

INTERCONNECT

*For Grassroots Movement-Building and Sharing of Resources
Within the US-Latin America Solidarity Community*

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To our Readers:

A Turning Point in Latin American - and in U.S.-Latin American - Relations?

Although most of us have celebrated the recent elections of what the corporate media call "leftist presidents" in seven nations, those of us who have followed US-Latin America policy since the 1970's through the 1990's are concerned about how safe these fledgling democracies to our South really are. Are neoliberal economic forces really weakening? What is the Obama foreign/economic policy to be? Why are so many Bush appointees still in government? What can our movement do? Consider the following information and share your thoughts on lasolidarity@lists.mayfirst.org.

Washington insiders. And it still remains to be understood why the Obama administration has taken a relatively benign stance to the illegitimate new government. The administration has restricted \$30 million in aid to Honduras and, recently, has restricted visas for the interim president and Supreme Court but still refuses to label the ousting of the democratically elected president a "military coup," which would automatically cut off far more aid.

Behind the Military Coup d'Etat in Honduras: Excerpts from the Literature

The Nation, 8/31-9/7/09, "Battle for Honduras – and the Region," by Professor Greg Grandin:

- 1980's: Honduras was a staging ground for Reagan's Contra War on Nicaragua and "a portal for New Right Christians to roll back liberation theology." The Honduran paramilitary unit Batallion 316 included Fernando "Billy" Joya (now interim/illegal president Micheletti's security advisor). Otto Reich ran Reagan's Office of Public Diplomacy.
- The 6/28/09 coup coalition included Honduran generals (some trained at the SOA/WHINSEC); "Catholic hierarchs and evangelical Protestants," Venezuelan Robert Carmona-Borjas (from the 2002 coup against Hugo Chavez); and "Lanny Davis, a former Hillary Clinton advisor turned lobbyist."
- In 2007 Carmona's Arcadia Foundation launched a press campaign accusing President Zelaya of corruption (Zelaya had raised the minimum wage, increased teachers' pay, tried to reduce the US military presence, refused to privatize Hondutel, accepted low-cost petroleum from Venezuela).
- There has been a failure of the neoliberal economic model – 50% of Hondurans live in poverty.
- "By deputizing [Costa Rican President] Oscar Arias to work out an agreement between the elected and interim presidents, the US effectively undermined the OAS (Organization of American States) which calls simply for the return of President Zelaya."
- The failure to restore Zelaya to power will send a



Honduran President Manuel Zelaya addresses thousands of supporters who have gathered in front of the Brazilian embassy on Monday, September 21, 2009 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. (Photo from SOAWatch)



Questions About the Crisis in Honduras

- by Michaela D'Ambrosio

Following the June 28 coup d'etat in Honduras, which ousted President Manuel Zelaya, speculation arose concerning the roles played by

clear message to Latin American conservatives that Washington will tolerate coups...

From the Internet:

- US military aid to Honduras is on hold (7/1/09, AP).
- 7/10: U.S. House of Representatives resolution condemning the coup.
- 7/14: Attorney Jari Dixon, anti-coup leader, was interviewed on CNN. Later the same day in Honduras a police squad stormed his mother's house, machine-gunned her door, beat mother and sister, arrested his brother (SOAW 7/15).
- 7/28: US revoked visas of four officials (www.alternet.org).
- US Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) poured millions into Honduras leading up to the coup. On the Board: the president of the International Republican Institute, and Secretary of State Clinton. The MCC oversees a multi-billion dollar foreign aid fund started in 2004 by GW Bush to combat terrorism (8/9 The Narcosphere).
- * 8/24: The Honduras National Front Against the Coup d'Etat announced increased protests, a Federation of Teachers Organizations national strike, meetings with the OAS delegation including Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, and members of the International Criminal Court (www.escambray.cu/Eng/Special/CoupHonduras).
- The US has stopped issuing most visas to members of the de facto interim government (NY Times 8/26).
- 9/12: "Ramping up pressure on Honduras' interim government, the US has revoked the visas of the beleaguered country's leader...Roberto Micheletti... 14 supreme court judges" and the new Foreign Minister.
- 10/09: The "board of the MCC, a US government agency, voted to cut \$11 million in aid" ...the US said it would not support the outcome of the (November presidential) election unless Zelaya [who is not eligible to run again – Ed.] was restored to power.

