



Annual Report April 2004-April 2005

**Supporting the most
vulnerable in Peru**

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*The PSG aims to
promote the rights
and interests of the
people of Peru and
in particular its
poorest sectors*

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Report from the Executive Committee

The year 2004/2005 has seen the Peru Support Group (PSG) continue to campaign and lobby hard for the advancement of democracy and social justice in Peru. The high point of activity this year for the PSG involved the coordination in June of the Parliamentary Delegation to Peru. This was organised as a demonstration of international solidarity with Peruvian human rights organisations pressing for the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to be honoured. The delegation succeeded in reminding the Peruvian authorities that the international community is watching, and remains committed to the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. This important work of the PSG is made possible by the continued support from our many members, volunteers and funding partners.

2004/2005 has proved to be a challenging year for President Toledo. He has struggled to maintain stability, while lurching from one political crisis to another. 2005 was ushered in by the spectacle of a New Year's Eve rebel uprising in Andahuaylas, led by retired army major Antauro Humala. Though short-lived, the insurrection raised serious issues of discontent in the armed services and among many Peruvians who had appeared to tacitly support Humala's actions. The uprising was quickly followed by a damaging electoral fraud scandal relating to the 2001 Presidential ballot that continues to cast a shadow over Toledo's Presidency. His sister remains under house arrest, accused of running a 'signature factory' helping to fraud signatures in order to register Toledo's party in 2001.

In light of this barrage of crises it is no surprise that, although economic growth is buoyant, Toledo continues to command 10% or below approval ratings, making him one of the most unpopular Presidents in the whole of the Americas. Despite this, the main opposition parties, while calling for Cabinet changes, have refrained from making a formal request for Toledo's resignation. Instead, political activity has been increasingly dominated by the lead up to the Presidential elections scheduled for 2006. Prominent contenders, including Garcia, Paniagua, Lourdes Flores and Castañeda, are all beginning to manoeuvre in preparation for the contest.

Widespread social unrest has continued to be a feature of Peruvian life. Toledo was forced to cancel his trip to the EU-Latin America summit in May to deal with continuing protests against his government. The economy may have recorded 5% growth in 2004, but the trickle-down effect remains very limited. Figures for 2004 place 55% of Peruvians continuing to live under the poverty line, with 25% in absolute poverty and little sign of a reduction in inequality levels. Government proposals to address this social crisis, and in turn restore some semblance of governmental legitimacy, have failed to materialize. A government subsidy programme called PROPERU targeted at helping Peru's poorest families is the latest scheme to be announced by Toledo. But it has been beset by government indecision and charges of cynical electioneering.

Despite increasing concern over political instability, foreign investment continues to flow into Peru, particularly within the extractive industry sector, encouraged by the benign international market environment. The strong economic growth for 2004 is largely accounted for by increasing mining volumes coupled with buoyant mineral prices. The social and environmental impact of these highly invasive mining operations persists, and remains a potent source of conflict between affected local communities and transnationals. Local resentment is often further fuelled by the lack of tangible benefits to the local economy and livelihoods from this highly capital-intensive sector. The economic picture for 2005 and beyond is far from certain. It is complicated further by the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the US, currently under negotiation between Toledo and Washington. Serious concerns have been raised about the potential impact of this new arrangement, particularly on the international competitiveness of many of Peru's staple goods.



Advocacy

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

The FCO supported the PSG UK Parliamentary delegation to Peru. The British Embassy in Peru organised a reception at the ambassadors' residence and helped the PSG to set up a meeting between the UK delegates, Lord Alderdice and John Battle MP and President Toledo.

PSG co-ordinated and facilitated meetings between visiting Peruvians, such as **Gloria Helfer** (Congressperson and President of the 'Subcommittee for the Implementation of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC)') and representatives of the FCO throughout the year. Such meetings have proved to be a useful exchange of information and have allowed for direct links to be forged with the UK government.

MPs & peers in Westminster

As always, we have kept our contacts in Parliament informed of the current situation in Peru both through the Peru Update, and special briefings and supplementary publications. We also met with the chair of the parliamentary group for Peru.

