

U.S. Violates Peruvian Sovereignty With Arrest Of Correspondents—NSIPS Announces Legal Action

Oct. 22 (NSIPS) — Two correspondents of New Solidarity International Press Service (NSIPS), U.S. citizen Gretchen Guthrie Small and Luis Vasquez Medina, Peruvian Director of NSIPS, were arrested by the Policia de Investigaciones del Peru (PIP) — the Peruvian political police — in Lima on Oct. 17. Later that evening, the PIP closed and sealed NSIPS' office in Lima. NSIPS has received strong evidence that the U.S. State Department — working through the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru — is directly responsible for the arrests and the closure. The PIP arresting officers explicitly identified the U.S. Embassy and Interpol as the agencies behind the arrest.

A second confirmation came Oct. 19, when Dr. Garcia, a high level official of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) told a NSIPS spokesman in New York that the PIP could not answer any questions regarding the arrest and detention, since he had been directly instructed by the U.S. Consul that all inquiries must be addressed to the U.S. Embassy in Lima and U.S. Ambassador to Peru, Robert Dean.

Further confirmation of U.S. State Department involvement in the arrests came when NSIPS learned on Oct. 21, that the State Department knowingly lied to a Washington correspondent for a leading international wire service (which ran the NSIPS press release on the arrests from Lima) by denying that the State Department had confirmation that Gretchen Small is a U.S. citizen. NSIPS has kept Henry Kissinger's State Department informed on all details of the arrest since the evening of Oct. 17. This deliberate lie is intended to sabotage press coverage of the NSIPS case and is a further indication that the State Department is actually directly complicit in criminal acts including a U.S. citizen's arrest in Peru and the shutting down of a U.S. corporation's foreign office.

Arrests Part of a Coup Deployment

The five arresting PIP detectives demanded a full supply of all NSIPS publications including press releases and New Solidarity newspapers. One PIP officer stated that English-language material would be read by Interpol and further volunteered that the detentions were part of a wider sweep of left and labor groups in Peru in order to determine possible "terrorist connections." The arrest and detention of Small and Vasquez, who are presently being held, respectively, in the Magdalena Women's Prison and the detention center of the State Security branch of the PIP, was identified by a Latin American Labor Committee (CLLA) Executive Committee spokesman on Oct. 19 as part of a now-operational coup deployment by Kissinger-led fascist layers of the Peruvian military against the government of President General Francisco Morales Bermudez.

The CLLA spokesman went on to say that "Interior Minister Gen. Luis Cisneros has tried in the last three weeks to create a red-scare climate around numerous supposed 'terrorist plots' as a justification for increased repression and continuation of the

months-long national state of emergency. Already numbers of trade unionists, journalists and others have been arrested over the last months. It is possible that Cisneros, on orders from international terrorist controllers Kissinger and U.S. Attorney General Edward Levi, will now try to fabricate connections between NSIPS and these ridiculous 'terrorist plots' to justify whatever repressive action Kissinger wants to take.

"Fascists in the Peruvian military such as Interior Minister Cisneros and Fishing Minister Rear Admiral Francisco Mariatequi," the CLLA spokesman charged, "are working under the direction of Henry Kissinger and the Rockefeller New York banks to impose an 'occupation army' regime in Peru similar to those in other southern countries like Chile in order to enforce the genocidal economic austerity programs demanded by Peru's Wall Street creditors. They have set a late-October deadline for eliminating any opposition to austerity in Peru, according to the Wall Street consulting firm Business International.

"The timing of the attack on NSIPS is itself revealing. The arrests coincided with the beginning of a strike by pro-debt moratorium Fishermen's Federation of Peru, whose months-long resistance to the denationalization of the state fishing industry has significantly blocked the imposition of full-fledged fascist economic austerity. It is not accidental that both the New York Times and Baltimore Sun, in articles published in the last few days have ominously heralded the 'end of the Peruvian Revolution', and emphasized President Morales Bermudez' inability to hold together the various factions within the Peruvian Armed Forces."

NSIPS Legal Action

On Oct. 19, NSIPS advised the U.S. State Department in Washington D.C. that Kissinger and Attorney General Levi, who has jurisdiction over the private international police apparatus, Interpol, will be held directly responsible for all developments in this case of blatant intervention into Peruvian sovereign affairs. In addition, NSIPS editor-in-chief Nancy Spannaus announced on Oct. 21 that NSIPS intends to take legal action against the State Department for criminal complicity in the closure of NSIPS in Lima in view of the overwhelming evidence of the Department's involvement in this operation. Possible action will include the subpoena of the State Department's communications records regarding this matter between Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru, as well as between the Lima Embassy and officials from the Peruvian police. NSIPS is convinced that these records will not only contain evidence of this conspiracy against NSIPS, but confirmation of the State Department's participation in the current deployments within Peru for a fascist coup against the government of President Morales Bermudez. All evidence that is uncovered will be duly forwarded to all congressional and other appropriate agencies.