



INTERCONNECT

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

October 2010. Vol 17, No 3

Dear Reader,

Twenty-five years ago we began asking Latin American activists how we in the US could best be in solidarity with them. Their consistent answer: "Tell your country to leave us alone."

When President Obama began meeting with leaders from the South there was a sense that at last we might be entering an era of mutual respect. Instead, over the past two years it has been alarming to see the increase in US militarization throughout Latin America and on the border.

In this issue you'll see examples of where we should concentrate our efforts. We have work to do!

Peter and Gail, Co-editors

Stop FBI Raids and Harassment of activists opposing U.S. Intervention in Colombia and the Middle East

The Latin America Solidarity Coalition (LASC) adopted the following statement in its Coordinating Committee meeting on Sept. 28, 2010:

We denounce the Federal Bureau of Investigation harassment of anti-war and solidarity activists. We call on the Department of Justice and the FBI to stop this grand jury investigation.

The FBI raided seven houses and an office in Chicago and Minneapolis on Friday, September 24, 2010. The FBI handed subpoenas to testify before a federal grand jury to eleven activists in Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan. The FBI also attempted to intimidate activists in California and North Carolina.

This suppression of civil rights is aimed at those who dedicate their time and energy to supporting the struggles of the Palestinian and Colombian peoples against US-funded occupation and war. The FBI has indicated that the grand

jury is investigating the activists for possible material support of terrorism.

The activists involved have done nothing wrong, are not charged with anything, and are refusing to be pulled into conversations with the FBI about their political views or organizing against war and occupation. The activists are involved with many groups, including the Twin Cities Anti-War Committee, the Palestine Solidarity Group, the Colombia Action Network, Students for a Democratic Society, and Freedom Road Socialist Organization. These activists came together with many others to organize the 2008 anti-war marches on the Republican National Convention in St. Paul.

We ask people of conscience to join us in fighting this political repression, as we continue working to build the movements against US war and occupation.

Take Action:

Call the U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder at 202-353-1555 or write an email to: AskDOJ@usdoj.gov.

Demand:

**Stop the repression against anti-war and international solidarity activists.

**Immediately return all confiscated materials: computers, cell phones, papers, documents, etc.

**End the grand jury proceedings against these anti-war activists.

National Lawyers Guild Hotline: 888-654-3265

For U.S. activists who have been contacted by the FBI. Callers are matched with NLG defense attorneys in their states who have experience dealing with similar cases.

***Know Your Rights Brochure*:**

www.nlg.org/resources/know-your-rights

A two-page brochure that summarizes the rights of citizens when they are contacted or stopped by the police or federal authorities. Available in English, Spanish, and more.

Ecuador: Coup or Revolt?

[Ed. note: INTERCONNECT has warned about the likelihood of US backing of coups in the eight nations which have elected what the corporate media calls "leftist" presidents, starting with clear US footprints in Venezuela, Haiti, and Honduras. Activists are split, however, on what happened in Ecuador. Police strike? Revolt? Attempted coup d'etat? Whichever it is, the activist storm of protest against possible Washington involvement has served to let Washington know that we are watching closely.]

On 10/1/10 armed police rose up in several cities to protest a misunderstood but perceived threat to their incomes/benefits. Joined by a minority of soldiers they assaulted those around President Correa, exploded tear gas and other grenades near him, and took him to a hospital where he was held prisoner for 12 hours. In the fighting four people were killed and 300 injured. Top army commanders and most army units remained loyal to Correa. Some of them broke into the hospital and liberated him.

Solidarity activists in and out of Ecuador are split on whether this violence was part of a police strike, revolt, or a coup. They also are split on whether the US was involved. The US State Department endorsed Correa immediately (unlike US behavior after the Honduran coup) and called for a return to democracy. Rumors about US funding of the opposition preceding the attack are not yet substantiated, nor is involvement by the CIA.

