

Fund for New Priorities in America

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December 2, 1998

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CRAIG BUTLER
Executive Director

ROBERT VANDIVIER
Washington Coordinator

DEBRA HEVNER
Program Associate

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20005
ATTN: Melanne Berveer

Dear Hillary:

I was so thrilled to cheer your story last night at **The People for the American Way** dinner. You truly are a magnificent and courageous leader in our country.

As I told you in our brief interchange, you should be aware that Lori Berenson's situation has not changed; she has been in solitary confinement at Socabaya Prison in Peru for 53 days now. Leslie Stahl of "60 Minutes" and her producer, Rich Bonin, are interested in interviewing Lori, and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney has agreed to head up their delegation to the prison. We have been trying desperately to get the U.S. Embassy office in Lima to facilitate this interview at the prison, by assisting with visas, permits, etc., for the television crew. Additionally, the Embassy's imprimatur will give the interview some "official status". Presumably, this effort has received verbal support through Scott Busby, the action officer in Sandy Berger's shop, and John Podesta's office has encouraged the people at the National Security Council to facilitate our efforts.

Unfortunately, nothing has moved since our meeting in July with Sandy Berger. We have requested a meeting between the President, yourself and Lori's parents, Mark and Rhoda Berenson, at anytime that's convenient for you. It is now more than **three years** that Lori Berenson

(continued)

*Erec - file -
I called him
& responded*

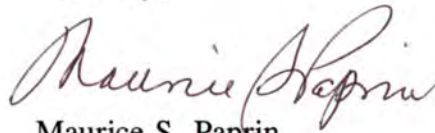
*NSC staff
Washington
is. res.
contacted in Berenson
& try to do
what we
can.
kg'ing POTUS
approved
it.*

H. Clinton Ltr-12/2/98

has been incarcerated under very harsh and difficult conditions. We believe that a personal meeting with the parents would be most helpful to secure the President's maximum effort to achieve Lori's release.

Your personal assistance is urgently requested.

Sincerely,


Maurice S. Paprin

Enc.\

pc: Mark & Rhoda Berenson
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

THE OP-ED PAGE

U.S. should push to set Lori free

By CRAIG BUTLER

ON NOV. 13, Lori Berenson celebrated her 29th birthday. She didn't celebrate with a cake, but with a cup of cold water and a plate of undercooked vegetables.

There were no birthday candles, but if there had been she would have used them for light — of which she has little — or perhaps for warmth, of which she has none. No friends surprised her with a party, as most of her friends are thousands of miles away, and any who are closer are separated from her by concrete walls, steel bars and armed guards.

Today, Nov. 30, is another red-letter day for Lori, but she will hardly feel like celebrating. On this day in 1995, Lori became a prisoner of the government of Peru.

An American citizen and freelance journalist, Lori was arrested while researching a story on how Peru's often-criticized political system affects the lives of its citizens. The Peruvian government alleged that she had helped leftist Tupac Amaru rebels plan a thwarted attack on Peru's Congress. She was charged with treason, a charge that makes no sense if brought by a government against a noncitizen.

Lori's "trial" made a mockery of the concept of a civilized judicial system. Among the irregularities:

■ Lori was tried in a military court — not a civilian court.

■ Her judge was hooded and anonymous. (In Peru, this usually means he was a member of the military with no judicial background.)

■ During her initial questioning, her attorney was not allowed to provide her with counsel.

■ Her lawyer was given two hours to review more than 2,000 pages of unindexed documents, little of which was relevant to Lori's case.

■ Lori was not allowed to call witnesses on her behalf or to cross-examine witnesses called against her.

After the pre-determined guilty ver-



JIM WILLIS DAILY NEWS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

dict, Lori was sentenced to life imprisonment and sent to Yanamayo Prison, high in the Andes Mountains. The altitude alone — more than 12,700 feet — makes Yanamayo Prison inhospitable to prisoners not raised at such a height.

The temperature inside the prison only rarely rises above freezing. The cramped cells have no heat, and the small, open windows let in little light but an overabundance of drafts. Food and water are inadequate to the prisoner's needs, and blankets are scarce.

Lori's health has suffered dramatically during her imprisonment. She has been stricken with arthritis in her hands, which are purple and swollen, making movement difficult and painful. Her throat, liver and digestive system have all been damaged, according to the Red Cross, which recently examined her.

After requests from the Red Cross, Lori was moved last month to another prison at a lower altitude but which otherwise replicates conditions at Yanamayo. To make matters worse, Lori is kept in solitary confinement at her new

prison, denied the small amount of human contact she enjoyed before.

Despite criticism from international human-rights agencies, the Peruvian government has refused to release Lori or grant her a new trial. The time is long past due for Lori's own government to come to her aid.

As federal law states, if it is made known that a U.S. citizen is wrongfully imprisoned by a foreign government, "the President shall use such means, not amounting to acts of war and not otherwise prohibited by law, as he may think necessary and proper to obtain and effectuate the release" of the citizen.

