



INTERCONNECT

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

July 2010. Vol 17, No 2

Dear Reader,

After reading about the current crises and possibilities for change we hope you will join us in the strategy planning conferences planned for November and the spring of 2011.

Peter and Gail, Co-editors

Excerpts from the NED Report: International Agencies fund Venezuelan opposition with \$40-50 million annually

By Eva Golinger

ZNet Daily Commentary, June 22, 2010

A revealing report published in May 2010 by the FRIDE Institute, a Spanish think tank, prepared with funding from the World Movement for Democracy (a project of the National Endowment for Democracy "NED"), has disclosed that international agencies are funding the Venezuelan opposition with a whopping \$40-50 million annually. This exorbitant amount of financing well exceeds the approximately \$15 million previously believed to have been channeled to Venezuelan opposition groups via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the NED.

According to the FRIDE report, which analyzes the impact of this funding in Venezuela, and concludes that more donations are necessary to support the "democratic opposition" to President Hugo Chávez in Venezuela, the multi-million dollar funds are exclusively directed towards political activities [there]. A large majority of the \$40-50 million, donated by US and European agencies and foundations, is given to right wing opposition political parties...NGOs, student groups and media organizations.

... the international funds provided to political groups in Venezuela are destined to fight against the government of Hugo Chavez in order to "restore representative democracy" and return a more US-friendly government to power...

US agencies are the principal donors to political groups in Venezuela, with annual funds of about \$6 million. The FRIDE report confirms that this multi-million dollar aid is a result of US efforts to undermine the Chavez presidency. "Until very recently, the US did not have a prominent role in democracy assistance to Venezuela. When US engagement began



Cochabamba Bolivia World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

under the Chavez government, its political profile consisted of supporting democratic NGOs and opposition parties”.

US funds are channeled to opposition groups in Venezuela through the following organizations, Development Alternatives, Inc (since 2002), the Pan-American Development Foundation (since 2005), the International Republican Institute (since 2002), the National Democratic Institute (since 2002), Freedom House (since 2004), USAID (since 2002), NED and the Open Society Institute (since 2006).

Declassified documents obtained under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests regarding the activities of these agencies in Venezuela have revealed that their multi-million dollar funding has largely gone towards promoting anti-democratic activities, such as the April 2002 coup d’etat against the Chavez government, and subsequent strikes, destabilization attempts and economic sabotage...

The FRIDE report, “Assessing Democracy Assistance: Venezuela,” is part of a series of studies conducted in 14 nations where international agencies are actively involved in funding political groups favorable to US policies. In addition to Venezuela, other case studies were conducted in Belarus, China, Georgia, Egypt, Ukraine, Nigeria, Bosnia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mysteriously, the report on Venezuela, and any evidence of its existence, disappeared from the FRIDE website after this author referred to it in a prior Spanish-language article. Nonetheless, it can now be viewed here.

[Eva Golinger, winner of Mexico’s 2009 International Journalism Award, is a Venezuela-based attorney and author. Her first book, The Chavez Code, which exposes US involvement in the 2002 coup in Venezuela, has been published in six languages and is currently being made into a feature film.]

Plan Puebla-Panama Is Reborn as The Mesoamerica Project

- by Mary Ann Tenuto (pictured)

On a recent delegation to the state of Chiapas, Mexico, we learned that Chiapas is considered both the central and starting point for the Mesoamerica Project, a giant development plan for building infrastructure needed to attract capital investment and dramatically expand trade via NAFTA, CAFTA, and an eventual trade agreement with Colombia.



The Mesoamerica Project (MP) was once called Plan Puebla-Panama (PPP), an ambitious plan that met with widespread grassroots resistance and sent PPP administrators

back to the drawing board. In December 2006, Mexico’s new president, Felipe Calderón, announced he would revive PPP, renamed the MP in 2008, at a meeting of the governors of affected states and presidents of member countries.

The MP, like the PPP, includes the seven southern (and heavily indigenous) states of Mexico: Puebla, Veracruz, Tabasco, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas, Yucatán, Campeche and Quintana Roo. It also includes seven Central American countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Belize and Panama. Colombia has been added as a full partner in the revised plan.