With the support of the interagency group (see below) the PSG organised a parliamentary delegation to Peru in June 2004. The aim of the delegation was to show international solidarity with the continuing process for reconciliation in Peru; to put pressure on the government to act on the recommendations included in the final report of the Truth Commission; and to increase media attention on the continuing work of truth and reconciliation in the follow up process. The delegation raised the profile of the PSG in Peru and the UK, as well as the importance of the issues of the TRC and follow up to its recommendations.

During the course of organising the delegation and subsequent events we have built on existing relationships and forged new ones with individual MPs and peers. The relationship between the PSG and **Lord Alderdice** and **John Battle MP** who took part in the delegation has particularly been strengthened. They have remained as active members of the PSG, participating in other events, co-authoring the delegation report and helping build links with other UK/Ireland based organisations.

We held an event in the House of Commons to publicise the findings and recommendations of the Parliamentary Delegation to Peru where **Lord Alderdice** and **John Battle MP** reported back on their experience in Peru (see publications). Gloria Helfer, Peruvian Congresswoman, also participated in this meeting and gave feedback on how the recommendations TRC report were being implemented in Peru. This event was sponsored by John Battle MP and chaired by Nick Caistor. At this seminar we were able to build on existing links with MPs who have a particular interest in Latin America or human rights in general. The event was also a space for government and NGO representatives and academics to get together to look at ways that we can work on the issue of the TRC in Peru.

PSG also facilitated a meeting between Gloria Helfer and **Kevin McNamara MP**, to discuss lessons that can be learnt from the Peruvian TRC experience in the context of Northern Ireland and the possibilities there for a TRC.

Lord Alderdice spoke at a PSG conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland at the Reconciliation Studies department of the Irish School of Ecumenics to discuss the Peruvian TRC in the context of Northern Ireland (see below). You can listen to a short excerpt from the conference here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/religion/sundaysequence/archive-otherworld.shtml>

Lord Avebury chaired our annual conference in November in Oxford.

Scottish Parliament

The PSG maintained its links with members of the Scottish Parliament. The Co-ordinator took Wilbert Rozas, Mayor of Anta and President of the Network of Rural Municipalities of Peru, to Edinburgh to meet with our sponsor **Linda Fabiani MSP** in November. The meeting gave Wilbert the opportunity to see how the Scottish Parliament works and talk to Linda about the issue of decentralisation and participative democracy. Linda also took Wilbert and the co-ordinator to meet Debbie Wilkie, the Director of the Scottish



Civic Forum. Wilbert used this meeting to discuss methods of creating civic spaces within the communities in which he works.

Interagency group

The PSG continued to co-ordinate the Interagency Group among British based NGOs to work on how best to follow up on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This group met twice in 2004/2005, and planned a number of initiatives such as the publication on the TRC and the parliamentary delegation. The group will continue to meet and look at ways in which we can continue to work together in the future on issues of common interest.

The group includes representatives from the following NGOs:

- Amnesty International
- Christian Aid
- Catholic Institute for International Relations (CiiR)
- CAFOD
- Tearfund
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- Save the Children UK
- Oxfam GB
- Womankind Worldwide

Northern Ireland

During our visit to Belfast to host the PSG public meeting on the Peruvian TRC (see details below) the PSG met with members of grassroots organisations working on truth and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We developed links between these organisations and the PSG in terms of prospects for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between Peruvian TRC commissioners and people in Northern Ireland looking at the possibility of a TRC there. We hope to continue to develop these links.



Conferences, meetings and events

The PSG continued to organise and facilitate meetings and conferences with the aim of raising awareness amongst the British public and decision makers on issues concerning civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights including the following:

PSG Annual Conference 2004, 27th November 2004

Toledo's Peru: How much has changed?

This year the conference focused on Toledo's Peru, and posed the question: 'How much has changed?' in light of the up and coming elections in 2006.

The keynote speakers were:

- **Gloria Helfer**, Member of Congress, who spoke on the implementation of the recommendations of the TRC
- **Wilbert Rozas**, Mayor of Anta, who spoke about decentralisation in Peru.