[Ed. note: The US response has been evolving gradually after 80 days of persistent U.S. solidarity movement pressure.]

Canada, the US and France Behind the Coup in Haiti - by Yves Engler

Haiti can teach you a lot about the harsh reality of social affairs.

From the grips of the most barbaric form of plantation economy sprung probably the greatest example of liberation in the history of humanity. The 1791-1804 Haitian Revolution was simultaneously a struggle against slavery, colonialism and white supremacy. Defeating the French, British and Spanish empires, it led to freedom for all people regardless of color, decades before this idea found traction in Europe or North America.

Unfortunately, Haiti's history also demonstrates how fluidly Europe (and North America) moved from formal colonialism to neo-imperialism. Technically "independent" for more than two centuries, outsiders have long shaped the country's affairs. Through isolation, economic asphyxiation, debt dependence, gunboat diplomacy, occupation, foreign supported dictatorships, structural adjustment programs and "democracy promotion" Haiti is no stranger to the various forms of foreign political manipulation. Most recently, the elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide was destabilized and then overthrown on February 29 2004 by the US, France and Canada, which ushered in a terrible wave of political repression and an ongoing UN occupation.

As we approach the five-year anniversary of the coup, there are three important lessons to be learned from this intervention. First of all, the Canadian-sponsored "responsibility to protect" doctrine, which many want to encode in international law, is little more than a cover for imperialism. Liberal Party officials justified cutting off aid and invading Haiti by citing a "responsibility to protect" the country, yet the intervention further devastated an already impoverished population.

The second lesson is that "peacekeepers" can be used to wage a brutal class war. In the two years after the coup, UN troops regularly provided vital support for the Haitian police's violent assaults on poor communities and peaceful demonstrations, demanding the return of the elected government. UN forces also participated directly in this violent political pacification campaign, launching repeated anti-"gang" assaults on poor neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. The two most horrific raids took place on January 6, 2005 and December 22, 2006, which together left some 35 innocent civilians dead and dozens wounded in the densely populated slum of Cité Soleil (a bastion of support for Aristide). In April 2008 UN troops once again demonstrated that their primary purpose in the country was to defend the status quo. During riots over the rising cost of food they put down protests by killing a handful of demonstrators. (Kevin Pina's film *Haiti: The Untold Story*, which will be shown across the country in the coming weeks, documents the chilling brutality of UN forces.)

Finally, Haiti provides an example of how self-described "progressive" Western government-funded NGOs function as an arm of imperialism. A sort of NGO laboratory, Haiti is a highly vulnerable society where NGOs have a great deal of influence. By one estimate, Haiti has the most development NGOs of any country per capita, and the vast majority of the country's social services are run by domestic or foreign NGOs. Their influential position in Haiti provides

a clear window into Western government-funded NGOs worst tendencies.

Many NGOs joined the Bush administration, Ottawa and a handful of armed thugs in calling for the removal of Haiti's democratically elected president in 2004. After repeatedly complaining about human rights violations under the elected government, these groups (Development and Peace, Rights and Democracy, Oxfam Québec, Alternatives etc.) ignored or denied the massive increase in human rights violations that took place in the aftermath of the coup. A January 2008 Canadian government-funded report published by Alternatives (Québec's biggest proponent of the World Social Forum) provides an eye into NGOs' colonial attitude vis-a-vis Haiti: "In a country like Haiti, in which democratic culture has never taken hold, the concept of the common good and the meaning of elections and representation are limited to the educated elites, and in particular to those who have received citizen education within the social movements." According to Alternatives, Haitians are too stupid to know what's good for them unless, that is, they've been educated by a foreign NGO. (For a detailed account of government-funded NGOs' role in Haiti see Press for Conversion's three recent reports or Damning the Flood by Peter Hallward.)