The San Cristóbal-Palenque Toll Road is the current mega-project in Chiapas. It is a super highway connecting San Cristóbal de las Casas with Palenque, the world-famous archaeological site built by the ancient Maya. The new toll road intends to cut through numerous communal farms occupied by descendants of those ancient Maya. Not surprisingly, many of the present-day Maya object.

The MP contemplates separate “corridors” for different economic activities; for example, factories (sweat shops), mono-crop agriculture, extractive industries, and tourism. The toll road would facilitate a tourist corridor, including the area surrounding the Agua Azul Cascades, a series of turquoise blue waterfalls that cascade down a mountain and form pools for swimming.

Continuous violence in Bolom Ajaw, a Zapatista community with land adjacent to a virgin waterfall, recently brought to light the government plan for a “world-class resort destination.” This plan includes a Boutique Hotel, a European 5-Star Hotel, a conference center with golf course, and a lodge with helipad overlooking the waterfall on Bolom Ajaw’s property.

Bolom Ajaw has been harassed and attacked continuously for the past four years by members of the PRI. On 1/21/10, 57 armed PRI members invaded, began construction on three cabins, and several weeks later they ambushed a group of Zapatistas, resulting in one death and 14 injuries. The PRI remain on Bolom Ajaw’s land and the region is heavily militarized to protect them. The intent is to privatize it and sell it to resort developers. The Zapatistas of Bolom Ajaw refuse to sell or privatize and are, therefore, in the way.

The Mesoamerica Project promotes the conversion of a peasant economy of subsistence agriculture and communally owned land into a neoliberal economy with private property, cheap labor, resource extraction, agro-industrial plantations, and cultural and ecological tourism. This implies the displacement of tens of thousands of indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands throughout the region.

[The author is a founding member of the Chiapas Support Committee in Oakland, California. She organizes delegations to Chiapas and writes for “Chiapas Update.”]

Honduras Update

- by Dale Sorensen

My interest in the unfolding drama that is Honduras comes from my outrage at the June 28, 2009, coup d'état and subsequent installation of Porfirio Lobo as president. I have visited Honduras twice in the last 6 months, talked to members of the social movements and human rights groups and read almost everything written about the coup, the US role and the sham election. Opinions about whether the US orchestrated or initiated the coup are numerous but for the sake of expediency let's agree that the US facilitated what the oligarchic forces conceived and executed. The oligarchy is made up of the elites (10 families that hold most of the wealth), the business interests, and the hierarchy of the Catholic and Protestant churches, the corporate media and the military.

Between US Ambassador Hugo Llorens and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton the US managed to cut off very little aid to the coup regime, undermined the OAS's attempts to bring back President Zelaya and recognized an illegitimate election in November. The US never ceased its presence at the Palmerola military base nor stopped training Honduran soldiers at the SOA.

Members of the State Department have been busy trying to get governments to recognize the government of "Pepe" Lobo. So far the US has succeeded with only 30 countries, and Honduras still has not been restored to membership in the OAS.

What has surprised many in the international community has been the reaction of the Honduran people. In spite of the coup with its ensuing repression, curfews, arrests, beatings, killings, silencing of the alternative media and intimidation of the Honduran people, a coalition of social movements has coalesced and grown into a formidable force called the FRNP (National Front of Popular Resistance). Their original demand was for the restoration of President Zelaya but as the months have passed they have more and more come together around a common theme, the desire for a Constitutional Assembly to write a new constitution. The current one was written during the US presidency of Ronald Reagan with literally the help of the US Embassy for the benefit of the ruling elites. There is even a clause that stated it is illegal to amend the constitution!

The coalition that is the FRNP was born under the strong leadership of the unions, public sector workers and teachers, but it has since broadened to include the women's movement, the LGBT community, campesinos, indigenous, Afro-Hondurans, youth and students, and human rights groups. The Frente, as it is called, has leaders in all areas of the country that participate in a national coordinating committee.

