

groups were most active. In these zones, military rule is in effect and democratic practices are stifled. Freedom of movement within these zones (now covering 16% of national territory) are restricted by authorities, but also by terrorist groups. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions visited Peru in February 1998, drawing attention to the high level of arrests.

A further problem, largely the heritage of terrorism, is that of lack of identity documents. An estimated 3,000,000 Peruvians have no identity documents and thus formally do not exist, cannot vote or travel abroad. A system of issuance of National Identity Documents has been instituted, but the process is slow and cumbersome.

Also serious is the undermining of constitutionally-mandated autonomous bodies designed as checks and balances to the **Executive branch**. Over the past year, Congress (dominated by Fujimori-loyalists) has cleared all obstacles to a possible re-election bid by Fujimori in 2000, including the rejection of the possibility of a referendum on the issue. Protest marches in major cities on 30 September indicate dissatisfaction with the closure of democratic space.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada's concern with the deterioration in democratic practices has been raised during high-level visits, and frequently by the Ambassador and other officers. These issues were raised with **President Fujimori** by the Prime Minister during his state visit in October 1998. Most recently, during his visit to Peru January 27, Secretary of State for Latin America David Kilgour raised several specific human rights cases with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ombudsman: the Ivcher citizenship issue and the IAHCR ruling on reinstating 3 judges from the Constitutional Tribunal. The **Canadian Embassy in Lima** holds frequent meetings with Canadian, Peruvian, and international NGOs both to exchange information and to examine ways to further the respect for human rights.

Through the **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives**, \$100,000 in funding per annum has been provided for human rights projects. In May 1998, this funding was doubled, to a total of \$200,000 per year. Further **CIDA** assistance has been provided through the Gender Fund and the "Modernization of the State" program. Canada was an early supporter of Peru's Ombudsman and CIDA in October 1998 announced a major project (\$2.3 million over three years) to further support it. Essential funding has also been provided to the Ad Hoc Commission, without which it would not be able to continue functioning.