President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright must come forward and demand that this unjustly imprisoned American citizen be freed and returned home. And they must do so now, before another year is taken out of this woman's life, before the physical suffering she endures damages her permanently.

Butler is executive director of the Fund for New Priorities in America.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1998

Sally Pederson
Lt. Governor-elect
5007 Woodland
Des Moines, IA 50312

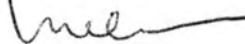
Sally

Dear Lt. Governor-elect Pederson:

Thank you for your card and the wonderful journal entry by Ronald, which was so beautifully written. I know the First Lady enjoyed it very much!

Again, congratulations on your victory, which is so important to Iowa and our country. Thank you for having me for the PFAW dinner. I loved catching up with you. The personal story of your candidacy is simply wonderful. Happy holidays to you, Jim and Ronald, and the very best of luck to you and Governor-elect Vilsack for the new year!

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

December 17, 1998

Sally Pederson
Lt. Governor-elect
5007 Woodland
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear Lt. Governor-elect Pederson:

Thank you for your card and the wonderful journal entry by Ronald, which was so beautifully written. He is extremely smart and a very talented writer. I am sure Mrs. Clinton enjoyed it very much!

Again,
Congratulations again on your victory, which is so important to Iowa and our country. Happy holidays to you and your family and the very best of luck to you and Governor-elect Vilsack for the new year!

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

*TY for
having*

for dinner

The First Lady

Jim & Ronald

*and so thrilling
for all you.*

*Thank you for
having me
for dinner.*

*I loved catching
up with you.*

*The
your personal
story of your candidacy
is simply
wonderful.*

November 15, 1998

Sally Pederson

②

Dear Melanne

It was great to see you again - and
so soon.

I thought you would enjoy a copy
of this piece Ronald wrote for his
journal at school. I sent a copy
to Mrs. Clinton. She made quite an
impression! Thank you for the "special
treatment" in D.C.

Love,
Sally



Ms. Melanne Venner
Chief of Staff to The First Lady
The White House
Washington D.C.

20000/3333



Lt. Governor-elect
Sally Pederson
5007 Woodland
Des Moines, Ia 50312

Ronald Autry, November 1, 1998

Saturday night I went to the Convention Center to a rally for my Mom running for lieutenant governor. I got to meet Hillary Clinton. I got to have a picture taken with Hillary Clinton. I got to talk to her. She was nice. She looked beautiful. She was wonderful. I asked her about Bill Clinton. She said, "He's at the White House." I said, "Tell Bill Clinton hi for me." She promised me she would.

I got to shake her hand. She was so happy to see the people. She was so happy to see me. She knew all about me. She had a big smile on her face. There were lots of people around her. She was surprised to see me. It was fun talking to her.

Sally Pederson November 13, 1998

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Governor-elect Tom Vilsack (doesn't that sound nice!) and I were sorry to miss seeing you on our visit to the White House last Thursday. We wished to thank you in person for his enormous support you gave to our campaign at critical points in the race. Tom and I are truly grateful. Come see us again soon!

Sincerely,

P.S. The enclosed is from my son's school journal about the Des Moines Rally + you!

Sally

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 4, 1999

Ms. Jennifer Perry
Executive Director
Children's Action Network
10951 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear Ms. Perry: *Jennifer*

Thank you for your letter and information about your new educational programming project. Congratulations! It's terrific.

As always, we will share the materials with colleagues here.

Best wishes *for a great new year to you and the family.*

Sincerely,

Melanne
Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

December 21, 1998

Ms. Jennifer Perry
Executive Director
Children's Action Network
10951 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear Ms. Perry:

Thank you for your letter and information about educational programming for children.

~~I appreciate your input and will share the materials with others here.~~

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

*your new project. Congratulations!
It's terrific!
Colleague here.
As always, we*

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November 20, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne,

We have just completed an exciting new project that we hope will encourage the development of creative, quality educational programming for children--*Building Blocks: A Guide to Creating Children's Educational Television*.

These guidelines are the culmination of an unprecedented voluntary effort spearheaded by the Children's Action Network and Mediascope that brought together more than 50 television producers and executives as well as leaders in child development. The impetus for developing *Building Blocks* was the White House Conference on Television where the new Federal Communications Commission rule mandating three hours of educational television was announced. The rule opened the way for new creative programming but did not address what constituted educational television.

In addition to serving as a tool for writers and producers when developing new series and for station managers when selecting programs, we hope *Building Blocks* will serve as a resource for parents and advocates in evaluating educational television.

The response to the guidelines from children's advocates and leaders in the field of television has been terrific. Reed Hundt, former chair of the FCC, calls the document "an important guide and a great achievement" and Peggy Charren of Action for Children's Television states that "This guide should be required reading."