In trying to reason with these groups, one discovers that information or rational argument does little to sway groups receiving millions of dollars from the Canadian government for work in Haiti. Maintaining a progressive agenda in a country considered "high priority" by the power brokers in Ottawa is extremely difficult. And with the intervention into Haiti - unlike say the invasion of Iraq - on few people's political radar, these NGOs felt limited grass-roots pressure to abandon their government benefactors.

On February 5 the country's president, René Préal, called on Washington to stop channeling its assistance through NGOs.

[Yves Engler is the author of the forthcoming The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy .]

[Ed. note: On 6/17/09, at the funeral of greatly loved Father Gerry Jean-Juste, the UN "Peacekeepers" (MINUSTAH) brutally repressed the crowd, killing one person.]

Do We Want Seven New Military Bases in Colombia?

[Excerpted from "Militarizing Latin America" by Noam Chomsky from chomsky.info , August 30, 2009]

In July 2009, the US and Colombia concluded a secret deal to permit the US to use seven military bases in Colombia. The official purpose is to counter narco-trafficking and terrorism, "but senior Colombian military and civilian officials familiar with negotiations told The Associated Press that the idea is to make Colombia a regional hub for Pentagon operations," AP reported. There are reports that the agreement provides Colombia with privileged access to US military supplies. Colombia had already become the leading recipient of US military aid (apart from Israel-Egypt,

a separate category). Colombia has had by far the worst human rights record in the hemisphere since the Central American wars of the 1980s wound down. The correlation between US aid and human rights violations has long been noted by scholarship.

AP also cited an April 1999 document of the U.S. Air Mobility Command, which proposes that the Palanquero base in Colombia could become a "cooperative security location" (CSL) from which "mobility operations could be executed." The report noted that from Palanquero, "Nearly half the continent can be covered by a C-17 (military transport) without refueling." This could form part of "a global en route strategy," which "helps achieve the regional engagement strategy and assists with the mobility routing to Africa." For the present, "the strategy to place a CSL at Palanquero should be sufficient for air mobility reach on the South American continent," the document concludes, but it goes on to explore options for extending the routing to Africa with additional bases.

On August 28, UNASUR met in Bariloche (Argentina) to consider the military bases. After intense internal debate, the final declaration stressed that South America must be kept as "a land of peace," and that foreign military forces must not threaten the sovereignty or integrity of any nation of the region. It instructed the South American Defense Council to investigate the document of the Air Mobility Command. Problems of implementation were left to subsequent meetings.

The official purpose of the bases did not escape criticism. President Morales was particularly bitter, with his background in a coca growers union. He said he witnessed U.S. soldiers accompanying Bolivian troops who fired at his union members. "So now we're narcoterrorists," he continued. "When they couldn't call us communists anymore, they called us subversives, and then traffickers, and since the September 11 attacks, terrorists." He warned that "the history of Latin America repeats itself."

Morales observed that the ultimate responsibility for Latin America's violence lies with U.S. consumers of illegal drugs: "If UNASUR sent troops to the United States to control consumption, would they accept it? Impossible!"

Morales's rhetorical question can be extended. Suppose that UNASUR, or China, or many others claimed the right to establish military bases in Mexico to implement their programs to eradicate tobacco in the US, by aerial fumigation in North Carolina and Kentucky, interdiction by sea and air forces, and dispatch of inspectors to the US to ensure it was eradicating this poison -- which is far more lethal than cocaine or heroin, incomparably more than cannabis. The toll of tobacco use, including "passive smokers" who are seriously affected though they do not use tobacco themselves, is truly fearsome, overwhelming the lethal effects of other dangerous substances.

The idea that outsiders should interfere with the production and distribution of these lethal substances is plainly

unthinkable. The fact that the US justification for its drug programs abroad is accepted as plausible, even regarded as worthy of discussion, is yet another illustration of the depth of the imperial mentality.