What continues to outrage those of us in the US / Honduras solidarity movement is that, in addition to the ongoing impunity regarding the abuses during the coup, there are now targeted killings of Frente leaders and journalists (eight

in recent months), continuing death threats and other acts of aggression. The intimidation and killing have reached unimaginable heights in an all out effort to halt the spread of this movement. On June 5, The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) released a document denouncing human rights abuses countrywide since January 30th. Since Porfirio Lobo took office there have been 12 murders for political reasons, two assaults, 63 death threats, 76 intimidations and persecutions and 53 arrests.

The US is supporting a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission," the members appointed by the Lobo government; but the popular movements have said they would not participate. Instead an alternative or peoples truth commission is being organized by Berta Oliva, director of COFADEH and others.

Currently the Frente is collecting signatures of Honduran citizens in support of convening a national constituent assembly in order to re-write the constitution. As of May 23 they had collected over 200,000 signatures; they hope to collect 1.25 million by June 28, the anniversary of the coup.

What you can do:

Because of the support that our government has given to the illegitimate government of Honduras we owe the people our support and solidarity. If you are moved, as I have been, by the determination of the people of Honduras I hope your group will consider joining the US Honduras Solidarity Network(HSN) and the Emergency Response Network (ERN) to respond to the continuing human rights abuses against the resistance movement.

The Mission of the HSN is: to denounce violations of human rights and demand that perpetrators are found and punished; to accompany the people of Honduras; to act with commitment to social justice in Honduras and to oppose at all levels the interventionist policy of the US government. Network objectives include educating, exchanging information, and supporting materially and politically the groups and communities that directly suffer. Your group can join the HSN by emailing Tom Loudon at the Quixote Center, toml@quixote.org or Vicki Cervantes, vickicervantes@yahoo.com, La Voz de los de Abajo.

Individuals can help save lives in Honduras by signing up for the ERN When a Frente leader or supporter is arrested or kidnapped, or a community is threatened by military or death squad violence, the ERN makes the perpetrators know that the international community is watching and will often mean the difference between life and death. You can authorize the ERN to use your name and address to send a fax or email in your name. Email Chuck@afgj.org to join the Honduras ERN.

[The author is Director, Task Force on the Americas, based in Marin County CA. Founded in 1984, the Task Force works in solidarity with social movements in the region and educates US citizens about the role of the US in the Americas.]

Haiti: Five Months After The Quake

- by Robert Roth

"We have all suffered. But we are motivated right now to help our people. That makes us strong. That allows us to go on." - Teacher at a mobile school/ Aristide Foundation for Democracy

What is most shocking when one travels to Haiti is how little aid is visible in the earthquake zone. Where is even a fraction of the \$5.3 billion pledged by international donors and "in the pipeline" for Haiti? Members of our delegation visited three different refugee camps. We heard the same story over and over again during our visit in late May: no food, poor shelter and no work.

In one camp, 5,000 people were living with no sanitation, little protective shelter, and no consistent food distribution. It had rained the night before, and the tarps had flooded. One woman told us, "We are not treated as human." When asked about Haitian president Rene Preval, a man sitting nearby said, "He may be the president of the republic, but he is not our president. We have never seen him."



President Aristide

This sentiment is widespread in Haiti. A week before we arrived, large anti-Preval demonstrations in Port-au-Prince (estimated by independent observers at 30,000) and other parts of Haiti called for true democratic elections, full participation by grassroots organizations in relief plans, and the return of former President Aristide to Haiti.

In a parallel initiative, over 20,000 women have already signed a petition to President Obama urging him

to end opposition to Aristide's return from forced exile in South Africa. Their argument is compelling: continuing to banish a major spokesperson for the poor in Haiti signals that development and reconstruction will take place without respecting the voices of those most impacted by the quake.

There is strong evidence that they are correct. On June 1, at the most luxurious resort in the Dominican Republic, Bill Clinton headed yet another planning session of the Interim Reconstruction Mission for Haiti to bring an elite vision of Haiti to fruition. The "new Haiti" means Coca-Cola with its Haiti Hope drink. It means the Royal Caribbean Tour Lines planning a massive expansion – in coordination with USAID – of the tourist industry in the north of Haiti. It means an ever-growing and ongoing UN military occupation (at latest

count, over 13,000 troops and police). It means high-powered NGO's creating even more infrastructure in the NGO capital of the world, and corporations lining up to establish a low-wage assembly sector in Port-au-Prince.