We hope *Building Blocks* is helpful to you in your work on behalf of children. Please feel free to call me at (310) 470-9599 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Perry
Executive Director

Melanne -
Hope all is well -
& hope to see you
sometime
JH

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Building Blocks

A Guide For Creating Children's Educational Television

By Laurie Trotta



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 16, 1998

Douglas T. Picha
Chair, Children's Circle of Care
4800 Sand Point Way, NE
PO Box 5371, CH-23
Seattle, Washington 98105-0371

Dear Doug:

Thank you for your invitation to the First Lady to attend the Children's Circle of Care Leadership Conference and Gala Dinner on June 17, 1999 in Chicago. Mrs. Clinton is honored by the invitation because of her commitment to the work of Children's hospitals.

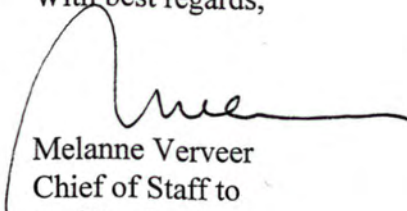
It is not yet certain whether Mrs. Clinton will be able to attend as June 9 next year is too far ahead to make a commitment at this time. But I have forwarded your invitation to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling to the First Lady, and she should be in touch.

Thank you also for the copy of your annual report. Congratulations on your progress with the participating Children's Circle of Care hospitals. It is a wonderful achievement. The First Lady conveys her

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

best wishes for continued success in your critical work.

With best regards,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

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Children's Memorial Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois

Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

Children's Hospital
Columbus, Ohio

Children's Medical Center of Dallas
Dallas, Texas

The Children's Hospital
Denver, Colorado

Arkansas Children's Hospital
Little Rock, Arkansas

Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Children's Hospital Medical Center
of Northern California
Oakland, California

Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital
at Stanford
Palo Alto, California

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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St. Louis, Missouri

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Los Angeles, California

September 22, 1998

(Via Facsimile)

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

I regret that I will not be able to see you while you are in Seattle later this week at the fund-raising reception for Congressional Candidate Jay Inslee. I have a school board meeting that evening that I must attend instead.

The Inslees are dear friends of our family. My wife, Cassie, will be at the Inslee reception. It is her hope to be able to greet you on our behalf.

I am sending along with this letter a brief note to Mrs. Clinton, asking her if she would be available to attend and participate in our upcoming Children's Circle of Care Leadership Conference and Gala Dinner. The event will be held in Chicago on June 17, 1999. The format, attendance and program will be very much as they were when Mrs. Clinton participated in our 1995 event at the National Institutes of Health.

Separately, I will be sending both you and Mrs. Clinton a copy of our recently published 1997 annual report. As you will see on page 2 of the report, we have made great progress in generating new major donors and increased contributions for children's health since our inception. Last year, our 1,204 donors contributed more than \$72.2 million to our participating Children's Circle of Care hospitals.

We remain exceedingly grateful to Mrs. Clinton for helping us launch this important program.

It is our hope that Mrs. Clinton would speak at either the Leadership Conference,

Melanne Verveer
Page Two
September 22, 1998

the Conference Luncheon or Gala Dinner on June 17, 1999. We are considering the possibility of linking our conference to the Oprah Winfrey Show as a way to gain more exposure for our cause and to raise public awareness concerning children's health and wellbeing. We would like to explore whether Mrs. Clinton would consider being the featured guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show on either June 16 or 18, 1999. Consistent with the mission of Children's Circle of Care, it is our hope the show would focus on issues pertaining to the health and wellbeing of children. We would request of Ms. Winfrey that the audience be comprised of Children's Circle of Care members who will be attending our conference during that time. We would like to propose the idea to Ms. Winfrey, pending Mrs. Clinton's approval and availability.

Melanne, thank you for your support and assistance. I hope your trip to Seattle is a successful one. I will follow up with you personally upon your return.

Most sincerely yours,



Douglas T. Picha
Chair, Children's Circle of Care



Children's Circle of Care

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Denver, Colorado

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Little Rock, Arkansas

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Oakland, California

Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital
at Stanford
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September 22, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE: 202.456.5340

Attention: Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Office of the First Lady

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I regret that I will not be able to see you when you visit Seattle later this week. I was looking forward to attending the reception for Congressional Candidate Jay Inslee at which you will be present. Jay is a close friend of mine. However, I am committed to attending a school board meeting that evening.

Under separate cover, I will be sending you our 1997 Children's Circle of Care annual report. I think you will be delighted, as we are, with the results we have achieved since our program's inception. On page 2 of the report, you will see that our number of major donors and their gifts have more than doubled. Last year, our 1,204 contributors gave more than \$72.2 million to our participating children's hospitals. We are exceedingly grateful for the role you have played in launching our efforts and supporting us along the way.

Our hope is that you will be able to attend and participate in our 4th annual Leadership Conference and Gala Dinner. It will be held in Chicago on June 17, 1999. I will follow up with Melanne and Patti Solis Doyle to extend a more detailed invitation.

Best wishes for a successful trip to Seattle and your continued commitment to children.