There were also a number of workshops:

- Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Processes in Latin America with **Cath Collins**, Institute for the Study of the Americas
- Towards 2006: Parties and Party Politics with **John Crabtree**, PSG
- Poverty: Confronting the Reality with **Edward Davey**, PSG
- Trade: The impact of FTA's on Peru with **Constantino Casasbuenas**, Oxfam

Worldfair, 27-28 November 2004

The PSG took part in the annual Worldfair, a two-day event held at the Conway Hall, organised by Oxfam GB, War on Want and the World Development Movement. Some 3,000 people came to buy fairly traded crafts and learn more about the different NGOs present at the fair.

Parliamentary public meeting, 30th November 2004

Truth and Reconciliation in Peru: The implementation of the recommendations of the TRC

This event was hosted by John Battle MP and chaired by Nick Caistor. The speakers were **Lord Alderdice**, **Gloria Helfer** Member of Congress and **John Battle MP**. The objective of this meeting was to once again raise the issue of human rights in Peru and the need for the recommendations of the TRC report to be implemented as well as giving the delegates of the parliamentary delegation to Peru the opportunity to feedback from their trip. John Battle MP and Lord Alderdice launched their report, published by the Peru Support Group (see attached), detailing their findings and recommendations. The audience was made up of parliamentarians with an interest in development, Latin America and human rights; interested PSG members and representatives of other major NGOs with an interest in Peru.

Lunchtime meeting, 20th January 2005

Young Lives Project – Poverty in Peru

Edward Davey, a member of the PSG committee gave a talk on poverty in Peru at a lunchtime event which included a photo exhibition (Lives in brief – Vidas en Breve) depicting the lives of four Peruvian children, together with their testimonies about their lives and dreams. The photographs were commissioned for Young Lives, a research-policy project, sponsored by Save the Children, on child poverty in Peru, Ethiopia, India and Vietnam.

Public meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 28 February 2004 – Truth and Reconciliation Commissions: Lessons from the Peruvian Experience (TRC Advocacy Package Initiative 4)

This event was held in the Reconciliation Studies department of the Irish School of Ecumenics. David Tombs, the Dean of the department chaired the event. The speakers were **Lord Alderdice**, who spoke about his experiences in Peru as well as his analysis of conflict resolution and his concern about ensuring that the political violence experienced in Peru and in Northern Ireland does not get worse again, or repeat itself. **Coletta Youngers**, who has worked for many years on Peruvian human rights, and is an analyst of political developments in the Andean region. Previously a Senior Associate and Director of the Drugs and Democracy Project at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), now a Senior Fellow at WOLA and



a consultant. Author of the recently published book 'Political violence and civil society in Peru: The history of the *coordinadora nacional* for human rights'. Coletta spoke about the origins of the political conflict in Peru and made comparisons to Northern Ireland. She also noted the importance of the Peruvian TRC as a case study and a model for future TRCs around the world.

The audience was made up of many of the members and staff of local organisations working in peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland as well as journalists, including those from the BBC and representatives of NGOs and students with an interest in Latin America. Holding this talk in Belfast allowed the PSG to build up our membership base in Northern Ireland and engage with grassroots organisations working on peace and reconciliation, helping them to learn from the Peruvian experience.

Film Screening, 18th March 2005

Choropampa, The Price of Gold

PSG screened this film about the impact of an accident by a large-scale mining company on the lives of the community nearby. The event took place at the Latin America Bureau and gave the PSG the opportunity to make people aware of the challenges of mining in Peru and to promote the PSG report on mining in Peru.

Embassy of Peru, 11th March 2005

Presentation of PSG to the new Ambassador, Luis Solari

The PSG was invited to the Ambassadors residence, along with other NGOs and charities based in the UK working on Peru, to present to the Embassy the work of the PSG.



Publications and projects

Update Extra – Report on Mining in Peru

The PSG continues to produce extra editions of the Update that focus on our core issues of concern. This supplementary edition of the Peru Update looks at the contemporary 'gold rush' taking place in Peru, its social and environmental impact, and the opportunities and challenges posed by mining. The objective of this report was to outline the PSG contribution to the debate.

