

leading to speculation about his state of health. Just weeks ago, there was the unusual situation, when the king, the crown prince, and the prime minister were all out of the country at the same time. The person given powers in the interim was the king's son. Furthermore, it has been made public that a palatial estate nearing completion after years of construction near Vienna, is the property of King Hussein. Does he plan to withdraw to this residence, perhaps after having handed over power?

The escalating confrontation inside Jordan must be viewed in the context of other dramatic shifts toward confrontationism in the region in the past weeks. First, in order of time, was the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, which catalyzed an anti-Sudan campaign from Cairo. Then, the Algerian government broke off talks with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the opposition Islamist party, and an eighty-five-year-old co-founder of the FIS was murdered in a Paris mosque. Both moves conform to the strategy elaborated by British geopolitical think-tanks, for so-called wars of the "North" against the "South," under the rubric of an assault on "Islamic fundamentalism."

Britain's anti-Islam strategy foresees the outbreak of chaos along the entire Mediterranean, from North Africa into the Middle East, and eastward through the Gulf into the Indian subcontinent. In such a perspective, hopes for a durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, through mutually beneficial economic cooperation, must be dashed by all means. Chaos is the name of the game, chaos leading to economic and social disintegration, and demographic decline.

One local variant of the British plan for chaos entails civil war breaking out among the Palestinian population in the autonomous areas and the occupied territories. Such internecine warfare, sparked by opposition to the Gaza-Jericho arrangement, would quickly spread into neighboring Jordan, whose population is largely Palestinian. In the eyes of extremist Zionists like Benjamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon, this process would be the prelude to wholesale expulsion of the Palestinian population into Jordan, since, in their jargon, "Jordan is Palestine." Neither the West Bank Palestinians, who rightfully demand sovereignty over the land which has been taken from them through force, nor the East Jordanians, who wish to maintain a position of hegemony within Jordan, would accept this.

Jordan has entered a perilous spiral of radicalization, whereby opposition is being met with repression, which in turn, is fueling radical response. To steer the currently unstable situation away from its course toward violence, requires a rare quality of leadership: the ability to rise above domestic intrigues to view ongoing processes from the standpoint of the global, strategic picture, and to act with full sovereignty in the long-term, historic interests of the populations of the region.

Amnesty Int'l, still trying to save Peru's Shining Path

by Gretchen Small

In its *1995 Report*, released to the world public on July 5, Amnesty International singled out Peru as one of the five or six worst human rights violators worldwide, alleging the practice of "severe and systematic human rights violations" by its government and military, and the unjust jailing of thousands of "political prisoners" by illegitimate courts.

As Peru is, at last, largely at peace, for the first time since Pol Pot's allies in Shining Path launched their terrorist war in 1980, Amnesty's wildly fraudulent allegations against Peru constitute an international scandal. The "prisoners of conscience" who Amnesty demands be "immediately and unconditionally" released, are precisely the Shining Path terrorists defeated by Peru's Armed Forces. Amnesty International, that front for the British Foreign Office which parades as the world's premier human rights "non-governmental organization," is still mobilizing to resuscitate Shining Path, one of the worst gangs of "killers and torturers" known in the 20th century.

Revealing timing for Amnesty's attack

Amnesty ran cover for Shining Path throughout 14 years of war, but the utter absurdity of its listing Peru, today, in this world, as a human rights crisis, reveals the depth of hysteria which reigns in the British Foreign Office over the collapse of the project, for which Shining Path was the instrument, to rip Peru into pieces.

President Alberto Fujimori, who led the defeat of Shining Path, begins his second term in office with a mandate provided by 65% of the Peruvian electorate. Worse, from the standpoint of London, is that the Clinton administration is now working with the Fujimori government to crush the dope trade's extensive tentacles inside the country, providing Peru with radar, intelligence collaboration, and possibly military equipment. The U.S. cooperation effectively ends the Fujimori government's status as an international pariah state, which Britain's friends in the Bush administration had orchestrated.

Either Amnesty "knows absolutely nothing about Peru's reality, or it has other intentions. To say that [Shining Path

chief] Abimael Guzmán is a prisoner of conscience is completely outside reality,” President Fujimori responded, as Peru’s *El Comercio* reported on July 8. Speaking before the Army’s Military School in Chorrillos two days later, the President noted Amnesty’s designation of terrorists as “political prisoners” has been applied against other countries. “It appears that it is enough for some people that a terrorist says that he has an ideology for him to cease being a vulgar assassin. This is a strange concept which they attempt to apply in generally undeveloped countries.”