Most sincerely yours,

Douglas T. Picha
Chair, Children's Circle of Care

DTP/sd

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1998

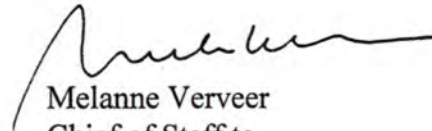
Maurice Paprin
Co-Chairman
Fund for New Priorities in America
171 Madison Avenue, Suite 1006
New York, NY 10016

Dear Mr. Paprin:

Thank you for your letter to the First Lady
regarding the case of Lori Berenson.

We share your concern about Lori's situation and
know that Sandy Berger and his staff at the National
Security Council are actively exploring options in the case.
I understand that they met with the Berenson family to
discuss these options with them. I, too, hope we can find
ways of alleviating Lori's situation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Melanne -

The National Security Advisor is on the verge of sending a letter to the Berensons and we will likely meet with them late next week to discuss what we think are the best options in Lori's case. I would recommend a response along the following lines:

Dear Mr. Paprin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Lori Berenson. I share your concern about Lori's situation and know that Sandy Berger and his staff at the National Security Council are actively exploring options in the case. I understand that they will be meeting with the Berenson family in the near future to discuss these options with them. I, too, hope we can find ways of alleviating Lori's situation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Call me if you have questions. Scott

Melanne Verveer

Scott, p/s
advise on a
response

p/s
letter
with the
print.



Fund for New Priorities in America

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Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date	# of pages 8
To: H. R. Clinton		From: M. Paprin	
Co./Dept: Mr.		Co.	
Phone # Berveer		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

September 24, 1998

Fax: 202-456-6244

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Executive Director

ROBERT VANDIVIER
Washington Coordinator

DEBRA HEVNER
Program Associate

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC
Attn: Ms. Melanne Berveer

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

We have written you and the President on several occasions regarding the case of Lori Berenson (see attached). Ms. Berenson has been unjustly imprisoned in Peru for two and a half years. During that time, we have been contacting various officials in the Administration and had finally received word from the National Security Council via General Donald Kerrick that a decision had been reached by them to take steps to put an end to this terrible tragedy and secure Ms. Berenson's release at the earliest possible time. As we have stated to them, the President has the responsibility as well as authority in such cases under USC 1732 to do everything within his power short of military action to secure release of an American citizen unjustifiably incarcerated in a foreign country.

Nine weeks ago, Lori's parents had a meeting with Mr. Samuel Berger which I attended, and we were promised that remedial action would be forthcoming shortly. We have pursued his office and the action officer assigned to this case, Mr. Scott Busby, and have been repeatedly promised that action would be taken any day, with deadlines being constantly postponed for reasons beyond our knowledge.

The parents are nearing exhaustion and desperation. They feel that some dramatic action has to be taken by them to secure the President's immediate action in this case by getting millions of Americans acquainted with the horrible details of this injustice. I thought that your personal intervention with the President might at least secure an appointment with him at the White House to personally address this crisis.

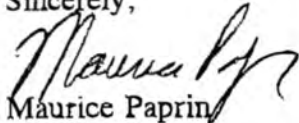
Anything you can do to assist them in their struggle to save their daughter's life would obviously be deeply appreciated. It would

Fund for New Priorities/Maurice Paprin - Page 2

certainly serve as a welcome contrast to the kind of focus and obsession most of the people in the media have had lately, at the expense of the substantive issues with which all Americans must be concerned.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



Maurice Paprin
Co-Chair

Enc.

cc: Mark and Rhoda Berenson



Fund for New Priorities in America

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June 24, 1998

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ALICE SLATER
SIDNEY UNGER

CRAIG BUTLER
Executive Director

ROBERT VANDIVER
Washington Coordinator

NANDA WITHARANAGE
Program Assistant

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Re: Lori Berenson case

Dear President Clinton:

Once again I am pressed to call upon you to exercise your unique and special leadership in world affairs to meet the latest crisis in the Lori Berenson case. For the first time in two and a half years, the new Prime Minister of Peru, Javier Valle Riestra, issued a breakthrough statement last Sunday recommending the pardon and release of Ms. Berenson by President Fujimori.

Unfortunately, President Alberto K. Fujimori almost immediately rejected this recommendation out of hand. It is clear from his statement that he intends to hold Lori hostage to maintain his image as "tough on terrorism" and "standing up to the United States."

Under these circumstances, we urge you to consider your options under 22 USC Section 1732:

"Release of Citizens Imprisoned by Foreign Government"

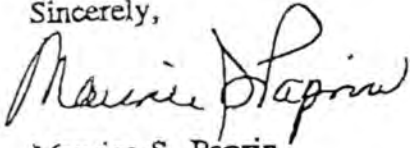
Whenever it is made known that a U.S. citizen is wrongfully imprisoned by a foreign government, "the President shall use such means not amounting to acts of war and not otherwise prohibited by law, as he may think necessary and proper to obtain and effectuate the release."