Honduras Coup Update From the Literature



(One of the 'abuelas' or grandmothers of the resistance movement (on the left), with Oscar, a child, holding a picture of one of the movement's martyrs, Wendy Elizabeth Avila, who was killed due to overexposure to tear gas fired at her, and other peaceful protesters, in September 2009. The man on the right wears a 'cuarta urna' or fourth ballot t-shirt showing support for the convening of a National Constituent Assembly. In behind, a sign is held up - day 445 of resistance to the military coup regime, since the June 28, 2009 coup. Photo: Karen Spring, September 15, 2010)

(Ed. note: Was the 6/8/09 military coup backed by the US – as charged – and the subsequent "election" illegal? The vicious repression since that election has been quietly tolerated by the US. How can we pressure Congress to investigate and reverse our government's decisions if suspicions are proved correct?)

Chuck Kaufman of the Alliance for Global Justice, gave a brief report on the September 15 Resistance March in Teguchigalpa, Honduras (presente-honduras@lists.mayfirst.org). The delegation marched with 50,000 supporters of the National Front for Popular Resistance (FNRP) who carried a petition with 1,270,000 signatures calling for a constituent assembly to:

- rewrite the constitution
- return democracy to Honduras and
- return Honduras to the UN and OAS.

At a concert after the march police in San Pedro Sula attacked those attending, beating the musicians and destroying their instruments, killing one in the crowd and causing eight to be hospitalized.

Twelve journalists have been killed in Honduras so far this year; others have left the country; a total of 300 journalists have been assaulted; and news agencies have been shut down (Prenso Latina, 9/16/10).

"They could kill me for this," stated Roland Valenzuela, previously a senior member of the Zelaya government. He then alleged on a radio interview that the military coup had been planned by six Honduran businessmen meeting in Dubai; and that they paid a 'powerful [US] lobbyist' named Smith to create disinformation about Zelaya.. Soon thereafter Valenzuela was indeed assassinated (from Tom Loudon of the Friendship Office on Latin America, 7/11/10).

Illegal president Lobo was not allowed to speak at the September meeting of the UN General Assembly "because of strong pressure against his presence from all over the world." (from Gerardo-Torres, presente-honduras@lists.mayfirst.org, 9/23/10). However, Lobo was invited to dinner at the White House with President Obama the week of October 4.

US-Venezuela Relations Unchanged

- by Chuck Kaufman,

US-Venezuela relations are characterized by an unrelenting hostility on the part of the US, unchanged by the administration of President Barack Obama, and bolstered by the editorial policy of the Washington Post.

Recent legislative elections in Venezuela resulted in a renewed majority for President Hugo Chavez' United Venezuelan Socialist Party (PSUV). The election, certified as one of the most transparent in the world by observers and opposition parties alike, drew the expected editorial in the Washington Post claiming just the opposite. That provoked a response by Venezuela's Ambassador to the US, Bernardo Alvarez in which he wrote:

"Once again The Washington Post lashes out at Venezuela and misinforms its readers on the country's reality. In its most recent editorial ("How Chavez Lost the Popular Vote – and Won By a Landslide," October 1), not only does the Post attempt to disregard a clean and transparent electoral process, but it also reaches the extreme of blatantly lying about the results, claiming that the opposition coalition managed to obtain 52 percent of the so-called 'popular vote.'"

In addition to the constant demonization and ridicule of President Chavez, the US government spends millions of dollars of our tax money every year to manipulate Venezuela's political system and undermine its democracy. During the 2006 presidential election, I led a delegation of scholars and activists to Venezuela to investigate US interference in the election. The US embassy political officer gave us a curt audience on folding chairs in a room with two-way glass while across the hall a plush conference room, with its door left open, gave a clear message as to how welcome we were.

The diplomat refused to allow us to meet with the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) which administers US support for the opposition. The Associated Press, thanks to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, learned that the US Agency for International Development and National Endowment for Democracy (NED) had given grants totaling \$22 million to opposition parties and "civil" society during the election cycle. The names of the recipients were blacked out.

According to an article by Jeremy Bigwood in the Sept./Oct. issue of NACLA Reports, in May a center-right think tank in Spain, FRIDE, found that since 2002 "the United States has funneled an estimated \$3 million to \$6 million every year to 'small projects with political parties and NGOs' in Venezuela through an alphabet soup of shifting, intertwined channels." The report disappeared from their web page after it was publicized in June.