“If the Armed Forces had not supported a plan of national emergency and reconstruction, today there would be no democracy in Peru. That is the truth,” the President affirmed. He asked if those, who today denounce the government’s alliance with the Armed Forces as a “civic-military government” or militarization of society, would also call the prior collapse of government and reign of terror “a civic-terrorist government, or terror-ization of society?”

The timing of the renewed Amnesty assault did not go unnoticed. Police Gen. Héctor Jhon Caro (ret.), a former head of the National Anti-Terror Directorate, charged that Amnesty and local NGOs are “orchestrating” the human rights campaign for the opening of President Fujimori’s second term.

Gen. Alfredo Rodríguez Riveros, head of the Political-Military Command in the Huallaga Valley, the heart of drug operations in Peru, reminded *El Comercio* on July 10 that the enormous pressure placed against the government in 1994 by the international human rights lobby had saved Shining Path’s operations in the coca region. The human rights charges of mass deaths in that military campaign—which Amnesty repeats in its *1995 Report*—were wildly exaggerated, General Rodríguez pointed out. They “never were confirmed, nor would we have permitted them. . . . We were not killing them, but capturing them. Our goal was to cut Shining Path’s supply lines.”

That job was not completed at the time, when, under pressure, the government ordered a halt to military operations only days before the entire regional command of Shining Path would have been captured.

Peru’s renewed attack on narcotics operations in the valley now—coordinated with the U.S.-directed assault on the Cali Cartel internationally—has thrown the Shining Path into an “economic emergency,” General Rodríguez reported. Shining Path controls 40-50% of the drug operations in the Huallaga area, and the drug trade is its principal means of economic support. Hitting the drug trade serves as “a strangling operation,” the general explained.

An assault by 12 armed men upon the headquarters of the Air Police in Lima’s Jorge Chávez International Airport on July 9, one half-hour before President Fujimori’s plane was scheduled to land in that area, signals that Amnesty’s international campaign for the narco-terrorist apparatus inside Peru

is only part of a broader offensive against the Fujimori government.

Dissecting Amnesty’s anti-Peru campaign provides a useful lesson for other governments, as it typifies the modus operandi employed by this British Foreign Office hit-squad against developing sector nations generally.

Justified war saved lives

Start with a brief review of Peruvian reality. From 1980 until April 1992, the Pol Pot-allied Shining Path terrorists conducted what they characterized as “total war” against all civilized life in Peru, increasing in territory controlled, people enslaved, and institutions infiltrated with increasing impunity throughout that period. In the first dozen years, Shining Path killed over 20,000 people; their leaders spoke of inflicting 1 to 2 million deaths, if required, to crush the state.

Militants, mainly youth, were forced to “cross the river of blood,” that is, participate in ritual killings, as the centerpiece of their training; entire communities were forced to participate with Shining Path in torturing and killing any natural leader condemned in a “people’s trial.” By 1992, Shining Path’s military arm was only one part of an extensive network penetrating most institutions and associations in the country. Cities were regularly shut down by so-called armed strikes; the national electrical grid had been destroyed through repeated bombings; schools had become recruiting centers, as Shining Path dominated the SUTEP teachers union and teaching staffs at public universities across the country. With terrorists threatening to kill any judge who sentenced them, and the State manifesting an inability to protect them, terrorized judges systematically released those charged with terrorism for “lack of evidence.” By 1992, nearly 8,500 terrorists had been absolved by the judiciary. Likewise, when the Fujimori government sought to pass tougher anti-terror legislation, the terrorized and infiltrated Congress refused.

On April 5, 1992, President Alberto Fujimori decreed a national state of emergency, dissolved Congress, ordered the judiciary purged and reorganized, decreed drastic anti-terrorist legislation, and permitted the Armed Forces to wage war against the terrorists. A centerpiece of the Fujimori program was the establishment of summary tribunals, with judges’ identities kept secret, where captured terrorists were tried, imposition of harsh sentences (including life in prison for top leaders), protection for those who surrendered, and reductions of sentences for those who cooperated with authorities (the Repentance Law). Schools, lawyers, the media were no longer protected zones where terrorists could act with impunity.

Within 18 months of those actions, the Peruvian Armed Forces *had stopped the mass killing and torture*, crushing Shining Path with remarkably few resources, and with a minimum of bloodshed. The back of the insurgency had been

broken, with over 85% of Shining Path's leadership jailed or killed—most of them were jailed. There was no “scorched earth” policy, no razing of villages, but an all-out military campaign which crushed the terrorist apparatus as a whole.