Even if we adopt the imperial premises, it is hard to take seriously the announced goals of the "drug war," which persists despite extensive evidence that other measures -- prevention and treatment -- are far more cost-effective, and despite the persistent failure of the resort to criminalization at home and violence and chemical warfare abroad.

Last February, the Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy issued its analysis of the US "war on drugs" in past decades. The Commission, led by former Latin American presidents Fernando Cardoso (Brazil), Ernesto Zedillo (Mexico), and César Gaviria (Colombia), concluded that the drug war had been a complete failure and urged a drastic change of policy, away from forceful measures at home and abroad and towards much less costly and more effective measures. Their report had no detectable impact, just as earlier studies and the historical record have had none. That again reinforces the natural conclusion that the "drug war" -- like the "war on crime" and "the war on terror" -- is pursued for reasons other than the announced goals, which are revealed by the consequences.

Establishing US military bases in Colombia is only one part of a much broader effort to restore Washington's capacity for military intervention. There has been a sharp increase in US military aid and training of Latin American officers, focusing on light infantry tactics to combat "radical populism" -- a concept that sends shivers up the spine in the Latin American context. Military training is being shifted from the State Department to the Pentagon, eliminating human rights and democracy conditionalities under congressional supervision, which has always been weak, but was at least a deterrent to some of the worst abuses. The US Fourth Fleet, disbanded in 1950, was reactivated in 2008, shortly after Colombia's invasion of Ecuador, with responsibility for the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the surrounding waters. The official announcement defines its "various operations" to "include counter-illicit trafficking, Theater Security Cooperation, military-to-military interaction and bilateral and multinational training."

[The author is Professor of Linguistics, MIT, and has been called "the leading intellectual of the American Left."]

Untapped Resources against Torture

- Editorial by Malcolm Bell

A gathering of about 75 survivors of torture from 27 nations, including the United States and many in Latin America, began in Washington on June 23 and culminated with a 24-hour vigil opposite the White House during June 27-28. This was the twelfth such annual gathering organized by the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC; www.tassc.org) to coincide with the June 26

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture established by the United Nations, about 3/4 of whose members practice torture. Curiously, survivors of torture and their hard-earned expertise have been largely excluded from the debate over torture that began only with the Abu Ghraib photos in 2004 despite US participation in this abomination at home and abroad for decades.

As always, the survivors, who share a deep and unique bond, met among themselves. The next day, they testified before the Congressional Human Rights Commission. Sister Dianna Ortiz, the founding director of TASSC, said that "we who have paid the dreadful price of torture" call on the government for a full investigation and accountability for such crimes because "silence in the face of what we already know ... is cowardice." Demissie Abebe from Ethiopia, the current TASSC director, said that survivors could advise the Obama Administration well. Mary Aileen Bacalso from the Philippines demanded "accountability, redress, and memory of those who did not live to tell their stories." Reflecting Congressional priorities, only one Congressman was present for only part of this testimony, though able staffers remained and we were assured that the transcript would be circulated.

On June 26 came a day of panel discussions led mainly by survivors. For example, Rosa Anaya, a daughter of Herbert Anaya who headed the NGO Human Rights Commission in El Salvador until U.S.-backed assassins shot him in front of his children in 1987, wants to forgive but not forget the killers -- "but to forgive, I must know the names of the ones to be forgiven." Fr. Roy Bourgeois said that when he talks to Latin Americans, "the issue of torture always comes up. These countries want the truth. There will never be peace or reconciliation until we own up to what we have done in these countries."

Over and over, survivors demanded no torture under any circumstance at all, including no more renditions and no more money for nations that torture. There were repeated calls for a special prosecutor. Attorney General Holder has since taken the brave yet inadequate step of appointing one for certain CIA torturers. Let us do all we can to see to it that this is only the first step towards convicting the architects of US torture.

[The author is a Vermont-based lawyer, author of The Turkey Shoot, and Contributing Editor of INTERCONNECT.]