This vision seeks to marginalize Haiti's popular movement. It does not include free and democratic elections in which all parties – including the most popular political party, Lavalas (banned from the last elections) – can participate. That is why so many Haitians are raising their voices right now. Haiti is alive with young and veteran activists struggling to rebuild. Take, for example, the work of the Aristide Foundation for Democracy. With limited funding, it has been able to create mobile schools in five refugee camps, train a small cadre of Haitian mental health workers who offer support to those who have suffered so much in the camps, run a mobile clinic staffed by Haitian doctors and medical personnel, develop micro-lending projects for market women, and support local agriculture with loans to peasant farmers in the Port-au-Prince area.

The efforts of the Foundation and other dynamic popular institutions and organizations are tied to a broader vision, one of real self-determination and a long-term effort to regenerate democracy.

Haitians know that the "official story" is all about Bill Clinton and the NGO's, but they are writing their own story. It is time we pay attention.

[The author is a co-founder of the Haiti Action Committee and a board member of the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund. He most recently traveled to Haiti in late May, 2010.]

From the Literature

- "Obama's Expanding Covert Wars" by Jeremy Scahill, excerpted from the Nation, 6/4/10. "The Washington Post is reporting that the Obama administration has substantially expanded the role of US special operations forces...as part of what the paper calls Washington's 'secret war' against al Qaeda and other radical organizations. Obama has increased the presence of special forces from 60 to 75 countries. 'Special Operations capabilities include the training of local counterterrorism forces and joint operations with them,' according to the Post....The Nation has learned that among the countries where elite special forces teams working for the Joint Special Operations Command have been deployed are Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, and Peru...JSOC has also supported US Drug Enforcement Agency operations in Colombia and Mexico.
- "Muscling Latin America: The Pentagon's New Monroe Doctrine" by Greg Grandin, excerpted from the Nation's cover article 2/8/10)

[Ed. Note: The Nation, up to now, has been mostly uncritical of US policy, but this issue's cover shows a map of Mezo – and South America indicating – as threats – US military bases in Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Aruba, Curacao, Peru and seven in Colombia. Floating around the periphery is the recently reactivated Fourth Fleet.]

"In September Ecuador's president, Rafael Correa...refused to renew Washington's... lease on an air base (Manta)... Ecuador's new Constitution to promote 'universal disarmament...Washington answered with a show of force... Colombia signed an agreement granting the Pentagon use of seven military bases...Plan Colombia is not really about drugs; it is the Latin "American edition of GCOIN, or Global Counterinsurgency..."

"This cycle of violence is reinforced by the rapid spread of mining, hydroelectric, biofuel and petroleum operations... In Colombia Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities fighting paramilitaries who have seized land to cultivate African palm for ethanol production...Just a month before his overthrow [Honduran President] Zelaya...introduced a law that would have required community approval before new mining concessions were granted; it also banned open pit mines and the use of cyanide and mercury...Zelaya also tried to break the dependent relationship whereby the region exports oil to US refineries only to buy back gasoline and diesel at monopolistic prices."

[The author is Professor of Political Science, New York University, and author of Empire's Workshop.]

- "Why Washington Cares About Countries Like Haiti and Honduras" by Mark Weisbrot, Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), from Report, Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas.

"When I write about US foreign policy in places such as Haiti or Honduras, I often get responses from people who find it difficult to believe that the US government would care enough about these countries to try and control or topple their governments. These are small, poor countries with little in the way of resources or markets..."

"Unfortunately...they care enough about Haiti to have overthrown the elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide not once, but twice...In 1991 it was done covertly...the people who led the coup were paid by the US Central Intelligence Agency. And then Emmanuel Constant, the leader of the most notorious death squad there – which killed thousands of Aristide's supporters after the coup – told CBS news that he, too, was funded by the CIA.

"In 2004...the coup was much more open. Washington led a cut-off of almost all international aid for four years...while the US State Department was telling Aristide that he had to reach an agreement with the political opposition (funded with millions of US taxpayers' dollars), the International Republican Institute was telling the opposition not to settle.