Amnesty's unbroken record

The Foreign Office's Amnesty International, joined by George Soros's Human Rights Watch/Americas, had spent years working to prevent the terrorists' defeat. They were never “neutral observers” of the war, but rather partisans in the conflict—on the side of Shining Path. From Day One, their propaganda carried the Goebbels-like Big Lie that the government and military of Peru were primarily responsible for the deaths occurring in the country, and sought to restrict any military or police action to stop the terrorists. They demanded an end to the emergency zones (major areas of terrorist activity placed under military rule), and listed in their catalogue of “human rights violations” the measures adopted in those zones, such as the maintenance of roadblocks and identity checks, restrictions on free movement and assembly, and military searches of homes without prior court order—all internationally recognized standard conduct under conditions of war. Arrests of Shining Path militants operating in trade unions—Amnesty launched a whole mobilization on behalf of SUTEP leaders—were denounced as *ipso facto* violations of civil liberties.

Amnesty deployed to cut off international assistance, military and financial, to the Peruvian government, by pressuring foreign governments. With Shining Path maintaining an “Embassy” in London, and the Bush administration joining the attack on the Peruvian government, Amnesty's campaign to cut aid succeeded.

Often, Amnesty's campaigns were timed to coincide with Shining Path military offensives. A striking example of this occurred in the period from July to November 1991, when Amnesty and Americas Watch launched a coordinated, worldwide, anti-aid offensive which succeeded in getting the U.S. Congress to freeze all aid to Peru, including economic and humanitarian, precisely as Shining Path began a new military campaign featuring a wave of assassinations of foreign priests.

As the Fujimori government attempted to get Peru's Congress to pass needed anti-terror legislation, Amnesty escalated, placing a full-page ad in the *New York Times* on Nov. 18, 1991, which was rerun in Peru's three major newspapers, denouncing the government as the world's greatest violator of human rights! Amnesty spokesmen announced that national organizations in 150 nations around the world would campaign for Peru to turn against its Army as the enemy of human rights.

In 1989, an Amnesty report had demanded the government turn over to “human rights investigators” the names and identities of all military men engaged in any counterinsurgency patrols, forbid them from wearing camouflage or masks

when operating in terrorist territory, and suspend from active service any officer against whom any *allegations* of “abuses” had been made. Any such list would have been nothing but a hit-list for Amnesty's terrorist allies. The “human rights investigators” with whom Amnesty worked were open advocates of Shining Path's “right” to wage war. Amnesty reports cited as its “respectable” sources the likes of United Left Congressmen Javier Díez Canseco and Rolando Ames. Díez Canseco insisted that because Shining Path carried “national weight,” they should be included in any “political solution,” because, as he told *Caretas* magazine in 1983, they used “guerrilla action and . . . mass actions . . . demonstrating that the political phenomenon which we have at hand is a frontal rejection of government policy.” Amnesty's collaborator, Ames, told *El Nacional* in 1986 that he considered it “urgent to fight against the risk of satanizing” Shining Path, and “one of the gravest errors would be to treat Shining Path as terrorist criminals.”

A ‘right’ to practice terrorism?

As the 1995 Report shows, Amnesty still refuses to consider Shining Path as “terrorist criminals.” Now the Peruvian government is to be attacked for eliminating the “right” of the terrorists to practice terrorism.

The cutting edge of Amnesty's attack today is aimed at the special anti-terror courts and legislation which ensured captured terrorists remained behind bars. If Amnesty's prescriptions were carried out, every last terrorist, from Abimael Guzmán on down, could be free tomorrow. Amnesty declares the secrecy of the special war-time civilian and military courts, *ipso facto* grounds for dismissal of *all* convictions of terrorists.

The report raves that “at least 4,000 political prisoners awaited trial or were tried under judicial procedures which continued to fall far short of international standards,” and protests that “thousands of political prisoners charged with terrorism-related offenses were brought before secret civilian and military courts.” The British hit-squad denounces the Repentance Law, charging that any evidence obtained from other terrorists collaborating with the government under its terms, is “uncorroborated evidence . . . used by the courts to secure the conviction of political prisoners.”

Amnesty reiterates that it “appealed to the authorities on numerous occasions to release all prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally.” It protests that the government “did not accede to a renewed appeal by the leadership of the Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) [Amnesty uses the name by which Shining Path prefers to call itself—ed.] to reach a ‘peace accord,’ ” and continues to maintain emergency zones in some areas of the country despite “fewer armed attacks” by terrorists. They protest that Army officers have not been subjected to mass trials for the conduct of the war.

In short, they want the outcome of the war reversed.