The Return of the IMF - by Soren Ambrose

The IMF is back. It hit near-bottom last year after most of its big middle-income borrowers liberated themselves from its notorious economic conditions. It experienced its first ever budget deficit and had to lay off about 10% of its staff (their offer of a severance package drew far more volunteers than could be accommodated).

But global bad times are music to the IMF's ears. The G20, which has largely superseded the G7/G8 as the global

economic politburo, designated the IMF as the main agency to deal with the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries. At its London Summit in April, it announced that it would be routing \$750 billion through the IMF.

The IMF negotiated its first crisis-related loan with Iceland – the first time a developed country came for a loan since the UK in 1976. November was a record month for the IMF -- \$41 billion in loans, with the bulk of the money going to Eastern European countries.

Of course the IMF never lost its low-income clients - concentrated in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa. Those countries couldn't afford to pay back their loans early and so liberate themselves. Now governments in those regions are extending their IMF programs and taking out bigger loans (meaning more IMF debt and the threat of a renewed debt treadmill). And countries that were not in the IMF fold are taking out new loans because of the crises: Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ghana, Ethiopia.

Developing countries need funds desperately to deal with the impact of the global crisis, but the IMF is far from the ideal vehicle. The IMF claims to have reformed, and indeed they have made some changes, but they overstate their case. The IMF says it has reduced its conditions and narrowed their scope, but the fundamental problem remains: it still calls for constricting economies with low inflation and deficit targets. That means that while wealthy countries are expanding with their stimulus packages, developing countries are having to do the opposite.

In March they eliminated “structural performance criteria,” the policy conditions that most frequently caused programs to be suspended. But the conditions have largely been translated into pre- conditions: countries will have to implement the policies in order to qualify for an IMF program.

The IMF has also introduced a new lending program which has earned it favourable publicity. The Flexible Credit Line (FCL) offers a guarantee of very substantial funding without conditions. The trick is that countries have to meet the strict qualifications, and they haven't been published. Thus far only three countries – Mexico, Poland, and Colombia – have qualified. The FCL, it appears, is available only to countries that do not need it.

In addition, the IMF has also decided to change the names of the facilities it uses for lending to low-income countries. The top casualty is the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). It included requirements that various “stakeholders,” including civil society groups, be involved in creating economic programs but in practice citizen input on the economic measures that matter was routinely ignored. New names are the Rapid Credit Facility, for smaller emergency loans, and the Standby Credit Facility for a wider variety of purposes than has been available before to low-income countries. This last category is the most worrisome, as more countries could be lured into taking IMF money – and conditions.

Finally, the G20 in April called for the first issue of the IMF's “reserve currency” – Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) – since 1981. SDRs have the potential to be good news: they're basically created without material backing, just the consensus of IMF member governments. They provide free reserve resources to all member countries, which could be particularly useful for low-income countries that have difficulty getting credit because of low reserve levels. The SDRs can also be converted into hard currency, with the only cost being a relatively small interest charge. This is probably the cheapest unconditioned money developing countries can get, short of undirected grants (which are quite rare). The IMF manages SDRs, but it has no way of putting conditions on them. Indeed, proposals for radical reform of the global reserves system (i.e. shifting away from the U.S. dollar) identify the SDR as the most likely vehicle for a new approach that would free up the billions frozen in precautionary dollar reserves and eliminate the distortions that accompany the use of a national currency as a global reserve unit.

The problem with the SDRs now is that they are distributed on the basis of IMF quotas, which means most of them go to the developed countries that don't need them. Of the \$250 billion allotted on August 28, less than \$100 billion went to developing countries, and about \$11 billion – less than 5% -- went to sub-Saharan Africa. There should be additional SDR allocations soon, and done on the basis of need rather than quota. And the costs of SDR conversions need to at least be made predictable – the interest rate now is variable – or preferably eliminated, perhaps by using the proceeds from the sale of IMF gold to pay the charges.

[The author, formerly co-director of Fifty Years Is Enough, is now Development Finance coordinator, ActionAid International, based in New York.]