"In Honduras last summer and autumn, the US government did everything it could to prevent the rest of the hemisphere from mounting an effective political opposition to the coup government in Honduras. For example, they blocked the Organization of American States from taking the position that it would not recognize elections that took place under the dictatorship. At the same time, the Obama administration publicly pretended that it was against the coup..."

The Continental Campaign Against Foreign Military Bases - by Moira Birss

Despite hopes among many in the Americas that the election of President Obama would mark a shift toward more peaceful US policy engagement in the region, recent actions have dashed them. A prime example is the agreement signed by the administration and the Colombian government in October 2009

allowing the US military largely unfettered access to seven Colombian bases. Shortly thereafter rumors began circulating about increased US military presence in Panama. Then the earthquake in Haiti happened, and the US military was sent to the ravaged island in large numbers.

Though ordered before President Obama took office, the reactivation in June 2008 of the Fourth Fleet, US Navy, deactivated since the end of WWII, also has many civil society organizations in the region on edge. Activists are concerned that the US military presence is in parts of a region rich in natural resources. The biodiverse Amazon basin and oil reserves in Southern Atlantic waters, for example, are believed to be likely targets. A leaked Pentagon budget document referred to the Colombia base agreement as a strategic opportunity to deal with "anti-American governments" in the region.

In response, civil society organizations throughout Latin America have joined forces to counteract this militarization. In January in Porto Alegre, Brazil, during the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the World Social forum, more than 75 international and national groups launched the Continental Campaign against Foreign Military Bases. Modeled after the Continental Campaign against the Free Trade Area of the Americas that successfully derailed the US government's plans for a region-wide free trade agreement, the campaign seeks the removal of U.S. and other foreign bases from Latin America and the Caribbean. The statement issued at the launch of the campaign called the intensification of US military presence "a clear attack against peace, security and sovereignty of all countries in the region."

The statement also calls for the campaign to collaborate with the fight against the criminalization of social protest and the domination and exploitation of the peoples of the region. Colombia provides clear examples of the criminalization and exploitation. One of several scandals that broke in late 2008 was that of extrajudicial executions. More than 2000 cases—and surely many more have gone unreported—of this macabre practice in which young men were lured from poor neighborhoods by paramilitaries, taken to rural areas, killed by the army, dressed up as guerrilla fighters and claimed as combat kills. The practice was also used in some cases to silence human rights defenders and community organizers. As a forthcoming report by the Fellow-



ship of Reconciliation (FOR) will demonstrate, many of the units that committed the largest number of these killings received substantial US military aid and therefore should have been vetted for human rights abuses under the Leahy Amendment.

It is no wonder that civil society organizations from Colombia to Honduras to Argentina oppose the further intensification of US military presence in the region.

Participation in this campaign represents a clear and tangible way in which Latin American solidarity organizations in the U.S. can support their counterparts in Latin America to attain peace, justice and sovereignty for the region. Opportunities for solidarity include participating in a summer delegation to Colombia that will examine the impacts of the new military installations, human rights and free trade in the country; attending the Social Forum of the Americas in Asuncion, Paraguay; or participating in the Anti-Militarization Conference in Columbus, GA. General questions can be directed to John Lindsay-Poland of the FOR at johnlp@igc.org.

(The author is with the Latin America program of FOR in California.)

Editorial In Three Parts

- It's time! It's long past time to terminate NAFTA. We all know that the free trade agreement has vastly increased poverty in Mexico, helped create a dangerous level of unemployment in the US, and lost Canada valuable manufacturing jobs. Ross Perot predicted "a giant sucking sound." Many of us campaigned hard against Bill Clinton's pressure to pass NAFTA. The Zapatistas rebelled on 1/1/94, the first day the trade agreement went into effect.
- Here at home NAFTA's undemocratic leadership and judicial system is only one of many reasons we are in danger of losing our democracy. Maybe we've lost it already. Who chooses our representatives in Washington – the people or the corporations? Who chooses our health care system? Who our defenses? Who our mainstream media? Are we already a plutocracy? How can we, who work in solidarity with the peoples of Latin America, best answer their request for us to work at home to stop the US interference and domination?
- Now available free! My book, *Cancer in the Body Politic: Diagnosis and Prescription for an America in Decline*. In 95 pages it analyzes the symptoms and signs of illness in this country, suggests a set of standards by which to judge it, diagnoses and lays out a therapeutic regimen. From the last paragraph: Recent events make it even more clear that we need emergency measures, including major surgery, to save the life of this now quasi-Republic. In order to cure and rehabilitate Patient USA we need to adopt all the measures recommended in previous chapters. To turn around this radical swing to the right in America, we will need all the brain power and bravery of the first American war for independence and

