

As late as 1990, Americas Watch was organizing an international defense for the Association of Democratic Lawyers, which it praised as “promoters of human rights” inside Peru. Yet, it was public by that time, that the Association of Democratic Lawyers was a very important “legal” front for the Shining Path. Headed by a succession of Shining Path’s leaders—such as Marta Huatay, who was political chief of Shining Path operations in Lima, until her capture—various Democratic Lawyers were caught carrying orders for assassinations and bombings from jailed Shining Path leaders, to those on the outside.

### Foreign aid targeted

HRW’s international campaigns to have foreign aid to Peru cut off, often coincided with terrorist offensives inside the country. Over July-September 1991, as Shining Path went on a nationwide offensive, killing more than 200 people in the first two weeks of August, with special affinity for mayors, priests, and security forces members, HRW raised a cry for the U.S. to cut aid.

On Sept. 12, Holly Burkhalter then HRW’s Washington director, testified to Congress that Americas Watch was “firmly opposed to U.S. military aid to Peru,” unless the military was pulled out of the areas designated as emergency zones (areas where Shining Path was largely in control), and military officers prosecuted. She reiterated those demands in a column for the *Christian Science Monitor* four days later, which acknowledged that, without U.S. aid, “Peru will stand alone against an insurgency of incalculable brutality.”

Early in 1992, Americas Watch published *Peru Under Fire: Human Rights Since the Return to Democracy*, to mobilize an international cutoff of foreign aid to Peru, in a desperate attempt to head off Lima’s preparations for unbridled war on the terrorists. *Peru Under Fire* lies that Shining Path “does not appear to be directly involved in the drug trade”; states that “to note the heavy toll of Sendero [Shining Path] attacks is not to consider them illegitimate in all cases”; and brands any civilian who joins military anti-terror actions, “a legitimate target for attack.”

The book’s thesis is that any counterinsurgency action constitutes a violation of human rights, by definition. The book places the entire responsibility for the estimated 23,000 deaths in the war upon *the government alone*. “The cost of the repressive strategy has been more than 23,000 lives, the overwhelming majority of them civilian,” Americas Watch asserted, a fallacy of composition which then was trumpeted around the world.

The London *Financial Times*, for example, reported that the “authoritative” human rights organization, found that the Peruvian Army has killed 23,000 people over a decade.

Today, Human Rights Watch/Americas continues its campaign against government policies which brought some measure of peace back to Peru, by defeating the terrorists with a minimum of bloodshed.

## Red Cross: humanitarian or terrorist sympathizer?

by Valerie Rush

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a Swiss-based agency and one of the world’s oldest non-governmental organizations (NGOs), today serves as part of a global terrorist support network which, under the guise of protecting human rights or conducting “humanitarian” interventions, aids and abets the enemies of the sovereign nation-state. Specifically, the ICRC uses as its cover the false claim that terrorist organizations are “combatants” in war, and, therefore, are to be accorded the same status as nation-states.

In numerous parts of the world, the ICRC or its local branches have been found to be accomplices of terrorist insurgencies against elected governments. The latest of such incidents is ongoing in Peru, where the Red Cross is criminally complicit in sabotaging the Fujimori government’s efforts to successfully resolve the hostage situation at the Japanese ambassador’s residence in Lima. Its behavior on behalf of the MRTA is so open, that Peruvian authorities have privately accused the ICRC of facilitating MRTA “media shows,” and of serving as “couriers” between the terrorists in the compound and their jailed colleagues in Peruvian prisons.

ICRC representative Michel Minnig is well-positioned to act as courier. He freely comes and goes in and out of the Japanese ambassador’s residence. Reflecting the government’s view of the ICRC, in early January, President Alberto Fujimori revoked the Red Cross’s right to hold unsupervised visits with jailed MRTA leaders, as it had been permitted to do up to that point. One Red Cross official whined that the organization was appealing to the “highest levels” of government, and expected to have the decision reversed. To date, however, the policy is still in effect, and will remain so until the hostage crisis is over, according to President Fujimori.

The Red Cross has a history of working with Peru’s terrorists, and even openly acknowledged “field contact” with them in its 1993 annual report. Granted permission that year to visit MRTA and Shining Path prisoners, the Red Cross offered them such deferential treatment that prisoners in jail for common crimes protested. In April 1994, Gen. Alfredo Rodríguez, commanding the Peruvian Army’s largest-ever offensive against the MRTA-Shining Path alliance in the Upper Huallaga Valley, charged that the Red Cross was responsible for sabotaging the offensive, by lying about military conduct at precisely the point that the Army was positioned to capture key narco-terrorist leaders. Those leaders then escaped.

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 *Expresso* 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-