

How prisoners build self-supporting communities in Peru Report of three visits in Lima by Art Without Bars

Foto's recorded on p 11

Host: Carlos Alvarez, president *Asociación Dignidad Humana Y Solidaridad (ADYS)*

Visitors : Agnès and J.P. Rammant-Peeters, board members of the Belgian non-profit organization *Art Without Bars (AWB)*

Date: 11-11-2019 8.30 am – 6 pm

The context

Official visits to the three prisons of Lima – two with male inmates and one of high security for women - were scheduled by L. Caparrós on behalf of C. Alvarez. Permission to visit was granted by the Instituto Nacional Penitenciario (INPE). C. Alvarez accompanied A. and J.P. Rammant and was their guide during the tour. The inmates gave small presentations as well as comments about the handicrafts selected and exhibited for the purpose. The visit paid to the female inmates had a more informal character.

Since AWB's purpose was to investigate on the continuation of Hubert Lanssiers' initiatives started in these three prisons, C. Alvarez introduced on each occasion the visitors to staff members and inmates involved with the projects of Lanssiers ('Papito Hubert') active in these prisons from 1974 until his death in 2006.

Convicted inmates, inmates with short sentences, some with sentences of 25 years and more, all live together in an open regime. There is a problem of overpopulation, so some male inmates have to sleep on mattresses laid in the corridors. Most of the people are active during the daytime, be it small stalls or in larger workshops (see infra).

The group photos illustrating this report, were taken by the prison staff during the visits to the male prisons; the visit to the women's high security prison is not illustrated. The visits of the first two lasted, each approximately two and a half hours, the one to the women's prison took one and a half hour.

** Rev. Hubert Lanssiers was born in Brussels on Nov. 23, 1929 and died in Lima in 2006. He was professed father of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts in 1964 in Tokyo. H. Lanssiers was granted the Order of Leopold II in 1998.*

I Visit of Establecimiento Penitenciario Miguel Castro Castro (E.P. Castro Castro)

Population: 5885 men

After going through security of two consecutive entrance zones we were given free passage. On the way in, we and C. Alvarez whom several penitentiary agents nicknamed 'Carlito', were welcomed more explicitly by those agents and inmates who were acquainted with the Rev. H. Lanssiers before his death in 2006.

We first visited the bakery San Miguelito named after director Miguel Castro Castro, killed during one of the uprisings (that lasted until 2008). Inmates commented the production of Christmas *panetóns*