all the dreams of the early American leaders. But if we can succeed, literally all the people and the world will rejoice. To order, please send a label with your name and address plus \$2 to cover postage to 57 S Main St. Pittsford, NY 14534.

LASC: Three Steps in Strategic Planning for the Movement



Photo Credit: Orin Langelle, Co-Director/Strategist, Global Justice Ecology Project

1. LASC at the Encuentro and the US Social Forum, June 2010. The Latin America Solidarity Coalition and SOA Watch wove these two events together.
2. LASC at the SOA Vigil the weekend of November 18-21. Again, this fruitful partnership is developing a two-in-one conference. This is a call for all Latin America solidarity groups, whether or not currently members of the LASC, as well as all US community-based grassroots movements concerned with the increasing militarization of our culture, to attend a one-day organizers' strategy conference on Thursday, November 18, in Columbus, GA, the day prior to SOA Watch's annual vigil at the gates of Ft. Benning. We will strategize about building a movement to reverse US militarization of the Western Hemisphere.
3. LASC V in Washington, DC, Spring 2011. To continue the November discussion and create a plan of action for changing US policy toward Latin America.

Book Review: The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands

- Peter Mott

Margaret Regan, a superb journalist who has reported for the past ten years on what happens to families and individuals who daily risk their lives crossing the desert to find work in the US, has written a compelling and important book. The ups and downs, the deaths and triumphs, the practical details of each crossing, the suspense before decisions on where to cross, whether to trust a "coyote," all become personal when the people themselves are interviewed.

Circumstances vary. One migrant worker from Honduras, who had been caught in Seattle and deported, was trying again. Some people had given up and were working at the border in maquilas or, if they were lucky, in coffee co-ops.

Regan writes about the increasing militarization of the borderlands; the economics of border life; how NAFTA results in increasing migration; what happens in border detention centers. She discusses religions and moral questions, and has ideas on immigration reform. Ted Robbins, the Southwest correspondent for NPR says, "There may be no better way to understand the muddle that is U.S. immigration policy than by reading these portraits of people who cross the border in hopes of a better life. . . The Death of Josseline is an excellent way to understand—on a human level—the ebb and flow of human labor across political boundaries." (2010. Available from Beacon Press.)

Thank you!

We appreciate donations from:

Massachusetts – Marjorie and Henry Harvey

New York – Helen Rice

Anonymous

RESOURCES

Major Events

8/6-8 15th annual Doctors for Global Health General Assembly. Atlanta (www.dghonline.org).

11/18 Latin America Solidarity Coalition at Ft. Benning, GA. Conference to examine current and proposed strategies to oppose US militarism and anti-democracy campaigns and the militarization of our communities. Goal: To come out of the conference with movement-wide strategies and campaigns that we can take back to our organizations, bases, and communities.

11/18-21 Close the SOA! SOA Watch Annual Vigil. Columbus, GA (Ft. Benning).

Spring 2011 Latin America Solidarity Coalition (5th Conference - see article, above) and SOA Watch are mobilizing for a massive gathering in Washington, DC, to lobby Congress on many issues, including shutting down the SOA/WHINSEC. Campaigns

* **Free The Cuban Five.** A June 2 press conference revealed new evidence uncovered by the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five that the US Government has covertly paid tens of thousands of dollars to Miami journalists working for major media outlets who, during the federal government's politically-charged Miami prosecution, published often incendiary stories about Cuba and the five Cubans. (www.freethecubanfive.org).

* **Haiti: End the Debt** (quixote.org/haiti-reborn or www.jubileeusaa.org/haiti.html).