LASC: Expanding the movement

Calling all solidarity organizations! Become part of the movement and have an effect on U.S.-Latin America policy as we grow!

The Latin America Solidarity Coalition (LASC) is forming working groups, lobbying Congress, developing policy statements, and helping one another with our campaigns.

Our Coordinating Committee meets monthly by conference call. Ten or fifteen of us track developments in the Region and in DC and plan strategy. We have conducted four national conferences and are starting on LASC V.

The LASC's current agenda:

- The Honduran coup and the US role.
- Haiti's coup-related violence and the role of the UN “Peacekeepers” and the US.
- Colombia and the proposed US military bases.

- Day of Action for repealing both NAFTA and CAFTA – October 12.
- Cuba – ending the travel ban.
- Building the solidarity movement.

Go to www.lasolidarity.org and join us.

- • Choose a representative from your solidarity group to be on the Coordinating Committee.
- • Send a 1-2 paragraph description of your group's goals and activities for the LASC Directory to Hendrik Voss at hvoss@soaw.org .

Quotes

Don't be afraid to speak –

Be afraid
what will happen
to the whole truth
if you don't.

- Sr. Joan Chittister

“It is Latin America that has changed, not the US State Department or foreign policy.”

- Mark Weisbrot, Center for Economic and Political Research

“The current global downturn, the worst since the Great Depression 70 years ago, pounded the last nail into the coffin of globalization. Already beleaguered by evidence that showed global poverty and inequality increasing, even as most poor countries experienced little or no economic growth, globalization has been terminally discredited in the last two years. As the much-heralded process of financial and trade interdependence went into reverse, it became the transmission belt not of prosperity but of economic crisis and collapse.”

- Walden Bello, “The Virtues of Deglobalization,” Foreign Policy in Focus, 9/10/09

“Fr. Daniel Berrigan was asked if he didn't despair at his futile efforts to bring peace and justice to fruition. Dan responded in his typical quiet, determined and eloquent way: ‘Despair is a luxury beyond my means’.”

RESOURCES

Major Events

- 10/1** Colombia Political Prisoners Day.
- 10/1-4** Honduras: Convergence of Organizations of People of the Americas (COMPA) at Triunfo de la Cruz.
- 10/7** Day of Reflection and Action on Afghanistan and Pakistan (United for Peace and Justice).
- 10/8-10** Tegucigalpa, Honduras. 1 st international conference against the coup (National Resistance Front against the coup in Honduras).

11/20-22 Close the School of the Americas, SOA Vigil, Ft. Benning, GA (SOAWatch).

11/29 Honduras presidential election.

12/4-6 Tijuana, Mexico. Conferencia Cuba/Venezuela/Mexico/North American Labor Conference (US/Cuba Labor Exchange, laborexchange@aol.com).

12/6 Bolivia National Election 12/7-18
Copenhagen. United Nations Climate Conference.

6/22-26 Detroit. U.S. Social Forum (Detroitinfo@ussf2010.org).

Campaigns

- **Renegotiate NAFTA.** Hold a corn-based movie night, serving popcorn, etc. to accentuate the role of NAFTA-facilitated corn dumping in forcing migration from Mexico (Witness for Peace, www.witnessforpeace.org).
- **Cuba normalization legislation.** Ask your Representative to support these bills:
 - HR 1530: To lift the trade embargo on Cuba
 - HR 1531: To facilitate the export of U.S. agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by U.S. legal residents, and to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba. (www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h11-1531).
 - HR 1737: To facilitate sale of U.S. agricultural products to Cuba.
 - HR 2272: To lift the trade embargo on Cuba
 - S. 1089: To facilitate the export of U.S. agricultural commodities and products, to establish an agricultural export promotion program, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens and legal residents, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, and for other purposes.
 - HR 874 / S. 428. Identical bills would prohibit the President from regulating or prohibiting, directly or indirectly, travel to or from Cuba by U.S. citizens or legal residents, or any of the transactions incident to such travel. (IFCO/Pastors for Peace and Latin America Working Group)

