29, the military was pressured to withdraw its support from President Serrano, announcing that Vice President Gustavo Espina should succeed him as President. Menchú, with help and support from the United States, the Organization of American States (OAS), and Guatemala's monied elite, collapsed this option, all vowing that there would be

no aid for Espina, because he was supported by the military.

On June 5, Ramiro de León Capio was elected as President of Guatemala by that country's Congress. As soon as Dr. De León took over, Menchú praised his election and called for negotiations with the guerrillas. Succumbing to the demands made by Menchú, Dr. De León purged the military.

With such credentials one might wonder what Menchú was doing in India. For the last decade, India has been under the gun of various terrorist and secessionist forces. It is widely known that the Khalistani movement to create chaos and force the separation of Punjab from India was heavily orchestrated from the outside and caused an immense loss of lives.



Rigoberta Menchú (left) at an event sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington last October. "Her human rights campaigns fit right into the mould of the new world order."

It had set back the country's progress and created enmities between the Sikh and Hindu religious communities. In fact, Mrs. Gandhi, in whose memory the conference was held, was a victim of two Khalistani terrorists, and her son, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was a victim of terrorists from Sri Lanka. It is indeed astounding that Rigoberta Menchú, whose pro-terrorist and anti-military stance has further weakened the drug-infested Guatemala, was invited at all.

Human rights campaign

Menchú's human rights campaign has the same aroma as that of the West, and it is not difficult to realize why the West would like to promote her. Her "human rights" campaigns fit right into the mold of the new world order and the stated foreign policy of Washington. In every international forum, India has been bombarded with this campaign, carried out sometimes through various non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International or Asia Watch. These are no doubt also the idols of Rigoberta Menchú, and this is where she fits right in.

There is yet another aspect of Menchú that causes uneasiness. During her address she spoke of the great values imbibed from one's cultural tradition. What she was talking about is her campaign on behalf of the indigenous people. As a representative to the United Nations, Menchú is deeply involved in pushing the indigenous people's causes.

Bestiality promoted

In an interview with *Vision* magazine in late 1992, Menchú had said that the revival of ancient religions such as the Mayan is critical to "national liberation." Menchú and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (UNRG), a narco-terrorist group with which she has worked for more than 10 years, believe that with the help of the United Nations, they will be finally able to divide Guatemala along ethnic lines, force the indigenous Indians into their hands, and wage war against the Christian church. One shudders to think what Menchú would have done in India where even without a Nobel laureate, ethnic rivalries are splitting the country apart. Those in India who believe that the political campaign by the chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party, and its front organizations, has created a climate of extreme hostility, should take a good look at what Menchú is promoting in her own country and why the West is showering accolades on her.

The bestial concept that Menchú espouses on behalf of the indigenous tribes can be traced to the document prepared by the International Indian Treaty Council, of which Menchú is a spokesman and a board member. That document, presented to a U.N. Indigenous People's Conference in which she participated, decried mankind as "the weakest of all creatures," less worthy even than "wolves" because "humans are only able to survive through the exercise of rationality since they lack the abilities of other creatures to gain food through use of fang and claw."

Bosnia crisis will kill religion

Unless the international community can, even at this late hour, come up with a moral rather than geopolitical response to the Balkan crisis, "all of the intellectual efforts exerted by open-minded scholars of theology and philosophy" from both Islam and Christianity are doomed. This was one of the conclusions advanced by Dr. Hans Koechler, president of the International Progress Organization (IPO) and chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in a roundtable discussion Nov. 25. The IPO has sought for decades to work for dialogue between these two religions.

EIR reprints this speech below, entitled "Islam and the West: The Conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Its Consequences for a New World Order."

Koechler's speech was delivered during the run-up to the latest round of "peace" negotiations, which were held on Nov. 29 and 30 in Geneva between Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. There were no breakthroughs in those talks, which was all too predictable given the threatening posture taken by European Community "mediator" David "Dr. Death" Owen.

On Nov. 25, Owen, who is a blatant apologist for Serbian genocide, issued a new round of warnings to Bosnia if it does not grovel in face of Serbian territorial demands. Owen was backed up by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who during a parliamentary speech on Nov. 19 warned Bosnia that "if the present political vacuum and lack of political cooperation persists, the parties cannot expect the humanitarian commitment to continue indefinitely."

The United States' criminal refusal to lift a finger to halt the genocide in the Balkans was accurately characterized by Leslie Gelb, head of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, who told the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour on Nov. 27:

"I don't think anyone is trying to come to grips with it now. They're all hoping Bosnia will fade away, and that it won't trigger a wider war in the Balkans, although almost everyone thinks that's precisely what will happen." Gelb said that the current proposals to ease up sanctions on Serbia are "all fake . . . all phony in the end," and are "designed to absolve us from the responsibility with dealing with genocide."