* **El Salvador:** Demanding that Pacific Rim Mining Corporation drop its lawsuit against El Salvador and withdraw plans for a deadly gold mine (www.cispes.org; www.rightsaction.org).

* Also, see two NED articles, above.

Job Opening

National Organizer SOA Watch, Washington (hvoss@soaw.org).

Books

- **The Flowering of the Prophetic Word in the Americas: Unmasking US imperialism and religious fundamentalism** by Philip E. Wheaton, EPICA, 2010.
- **La Agresión Permanente** ("The Permanent Aggression"), by Eva Golinger and Jean-Guy Allard. Looks at the US history of "democracy promotion", focusing on USAID, NED and the CIA and links between them and other organizations including the Inter-American Press Association and Human Rights Watch.
- **Dignity and Defiance: Stories from Bolivia's challenge to globalization.** Edited by Jim Shultz and Melissa Crane Draper. eyewitness account of Bolivia's decade-long rebellion against globalization imposed from abroad. ISBN 9780520256996.
- **Dancing with Dynamite: Social Movements and States in Latin America** by Benjamin Dangl. AK Press. 2010.

Videos/Movies

"**Tocar y Luchar: To Play and To Fight.**" The story of the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra System - an incredible network of hundreds of orchestras formed within most of Venezuela's towns and villages <http://www.tocaryluchar.com/en/film.html>.

"**The 800 Mile Wall**" A powerful documentary highlighting the construction of the new walls along the US-Mexico border as well as the effect on migrants trying to cross into the US. www.800milewall.org/

"**People to People,**" a documentary about the Pastors for Peace (PFP) Friendship Caravans to Cuba, mixing archival footage with video from the 2008 Caravan to Cuba and including recent interviews to tell the story of PFP and the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, Cuba. (www.ifconews.org).

Special Reports

* **Making the Grade?** The Group of 20's Commitments to the World's Poorest. New analysis shows shockingly slow progress on the G20's already meager goals to help the most impoverished. See [HERE](#)

* "**Undermining Guate**", by Rachel Small, a follow-up to a photo-essay about "Gang rapes, forced evictions & the endless nightmare of nickel mining in Guatemala", published on Rights Action's listserv, May 27. Go to [THIS LINK](#)

Travel (see Codes below)

Argentina: 7/24-8/1 (CGE Indigenous people lead); 8/4-14 (GX Building economic justice from below).

Bolivia: 7/10-19 (GX Changes with Morales vs. neoliberalism) Border: 9/3-6 (GX Immigration, labor, environment).

Brazil: 12/27-1/4 (GX New Year's in Rio).

Colombia: 7/14-27 (CPT Peacemakers Team); 7/16-26 (WP Appalachia and Colombia: the people behind the coal); 7/24-8/2 (WP Military bases, human rights, free trade); 8/7-17 (WP Magdalena Region, corporate abuse, military repression, displaced persons); 8/10-18 (AGJ with WP The Resistance); 10/13-26 (CPT Peacemaker team women/s movement).

Costa Rica: 7/21-30 (GX Ecotourism, sustainability, the Caribbean coast); 11/20-29 (GX Ecotourism, sustainability, the N. Pacific coast).

Cuba: 7/17-31 (GX with Food First sustainability, food sovereignty); 7/18-28 (WP Professional educators' research delegation); 9/1-16 (GX music, dance, culture); 9/12-27 (GX food security, culinary arts); 10/1-10 (GX wetlands, coasts, forests protected); 10/2-12 (GX economics); 11/3-12 (GX health care, alternative healing); 11/12-21 (GX sustainable agriculture, urban gardens); 11/19-29 (GX education from pre-school to PhD); 12/27-1/5 (GX New Years in Havana).

Ecuador: 12/27 - 1/4 (GX New Years on the equator).

El Salvador: 8/1-8 (CGE Central America, past and present, for educators); 11/28-12/5 (International Partners in Mission, immersion, 30th anniversary of the assassination of four American churchwomen).

Guatemala: 7/10-18 (CGE Education for decolonization: professional development seminar).

Honduras: 8/10-18 (WP Continuing the Resistance).