We ask that you grant a meeting with the parents of Lori Berenson, Mark and Rhoda Berenson, at your earliest convenience upon your return from China on July 3 so that these options can be appropriately

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addressed by the appropriate staff in the State Department, the National Security Council, and the Justice Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maurice Paprin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maurice" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Paprin".

Maurice S. Paprin
Co-Chair

cc: John M. Podesta, Chief of Staff
Secretary of State Madeline Albright
Samuel Berger, NSC
Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights John Shattuck

A Mother's Story



When 27-year-old Lori Berenson was sentenced to life in a cold, remote Peruvian prison, a mother's worst nightmare came true. Here, for the first time, Rhoda Berenson describes the day-to-day reality behind the horrifying headlines.

March 1. It is Saturday and I should be in Peru visiting my daughter Lori. Instead, I'm at home in Manhattan. As disappointed as I am about not being allowed to visit today, I can only imagine how devastating the cancellation must be for Lori. I suppose she will spend this day like all others as she continues the struggle to maintain her physical and mental health under horrendous conditions in Yanamayo prison in Puno, Peru, at an altitude of 12,700 feet. As a non-Andean, Lori suffers physically from some high-altitude-related ailments—circulatory problems due to a lack of oxygen, which result in purple, swollen fingers and an inability to digest certain foods (primarily legumes, the main

perature inside the prison rarely gets as high as 40° F. There is no heat and no running water. Food is extremely insufficient, and the remote location of the prison makes it difficult for families to deliver supplemental food as they do in other Peruvian prisons. Both drinkable and non-drinkable water (used by the prisoners to wash themselves, their clothes, and their bedding, and to keep the hole in the concrete floor that serves as a toilet clean) are dispensed in inadequate quantities. Prisoners are denied access to the outside world—no radio or TV, no newspapers or magazines, and no telephone calls. Lori can receive and send mail only in Spanish, and mail and other written materials are censored. She is allowed out of her cell only one half hour each day. In January 1996 a Peruvian military tribunal sentenced her to life in a harsh Andean prison, and I have been permitted to see her only once since that time. The Peruvian government canceled today's scheduled visit. So instead of seeing Lori, I will spend the day as I spend most of my days, trying to help clear her name and get her home.

Lori is 27 years old. She went to Peru in

1994 to study the people and their culture, to write about the plight of the Peruvian poor and the response of their government. At the time of her arrest, she was a freelance journalist, researching articles on women's rights and poverty in Peru for two American magazines. On November 30, 1995, she was arrested while on a bus in Lima. The following day, Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori appeared on television waving her passport and condemning Lori as a North American "terrorista," allegedly associated with a rebel group, the MRTA (Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru). President Fujimori never met her and probably knew nothing at all about her, but his immediate personal, public condemnation was an early indication that regardless of the facts, she would be spending a long time in prison.

Lori was never accused of any violent crime; instead, she was charged with being a leader of the MRTA, a charge she has termed totally preposterous; it is ridiculous to think that a young American woman who had been in Peru for only one year could become a leader of this group. It is now clear that this charge was not

“We cannot take those long walks that seven-by-nine-foot cell, where the only

based on any evidence but was made solely to ensure that Lori would be tried in secret by a military tribunal. Any lesser charge could have allowed her case to be heard in an open civilian court. There she could have had a trial with some due process and an opportunity to defend herself. The Peruvian government is not willing to let the world scrutinize their alleged evidence nor hear Lori's defense. They want to continue waving her passport and frightening human-rights workers and journalists.

It is common in Peru for alleged leaders of what are deemed “terrorist groups” to be presented to the press. After her arrest, Lori was told by the police that since she was not being accused of leadership, she would not be presented. Apparently Peruvian officials did not wish to present a soft-spoken, polite young woman to the public and accuse her of being a terrorist. However, a few days before her sentencing, the police manipulated Lori into making angry statements they knew would have a negative impact on the judge and the public.

For five days, Lori was confined to a tiny cell shared with a wounded prisoner just released from the hospital. This woman, who was lying naked on a dirty mattress, had a catheter, a colostomy bag, and a shattered kneecap, was denied further medical treatment. Lori spent five days and nights trying to care as best she could for this unfortunate woman. Listening to her moan in pain, Lori grew angrier and angrier at the cruelty of the Peruvian officials. By this point, authorities knew that Lori was ready to be presented, that she was sufficiently sleep-deprived, disheveled, and anguished. She was ready to be shown to the public. She was told that there were no microphones in the large room where she was to speak, so she must talk as loudly as possible to be heard.

What came across to the press was a woman who was “screaming,” even though Lori's public statement was a compassionate expression of her love for the Peruvian people and her belief that she was being persecuted for wanting to help them. But nobody paid any attention to Lori's words. The image of a screaming woman was enough to falsely brand

her an MRTA leader, although she never once admitted to being any such thing. Watching a videotape of this presentation was devastating for me. I knew that she had been subjected to intense psychological if not physical torture. I could only imagine the pain she was suffering.