- **Haiti**

- End the Debt (Haiti Reborn, Quixote Center, www.haitireborn.org or Jubilee USA)
 - Get the UN (MINUSTAH) out of Haiti. Diana Bohn, Haiti Action Committee, nicca@igc.org.
 - Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Undocumented Haitians in the U.S. Support HR 144, Haitian Protection Act of 2009. To designate Haiti under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to render nationals of Haiti eligible for temporary protected status under such section. (www.tpsnow.org, gerald@blackalliance.org).
- **Reform the International Monetary Fund (IMF).** See article, above. Jubilee USA Network, neil@jubileeusa.org , www.jubileeusa.org).
 - **Close the SOA.** Go to www.soaw.org for latest legislation.

Special Reports

Changing the Flow. *Citizens' movements safeguarding their waters* . (www.tinyurl.com/changingtheflow).

Who Says You Can't Change the World? *Just economies and societies on an unjust planet.* Nine grassroots alternatives to the current economic and environmental disorder (www.tinyurl.com/whosays).

Special Studies

Rights Action in Washington, DC, and Toronto (info@rightsaction.org). Price \$0 - \$5, donate or subscribe.

Investing in Conflict: Public money, private gain, Goldcorp in the Americas.

The Dominion: State of Mine: An investigation of Canada's extractive industries.

Books

- *Reclaiming a Continent: Latin American Experiments in Democracy* , by Benjamin Dangl, Zed Books, 2009. Read more at: <http://towardfreedom.com/home/content/view/1655/1/>
- *The New Latin America Left: Utopia Reborn*, by Patrick Barrett, Samuel Chavez, Cesar Rodriguez-Caravito. Social movements and political parties, esp. in Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay www.towardfreedom.com/home/contact/view/1630/1 .

- *Fidel and Che: A revolutionary friendship*, by Susan Reid Harry. 2009. www.independent.co.uk .
- *Illegal People: How globalization creates migration and criminalizes immigrants*, by David Bacon. 2008. www.beacon.org .
- *Washington's War on Venezuela* by Eva Golinger. 2008. \$15.95, paper, 160 pp. Monthly Review Press. www.monthlyreview.org/books .
- *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* by Eduardo Galeano. 25 th Anniversary Edition. Monthly Review Press. Introduction by Isabel Allende. www.monthlyreview.org/books .

Videos/DVDs/Movies

- *Tocar y Luchar*, Award-winning documentary video and the remarkable story of the Venezuela Youth Orchestra System. Available on the web.
- *Violations of the Human Rights of Women During the Honduran Coup; An Interview with the First Lady.* (Quixote Center, <http://quixote.org/> . Scroll down to YouTube video.)
- *Haiti: The UNTold Story*, updated documentary film by Kevin Pina, described as "53 minutes of human rights hell in Haiti," including UN Peacekeeper abuses. (www.haiti.action.net).
- *Brick by Brick, Side by Side. Work brigade in El Sauce, Nicaragua* (El Porvenir/clean water for Nicaragua; www.geotourism.changemakers.com/en-us/node/223048).

Speakers available from:

Rights Action - Fall 2009: "Resistance to Military Coups and Gold Mining Devastation in Honduras and Guatemala." Information: 1-860-352-2448, info@rightsaction.org , www.rightsaction.org

Mexico Solidarity Network (www.msn@mexicosolidarity.org).

SOAWatch/Close the SOA (www.soaw.org).

Chiapas Media Project (alex@fairfoodab.org)

* "Fair Food Across Borders"

* "The Student/Farmworker Alliance"

* "Videos made by indigenous peoples in Chiapas"

Travel

Argentina : 1/4-14 (GX – Building economic justice from below. Community-based economy).

Border, US-Mexico : 11/27-29 (BL - globalization, free trade, the cost of border security, micro-credit financing, sustainable development, labor rights); ; 4/23-26 (GX – Immigration, labor, environment).

