

## Andean Report by Valerie Rush

### Terrorist control of Canto Grande ends

*Peru's human rights lobby at home and abroad is crying foul, as President Fujimori gets tough with Shining Path.*

**T**he human rights lobby in Peru is squealing like a stuck pig, in the aftermath of the May 10 police assault on Shining Path's fortified bunker at the Canto Grande prison in Lima. The government's recapture of the prison, after a bloody four-day siege in which both sides suffered casualties, is being presented by human rights lobbyists as one more abuse by a dictatorial regime, even as Shining Path commandos on the outside launch a new terror spree in retaliation.

Some 500-600 imprisoned narco-terrorists had spent the last five years turning several entire cellblocks in the supposedly maximum-security prison into a training and indoctrination center for their murderous insurgency. No one, not prison authorities, guards, or visitors, entered or left their section of the prison without Shining Path's express permission. Food, literature, and weapons were supplied from the outside. With cell windows cemented over, doors welded shut, a complex web of tunnels connecting male and female quarters, and housing a vast arsenal of automatic weapons, bombs, grenades, vats of acid, Canto Grande was a symbol of terrorist impunity synonymous with government impotence and corruption.

President Alberto Fujimori has changed the rules of the game. The police assault on Canto Grande is but the latest in a series of emergency measures he has decreed in an effort to dismantle the entrenched narco-terrorist apparatus that has penetrated state institutions, ranging from the prisons all the way up to the Congress

and Supreme Court, which he dissolved on April 5. He has imposed life sentences for the terrorist leaders, and severe penalties for both corrupting the judiciary and using the media for subversive purposes. By simultaneously ordering a renewed military offensive against the drug trade in the Upper Huallaga Valley, and plugging the leaks in the court and prison system, President Fujimori is inflicting serious damage against the narco-terrorist enemy.

The political support networks of Shining Path, many of them lawyers, journalists, and former congressmen, are still in place, however, and largely constitute the so-called human rights lobby now crying foul. Backed by the lies of the international media, which claims that the Peruvian people are "ambivalent" toward Fujimori's anti-terrorist campaign, the liberal Peruvian press insists that the assault on Canto Grande will lead to the further "discrediting" of his "de facto government."

Prominent coverage by the international news services is already being given to Shining Path spokesmen like the head of the narco-terrorists' legal team Jorge Cartagena or Shining Path representative in London Adolfo Oleachea, who claim that the police siege of Canto Grande was deliberate "genocide." Failing to mention the vats of acid poured over the first group of police officers who sought to peacefully transfer a group of female prisoners to another prison, Oleachea insists that the four-day siege was a government strategy of "selective assassina-

tion" against Shining Path leaders.

A mission from the Organization of American States Human Rights Commission, headed by Venezuelan Congressman Marco Tulio Brunicelli, rushed to Lima to "inspect" the prison, interview the surrendered terrorists, and render a verdict. Brunicelli is notorious for having led former such missions to Peru, where his concern over human rights violations in the country never extended past the complaints of the drug traffickers and terrorists he visited in prison.

Fujimori has not yielded to international pressures to restore power to the narco-apologists he ousted from government, nor has he yielded to the human rights lobby. In a hard-hitting speech to Peru's Police School on May 8, he insisted that terrorist insubordination in the prisons was "the product of weak and pusillanimous governments who, with the complicity of a few irresponsible former congressmen, granted benefits to those accused of terrorism," benefits which were in turn exploited for the purchase of arms and explosives and to establish an "absurd extraterritoriality."

In a pointed commentary on the hypocrisy of the advanced sector nations, whose governments have backed the human rights lobby's assaults on the Peruvian government and Armed Forces, Fujimori said that his first priority was to guarantee "human rights for society [which] lives under permanent threat from the homicidal actions of terrorism. Or is it that human rights should only exist for terrorist criminals?" Fujimori asked why there was so little understanding from "certain individuals and institutions abroad who, inexplicably, want us to deal with the horrendous crime of terrorism differently than they are judged in the developed countries?"