Lori continues to strongly deny being a member, much less a leader, of the MRTA. Again and again, she has insisted that she is totally innocent of the accusations. She was never given written notice of the charges against her nor meaningful access to a lawyer. She was not allowed to refute the alleged evidence against her; she wasn't even told in detail what evidence was being presented. There was no opportunity to cross-examine witnesses. In other words, there was no fair trial. Nevertheless, she was convicted of treason and sentenced to life in prison with no parole by a hooded, faceless judge. Sadly, Lori is just one of the many hundreds of innocent people who have been wrongly convicted by Peru's secret military tribunals. The laws under which these tribunals operate have been repeatedly condemned by human-rights groups, the United Nations, and the United States government.

Although I do not know exactly what Lori is doing at this moment, I am confident that she is busy. Lori has always been incredibly intense and committed, whether it was homework as a young girl or juggling musical performances and part-time jobs after class. So in spite of her swollen fingers and horrible lighting, Lori spends her time in prison doing needlework, reading, and writing letters. I have sent her yarn and needles (wooden needles only; metal ones are not permitted) and embroidery thread and canvases. As I knit at home, I imagine that Lori, too, is knitting. Although we are separated by many miles and circumstances,

we are still knitting together, like we used to when she was here.

We also read “together” whenever possible, except that she reads in Spanish and I in English. Recently, we both read *Of Love and Other Demons*, by Gabriel Garcia Márquez. I have just started *Paula*, by Isabel Allende, which Lori just finished. We both read the Tony Hillerman mysteries. Right now, I am awaiting the publication of the Spanish edition of his latest book, so Lori can keep up with the exploits of Lieutenants Leaphorn and Chee. What we cannot do together is take those long, leisurely walks that Lori and I always loved. I remember one summer when Lori worked evenings and I would meet her after work so we could walk the three miles home together, talking about our day. Now she is confined for 23.5 hours a day to a seven-by-nine-foot cell, where the only walking she can do is in small circles.

For the first year of her imprisonment, Lori was allowed no family visits. Now she can have two visitors for one 30-minute period once a month. That is, of course, unless the Peruvian government decides to cancel the visit. On December 7, my husband, Mark, and I traveled 8,500 miles round-trip to see her for 30 minutes. We had so much to say to each other and so little time. As soon as we left the prison, I started making lists of all the things I still wanted to say, things that would have to wait for the next visit. I had planned to go again in January with Lori's older sister, Kathy, and then again with Mark today. Unfortunately, due to the takeover at the Japanese Embassy in Lima, all prison visits have been canceled until further notice. And not only visits from families but from the International Red Cross and church representatives.

So I am at home, thinking about Lori and how much our lives have changed in these past fifteen months. Mark and I are both college professors. He teaches statistics at Baruch College, and I teach physics at Nassau Community College. My time in the classroom, immersing myself in a discipline that is based on logic, is my escape from the unpredictable chaos that Lori's arrest has brought to our lives. We still live in the same Manhattan apart-

we loved. Now Lori is confined to a walking she can do is in small circles.

ment where Lori grew up, and the rooms are filled with memories. On shelves sit the clay sculptures Lori made as a child; on the walls, her needlepoints; and in my closet are the scarves that she knitted.

And there are so many photographs. There is Lori at about nine months, when she was nicknamed "Screwball" because she liked to make funny faces, liked to make us laugh. She still does, and she always includes little jokes in her letters from prison. There are class pictures from elementary school and photos of birthday parties with home-baked cakes and homemade decorations. Many of Lori's classmates, some now living as far away as Australia, write to her in prison. They remember, as I do, that even at a young age Lori was always concerned about others.

When Lori was fourteen years old, she and other members of her school chorus made a commercial for the organization CARE. The others sang while Lori did the voice-over about helping starving children throughout the world. After that, Lori and Kathy suggested that the family join an organization that funded projects for poor children. We did, and both children contributed money from their part-time jobs to sponsor a "foster child" in Guatemala. When I spoke with Lori in police headquarters in Lima soon after her arrest, she reminded me of the CARE commercial. She told me that thoughts of starving children still haunted her. In her only public statement after her arrest, Lori proclaimed, "I am to be condemned for my concern about the conditions of hunger and misery which exist in this country. . . ." Lori continues to respond to the urging of CARE to help those in need.

Our apartment is filled with musical memories of Lori. We no longer have the tiny violin she learned to play when she was eight, but I remember how the two of us went skipping down Second Avenue, violin case swinging, on the way to music school. I don't know why we started skipping, but it was something we did every Friday. When Lori traded the violin for a clarinet, the skipping stopped but not the wonderful hours I spent listening to her practice.