Special Publication, Truth and Reconciliation: An Agenda for the Future

UK Parliamentary delegation to Peru June 2004 (TRC Advocacy Package Initiative 3)

This special 16 page A4 report was published in November. The report describes the purpose of the delegation to Peru, explores the experiences of the delegates and offers their findings and recommendations. The report is a working document for follow up work for the delegates and a clear sign of international solidarity for Peru. The publication was sent out to all PSG contacts and members. We also have an electronic version of the report available from our website so that it can be distributed as widely and cost-efficiently as possible.

Photographic exhibition “Testimonies of Courage and Pain”

This exhibition produced last year is an English version of a photographic exhibition that was originally commissioned by the Project Counselling Service (an international NGO consortium based in Lima working on conflict and human rights issues and with displaced people) called “Testimonies of Courage and Pain”. The exhibition includes photographs and testimonies of women affected by political violence in Peru. It highlights the need for truth and reconciliation and the role that women can play in this.

The exhibition has been on display at three universities, the Institutes of Latin American Studies in London, St Anthony's College, Oxford. The exhibition has also been used as a visual resource at a number of PSG events.

Photographic exhibition, “Peru on \$1 a Day: a Rough Guide to Living”

This 2001 PSG photographic exhibition addresses themes such as poverty, education, women's rights, health, environmental pollution and debt repayment. It illustrates the social, economic, environmental and political hardships faced by the majority of Peruvians. The exhibition has been in use over the year, being used both as a visual aid and an exhibition in its own right.



Information and educational resources

The Peru Update

The PSG newsletter continues to be produced on a bi-monthly basis with a print run of 500 copies. We use the Update as a way of keeping members and contacts of the organisation informed on issues of concern. The articles and news items in the Update are chosen to reflect our priorities. This year articles have focused on poverty, mining, democracy and decentralisation, trade, the TRC and human rights, justice, conflict and health, as well as up to the minute news coverage. The Update provides an important forum for raising topics of interest and concern from a variety of contributors, and also allows members of the PSG and the general public to participate in the work of the PSG by taking part in letter-writing campaigns, workshops or cultural events. Selected articles from the both the current Update and back copies are available on the PSG website at www.perusupportgroup.org.uk

Website www.perusupportgroup.org.uk

We have continued to work on the website throughout the year, updating the key issues section of the site as well as the links page. During the State of Emergency and the kidnapping in Ayacucho we were able to provide daily updates on the situation in English and Spanish and provide links to other information services. The website has helped us to increase our membership base and we hope to continue to develop the website so that more people will visit it regularly, and use it as a first point of contact for information about Peru.

We have built up the email mailing list to which we send information about events. This is a free service for members and contacts. We hope to increase the number of people on this mailing list, and eventually be able to contact the majority of our members via email. We are currently in the process of developing an e-bulletin (Peru News), which will go out to all our members on a monthly basis, with short news articles, links and urgent actions. This service will be available to anyone who wishes to sign up to it and we hope that it will increase our membership base and the level of awareness about Peru in the UK.

Information

We receive a large number of enquiries and requests for information. We regularly receive bulletins from a variety of Peruvian organisations, which provide an invaluable source of up-to-date and reliable information, particularly on the subject of political, social and economic rights. We are able to use this information in all our activities. We also respond to a high volume of enquires from various sectors of society, either by providing information or building links between individuals and groups in Peru and the UK.

Library and resources

We continue to subscribe to several key Peruvian magazines/journals (*Ideele*, *Que Hacer*) and have aided many people in their research and provided an effective resource library on contemporary Peru. We also receive publications and books from a wide range of Peruvian NGOs and other institutions. Human rights organisations, development organisations, the media, along with students - mainly from the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) and Goldsmiths College - use the PSG resources extensively. We are currently in the process of data basing our resources and hope to make this database available on-line for PSG members.

Work with schools

We have lent out resources such as teaching packs, photographic exhibitions, and videos to primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of Peru in the UK.



Other activities

Membership

The PSG has a committed and enthusiastic membership. A number of members help out with events, attend public meetings, and volunteer with translation and interpreting work. Members and contacts have been able to use our resources to organise their own events. We continue to receive a number of substantial donations from members. The membership and others who have been involved in the PSG over the last 20 years had an opportunity to get together and celebrate at a reception to celebrate the anniversary in October 2003.