Bolivia: 12/1-8 (CGE – Bolivian election, Shaping Bolivia's Future); 7/24-8/1 (CGE – When Indigenous People Lead).

Brazil: 5/26-6/4 (GX – Beyond soccer, sand and samba).

Chicago : 2/4-7 (BL - Beyond the Border immersion trip in Chicago, educational visits with agencies working for immigration advocacy and policy reform, sharing and dialogue with immigrants living in Chicago, cultural activities and exchanges, and time for reflection, worship, and action planning).

Colombia: 10/31-11/8 (WP – workers, free trade agreements); 12/5-20 (CPT – TBA. Churches, human rights, justice); 1/26-2/8 9 (CPT – TBA. Churches, human rights, justice); 5/12-25 (CPT – TBA. Churches, human rights, justice).

Costa Rica: 11/20-29 (GX – Ecotourism, sustainability. Northern coast).

Cuba: 11/1-8 (GX – Wetlands protection); 11/7-17 (GX Sustainable agriculture); 12/27-1/5 (GX – New Years in Havana. A research and humanitarian delegation); 12/27-1/5(GX Environmental protection, sustainable development); 12/27-1/5 (GX – Natural and complementary medicine); 12/27-1/5 (GX – Public education); 12/27-1/5 (GX – Sustainable architecture, urban development); 1/15-25 (GX – law and lawyers); 2/8-13 (GX – Health care, alternative healing); 2/19-27 (GX – Sustainable architecture, urban development); 3/1-10 (GX – Healthcare, alternative healing); 3/25-4/4 (GX – Public education); 4/2-11 (GX – International workshop on renewable energy).

Dominican Republic: 5/26-6/6 (GX – Fair cocoa harvest).

Ecuador: 11/21-29 (GX – Oil and environment); 12/27-1/4 (GX – New Years on the equator).

El Salvador: 3/19-28 (CGE – Romero: Thirty Years a Martyr).

Guatemala: 3/325-4/4 (GATE - Holy Week, cultural immersion); 5/23-6/6 (GATE – Environmental justice, sustainable development); 7/10-18 (CGE – Education for decolonization).

Haiti: 12/28-1/4 (LASC and Haiti Action Committee Delegation: Political, social, economic. Role of US, UN. Contact Diana Bohn at nicca@igc.org).

Mexico: 10/26-11/3 (GX – Oaxaca, Day of the Dead); 12/27-1/4 (GX – Chiapas, NAFTA, Zapatistas); 1/30-2/7 (GATE – Oaxaca, cultural immersion); 2/6-16 (WP – Oaxaca); 3/17-26 (GX – Chiapas, indigenous land rights, biodiversity); 5/19-29 (GATE – Chiapas, cultural immersion).

Nicaragua: 12/4-13 (GX – Fair Harvest Exchange Program); 1/15-24 (GX – Fair Harvest Exchange Program); 2/18-26 (CGE – Poetry, politics, a literary tour).

Peru: 5/31-6/12 (GX – Beyond the Land of the Incas).

Venezuela: 11/21-12/1 (GX – A new vision for the Americas); 1/30-2/9 (GX – A new vision for the Americas); 2/1-5/20 (GX – Study abroad in Merida); 5/22-6/2 (GX – Community-based organizing and the Bolivarian Revolution).

CODES:

AGJ: Alliance for Global Justice, 202-544-9355 , afgj@afgj.org , www.afgj.org .

BL : BorderLinks, 520-628-8263, education@borderlinks.org , www.borderlinks.org.

CGE: Center for Global Education, Augsburg College. 612-330-1159; gloaled@augsborg.edu .

CPT: Christian Peacemaker Teams, 773-277-0253, www.cpt.org .

GATE : Global Awareness Through Experience. 608-791-5283 or www.gate-travel.org GX: Global Exchange. 415.255.7296. <http://globalexchange.org/countries/americas>.

SOAW: School of the Americas Watch. 202-234-3440; www.soaw.org/delegations .

WP : Witness for Peace. 202-547-6112. www.witnessforpeace.org.

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