My own guitar, on which Lori taught herself to play, sits, collecting dust, in the room I now use as an office. I think of it as Lori's guitar. Since she was eighteen, she has had a guitar wherever she is. When she came home to visit, whether it was from college or traveling, the first thing she would do was play the guitar and sing for us. When she was unable to come home, she would send tapes. We have many tapes filled with old folk songs, classical choral pieces, and the music of Central and South America. We have tapes in our apartment and tapes in our car. I may not be able to visit Lori, but I fill my head with her voice, remembering her joy in making music. On the last tape she made, she sang and played black Peruvian music and Peruvian love songs. She had planned to give this tape to Mark for his birthday in December 1995. The Peruvian Military Police took the tape after Lori's arrest. We have never heard it. Now Lori has chronic laryngitis, probably due to the harsh weather in Yanamayo. When I look at the guitar, I wonder if, one day, her vocal cords and fingers healed, she will come home and make a new tape in place of the one we never got.

Lori left New York for Boston, in the fall of 1987, to attend M.I.T. She went there with thoughts of combining her abilities in mathematics and science with her interest in music. Instead, she was drawn to study anthropology; and in particular, the people and cultures of Latin America. But after several courses, much reading, and doing research for one of her professors on land distribution in El Salvador, she decided to learn about Latin America firsthand. She went to El Salvador for two weeks with a group of Quaker women in 1988 and then again as part of a student-exchange program in 1989 during that country's civil war. There she observed some of the horrors of the war; people she knew were arrested, tortured, and killed. She took a leave of absence from M.I.T., spent time working in the United States, and then moved in 1990 to Nicaragua, where she assisted the Salvadoran refugees living there while earning a living as a secretary and translator.

People often ask me how I could let her

go to these places. After all, she was so young. (She was only eighteen when she first went to El Salvador.) But I never felt I had a choice, and anyone who knows Lori understands that Mark and I brought up our children to be independent, to have the courage of their convictions. And Lori was always confident and responsible.

during the years she lived in Latin America, we always felt close to her despite the vast distance. We wrote, we phoned; we discussed books and music and food. I would have loved to have her closer to me, but I knew that she was doing what was important to her. So in the fall of 1994, when she went to Peru, this, too, was something she "had to do." As she traveled throughout Peru, Lori wrote us about its rich cultural heritage. She started learning Indian dialects and music. She learned to cook indigenous dishes. On her visits home, we shopped for hard-to-find ingredients in the Latin markets in New York, and she cooked her newly learned specialties for us. On her last visit, in September 1995, we bought so much quinoa, a Peruvian grain, that I still have some in my pantry.

But in Peru, she also saw the enormous poverty and misery of much of the Peruvian people—especially the children. She wanted to help, and she decided to do so by writing. In the fall of 1995 she obtained the credentials and got two assignments, from American magazines, to write articles on poverty and women's issues in Peru. So it is easy for me to understand why Lori was in Peru. What is hard to understand are the charges against her. Anyone who has met Lori knows that she's a person deeply concerned about human rights who has spent much of her young life trying to find non-violent means to improve the lives of others. Even now, despite the harsh prison life, Lori never has personal complaints. She has, however, expressed outrage at the general prison conditions in (continued on page 355)

A MOTHER'S STORY

(Continued from page 313)

Yanamayo and continues to express concern about the mistreatment of other prisoners. It is reassuring to me that her spirit has not been broken, that even imprisoned, she cannot be stopped from fighting injustice.

Since Lori's arrest, my life has been a continuous roller coaster of hopes and disappointments. My emotions swing from sadness to anger. Sadness as I think of her in a cold cell enduring a life of increasing hardship; anger at a system that throws innocent people in prison without due process. Every day I am busy with phone calls, letters, and meetings in an effort to get Lori a fair trial so she can demonstrate her innocence. We now have an extensive network of wonderful, thoughtful people from all over the world who keep in contact either by mail or by E-mail. They have written to us and to Lori and to U.S. and Peruvian officials on Lori's behalf. Last August, 87 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 20 senators sent letters to President Fujimori pointing out Peru's violations of international standards of due process and urging the Peruvian government to grant Lori a fair trial. President Clinton expressed similar concerns.

Meanwhile, I think about my next trip to Peru. Although it is a very long ride for a very short visit, and I will not be allowed to touch her or see her without the interference of mesh screens, I long for the opportunity to be with her again. And as I wait for the visit, and press officials for a trial that will free her and send her home, Lori continues to sit in her cell 23.5 hours a day, hoping that the day will be bright so that enough light will shine through the high narrow window to enable her to read, hoping that her swollen hands will not be so painful that she cannot write letters or do needlework. Perhaps she hears music in her head while she waits for her throat to heal so she can sing again. Perhaps Lori, too, is consoling herself with memories of long walks, skipping to violin lessons, and homemade birthday cakes. □

A ROYAL DIVESTITURE

(Continued from page 308)

to do the fittings, which certainly wasn't a bother, because it meant that we could go on without being disturbed, which was much better." The atmosphere at Kensington Palace was, Bruce Oldfield recalls, "very friendly. In the beginning we were told to use the tradesmen's entrance, but the very camp butler opened the door and said, 'Mr. Oldfield! You must never use the back entrance again. You must come in the front entrance like a king.' She would do the fittings in her study, and I would have to go into the drawing room while she changed. I could always hear Prince Charles's voice, like noises off. I was always terrified he'd come in. One day

said, 'Have you seen the marvelous Stubbs exhibition?' I hadn't, so he went off to get the catalog, showed me some pictures of equestrian classics, and said, 'Don't you think my wife would look rather good in clothes like those? I have to say that she never really struck me as a very horsey type!'