Relationship with other UK NGOs

The PSG has continued to maintain and build on relationships with other UK NGOs working in or on Peru, as well as those working on issues linked to our work. This includes our core funders, and many other large and small organisations within the UK. We have encouraged groups to work together and have been able to put groups working on similar issues in contact with each other. We have continued to work with Christian Aid, Oxfam, CAFOD, Tearfund, CiiR, Save the Children UK, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Amnesty International and others.

The Executive Committee

A crucial element to the work of the PSG, the committee members have continued to contribute their time, advice and expertise generously. Committee meetings take place once a month, with additional strategy meetings taking place every six months. Many members of the committee travel to Peru on a regular basis, facilitating communication with the various organisations with which we work. The committee has recently diversified with new members coming from a broad range of backgrounds and interests.

Volunteers

Volunteers have continued to donate invaluable time and effort. Mostly involved in desktop publishing, research activities, office administration, editing, mailings, and helping on stalls at events.

PSG End of Year Figures 2004/2005

These end of year figures are produced on a cash basis and cover all payments and deposits made between 6 April 2004 and 5 April 2005. Please take the endnotes into account.

Payments	Budget	Actual
Rent & Insurance	4,260.00	1,828.17 ¹
Salary & National Insurance	20,800.00	19,791.68 ²
Volunteers	400.00	65.85 ³
Equipment & Stationary	500.00	396.53
Travel	400.00	4,223.40 ⁴
Phone & Fax, Email & Website ⁵	1,300.00	956.37
Postage	700.00	479.68 ⁶
Printing & Copying	450.00	986.15 ⁷
Resources	300.00	62.32
Update	1,100.00	718.10 ⁸
Events	500.00	299.44
Production of Materials	500.00	286.00
Visitor expenses	200.00	2,183.22 ⁹
Other	200.00	464.38 ¹⁰
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>31,610.00</u>	<u>33,701.88</u>
Receipts		
Grants	27,000.00	32,247.70 ¹¹
Subscriptions	2,850.00	2,590.00 ¹²
Donations	1,000.00	339.56
Events	100.00	192.00
Publication sales	100.00	53.00
Crafts	100.00	78.15
Interest	250.00	486.35
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>31,850.00</u>	<u>36,947.35</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>240.00</u>	<u>3,245.37</u>

Balance Sheet

	Petty Cash	Current account	Deposit account	Assets ¹³	Liabilities ¹⁴	Total
06-Apr-04	26.52	3,476.09	20,779.54	15 ¹⁵	-2,561.87	21,735.28
05-Apr-05	24.55	3,161.74	21,533.31	1,091.05	-829.90	24,980.75
Difference	1.97	314.35	-753.77	-1,076.05	-1,731.97	-3,245.47

¹ Landlords have not yet invoiced PSG for 2 quarters (Oct 2004-Mar 05)

² There was a gap of one month between previous coordinator leaving and current coordinator starting.

³ PSG received less voluntary support than expected this year and often volunteers do not wish to receive payment.

⁴ This figure includes expenditure from the TRC advocacy funding which was not initially included in this budget (TRC expenditure = £3,767.94).

⁵ We changed to a cheaper internet package.

⁶ This is low because we have not yet been invoiced for final quarter.

⁷ The printing and copying costs are higher than we budgeted as we printed the new PSG leaflets in 04/05 and because we printed two editions of the Update Extra with funds we received in 02/03.

⁸ This year the PSG printed one less edition of the Update.

⁹ This figure includes the expenditure using the TRC advocacy funding, not initially included in this budget.

¹⁰ Includes membership costs to other organisations, additional costs in advertising co-ordinator post and bank charges.

¹¹ This includes special grants received, primarily TRC advocacy package funding.

¹² An additional £116 in assets – ie, cheques received but not yet in bank account.

¹³ Cheques received but not yet cashed by PSG.

¹⁴ Cheques issued by PSG but not cashed by recipient.

¹⁵ This is corrected from last year's Annual Report.