Mexico: 7/12-22 (WP Roots of immigration: trade, privatization, resistance); 7/23-30 (WP Oaxaca and the Arizona border, roots of

immigration); 8/4-12 (GX Chiapas, indigenous land rights, bio-diversity); 12//27-1/4 (GX Chiapas, Anniversary of NAFTA, the Zapatistas).

Nicaragua: 7/10-19 (GX fair trade, alternatives to neoliberalism); 7/13-27 (WP Inter-cultural teen delegation).

Peru: 7/8-19 (GX Sustainability, art, mysticism).

Venezuela: 7/19-8/2 (AGJ Food sovereignty study tour, social movements); 8/14-24 (GX A new vision for the Americas); 10/20-30 (GX A new vision for the Americas).

CODES:

CGE: Center for Global Education, Augsburg College. 612-330-1159; www.globaled@augsburg.edu.

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

GATE: Global Awareness Through Experience. 608-791-5283, www.gate-travel.org.

GX: Global Exchange. 415-255-7296, www.globalexchange.org/countries/Americas.

RA: Rights Action, 860-352-2448, www.rightsaction.org.

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

Movement News in Brief

Cuban Five: A press conference held June 2, 2010, revealed new evidence uncovered by the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five that the US Government has covertly paid tens of thousands of dollars to Miami journalists working for major media outlets who, during the federal government's politically-charged Miami prosecution, published often incendiary stories about Cuba and the five Cubans. The men, known as the "Cuban Five," are serving sentences varying from 15 years to double life, after being convicted of charges including espionage conspiracy (www.freethefive.org).

Latin America: On 6/9/10 La Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI) met to consider the increase in assassinations of trade unionists, last year totaling 101 worldwide, 88% in Latin America (including 48% in Colombia, 16% Guatemala, 12% Honduras, 6% Mexico, 4% Brazil, 3% Dominican Republic).

Global Climate Change: In April 35,000 people from 140 countries met in Cochabamba, Bolivia, chaired by President Evo Morales, to express disapproval of the global conference in Copenhagen. Supported by ALBA (Bolivian Alliance of Our Americas) and UNASUR, the People's Agreement calls for a 50% reduction of domestic greenhouse gases by 2017 for developed countries, the stabilizing of greenhouse gas concentrations at 300 ppm, a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth, spending by developed countries of 5% of GDP to help confront the crisis, recognizing the rights of Indigenous peoples, the needs of forced climate migrants, and creation of a Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal.

Immigration: On 5/24/10 the San Francisco Labor Council adopted a resolution opposing "Arizona's Apartheid-like laws and supporting the national boycott of Arizona" (www.sflaborcouncil.org). Thanks to David Welch, NALC214 in a 5/26 e-mail).

Peru: On 5/25/10 a Peruvian judge granted "conditional liberty with parole for five years in Peru to US citizen Lori Berenson and her two-year old son Salvador." She applied for this in 9/09 after serving 75% of her

20 year sentence. Her discharge included a confession of guilt in assisting armed rebels (www.freelori.org, thanks to Les Evanchick).

Venezuela: A new English language newspaper, Correo Orinoco International, has started production, edited by Eva Gollinger. Cindy Sheehan has a weekly column.

Haiti: Brian Concannon, Director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, announced that Mario Joseph AV, the managing attorney at their sister organization, The Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, was named "Haiti's most prominent human rights lawyer," by the NY Times. Both attended the US Social Forum in Detroit 6/22-26.

Latin America: On 2/27/10 the leaders of 32 countries met in Mexico, hosted by President Calderon, and created a regional bloc – excluding Canada, the US, and Honduras and including Cuba – to be separate from the Organization of American States (OAS) and named the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. One issue was condemnation of Britain's oil exploration around the Falkland Islands. (AP, 2/23/10, info@ap.org; and NACLA - nacla.org/node/6546: "A long time coming," 5/6/10).

Latin America: On 2/9/10 at a meeting in Quito, Ecuador, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) met to discuss US relations.

INTERCONNECT welcomes tax-deductible contributions, especially from those receiving the newsletter by regular mail. Please send checks to: Grassroots Interconnect, Inc.

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INTERCONNECT

Published quarterly by regular and e-mail.

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