Oldfield always felt that the princess should develop her personal style by staying faithful to one or two designers, and he told her so. Certainly, in the early eighties, when she was dressing in clothes by Oldfield, Walker, Edelstein, Emanuel, Rifat Ozbek, Hachi, Yuki, Zandra Rhodes, Jasper Conran, Gina Fratini, and Bellville Sassoon, to name a few, the results could be uneven. When Princess Diana eventually did follow Oldfield's advice, to his mortification she chose London's two most refined and low-key couturiers, Edelstein and Walker. Edelstein had first dressed Princess Diana during her pregnancy with William, and continued to do so until he closed his couture house in 1993. Catherine Walker remains her favorite designer.

Princess Diana herself feels that Hachi's sophisticated, one-shouldered beaded ivory dress, worn in America in 1985, is the key piece in the collection that signals her evolution toward the elegantly understated look with which she is associated to this day. Before this, Elizabeth Emanuel says, "I think a lot of mistakes were made by us and by other designers. In trying to create a royal image, there was a tendency to be contrived, to have everything matching. Now she knows exactly what suits her." Meredith Etherington-Smith, Christie's creative marketing director, agrees. "As she became more confident, she needed less detail. [The later dresses] are very strong, designed to be worn by someone who feels strong in themselves, who doesn't need the camouflage of sequins and sashes."

Edelstein remembers that while Princess Diana would occasionally change the colors of the model, the ravishing ink velvet Bol-dini gown in which she was spun around the White House dance floor by John Travolta, for instance, was originally designed in an unflattering burgundy, she was certainly less exacting than many of his internationally best-dressed ladies. And, he says, "she never asked for exclusivity. The only understanding was that you wouldn't sell it to another member of the royal family." Murray Arceid had a near fiasco with the midnight-blue, star-spangled dress he made for the princess. "She wore it to King Constantine's birthday party at Claridges. The next morning I got a call from the Queen of Jordan, for whom I'd made the same dress. She said, 'Don't you ever do that to me again—I nearly died when I saw her, because I almost wore that dress last night!' I almost got thrown into the Tower or off a minaret or

something!" And while Victor Edelstein would design things especially for the princess for her state visits, she generally chose dresses from his collections. At his runway shows, however, it was never difficult to pick out the dresses he had designed with her in mind. His regal white duchesse satin dress and a bolero, with crystal pearls and golden embroidery by Hurel, was indeed acquired by Princess Diana (and paid for in installments), and she wore it to the Elysée Palace during the Waleses' triumphant visit to Paris in 1988. But the first Edelstein knew of this was when Suzy Menkes called him up that night to tell him how spectacular Diana had looked in it at the dinner hosted by President Mitterrand.

Edelstein often showed his grand evening gowns with sweeping opera coats and stoles, but "she wasn't very keen on those," he remembers. "She'd always say, 'I've got to get out of the car, shake hands, accept bunches of flowers—what am I going to do with it?' That's why the bolero thing happened." Catherine Walker also created some trademark dress-and-bolero ensembles for Diana, abundantly represented in the collection, including one of the designer's favorites, a white crepe sheath dress with a jutting-collared bolero, all over beaded with seed pearls. Behind palace doors this is wittily known as the Elvis, and it was especially popular with Princess Diana, who wore it on numerous occasions.

It is obviously extremely difficult to quantify the mystique associated with one of the century's most photographed women. "The first time I saw the dresses, which I can only describe as taking up rather a lot of room," recalls Meredith Etherington-Smith, "it did send a frisson down one's spine. That is beyond fame." As some indication of the level of interest, three days after the official announcement of the sale in February, Christie's had already sold \$50,000 worth of catalogs, including seven of the leather-bound limited edition of 250, individually signed by the princess (at \$2,000 each).

The dresses in Christie's collection represent the famous stages in Diana's life—a nation's fairy-tale princess, a fashion-mad glamour girl, a sophisticated modern ambassador. But Diana herself has, patently, moved on. As a naive 20-year-old bride she might have chosen someone like Princess Caroline of Monaco as a mentor; today, it is more likely to be Mother Teresa. Instead of larking about with bolts of fabric, she is using her international charisma to draw attention to cancer and AIDS research. So who would the princess like to see buying these dresses? "Anyone who wants to benefit these two important and essential causes," she replies with her usual tact, adding, "I hope that whoever does acquire them will enjoy them and get as much pleasure from them as I did myself."