It is impossible to get a handle on the full level of US interference in Venezuelan democracy. Bigwood learned through his own FOIA filing recently of operation "Fostering Media Freedom in Venezuela." Assuming current funding remains stable, our tax money will to date have paid Venezuelan opposition media and journalists \$1.5 million to attack the Bolivarian movement for participatory democracy. The FOIA did not reveal recipients, but did reveal that unnamed journalists have received 10-year grants of \$25,000 a year to promote the US line. That's a pretty substantial salary supplement by Venezuelan standards, and ten years demonstrates a long-term investment by the US government in "regime" change in Venezuela. It is only one of many hidden programs aimed at destroying Venezuela's experiment in economic justice and participatory democracy.

In August 2011, if there is sufficient interest, I will lead another delegation to Venezuela to investigate and expose US interference in the presidential election. If you are interested in being considered for that delegation, send an email to AFGJ@AFGJ.org.

[The author is National Co-Coordinator, Alliance for Global Justice.]

Revisiting Panama A double book review

- by Malcolm Bell

John Lindsay-Poland, who is co-director of the Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, has given us, not a full history of the U.S. exploitation of Panama, but a meticulously researched account of several significant aspects of it in his *Emperors in the Jungle: The Hidden History of the U.S. in Panama* (Duke University Press, 2003). A second book, *The U.S. Invasion of Panama: The Truth Behind Operation 'Just Cause'* (South End Press, 1991) by The Independent Commission of Inquiry on the U.S. Invasion of Panama, whose members included Ramsey Clark, Michael Ratner, and Rev. Lucius Walker, gives an intense, partly eyewitness account of the war itself and the ironhanded U.S. military occupation that followed. The tone of the latter book is controlled outrage, as befits the outrageous conduct it describes. Here is some of what the books report:

Our 1989 war against Panama was the 20th U.S. military intervention there since 1856, well before that land finally won its independence from Colombia in 1903, only to be split in two by the 10 mile by 50 mile Canal Zone and the canal itself. The Zone became an outpost of Jim Crow, starting with the work on the canal where blacks were paid less and suffered more fatalities than whites. Panama and the canal served Uncle Sam in maintaining a two-ocean navy; dominating the Hemisphere; and testing high explosive, poison gas, and depleted uranium weapons, many of which still booby-trap the land (gases remain as liquids), thanks to the U.S. army's heroic efforts to avoid cleaning up.

During a 14 year period, the U.S. spent tens of millions of dollars exploring a cockamamie plan to dig a second canal on the cheap by exploding a long line of 250 to 300 H-bombs, each bomb being 20 to 2,000 times more powerful than the A-bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Fortunately, the plan died in 1970, sparing millions of Latinos the broken windows, radioactive fallout, rampant cancers, and possible earthquakes that these blasts would have unleashed.

The 1989 war was launched, not to bust Manuel Noriega on a drug charge or because a navy wife was threatened or to restore democracy, but to effect a desired regime change, eliminate the armed forces of Panama, maintain U.S. influence in the Hemisphere, and, the first President Bush apparently hoped, to lay a foundation for extending the U.S. military presence in Panama beyond the 1999 treaty deadline. The war left 1,000 to 4,000 civilians dead; 20,000 or so survivors homeless; 5,000 unionists, professors, political organizers and other suspects locked in concentration camps; and the U.S. in total control. Once Noriega was in U.S. custody, our media signed off. Fortunately, these two books and a precious few others tell the knowable balance of the shameful tale.

Twin Handmaids of Aggression

Commentary by Malcolm Bell

Victory in the 1989 war against Panama included a little noted propaganda victory that seduced even the authors of the two books reviewed elsewhere herein, namely, officials and compliant media dubbed the war an "invasion." Actually, it was an invasion, conquest, regime change, and occupation. Calling the war an invasion was like calling a hand a thumb. Same for the 1983 Grenada war.

Since our Constitution empowers only Congress to start a war, this misnomer protected the President from being charged with usurping power and violating his oath to uphold the Constitution. Which is exactly what he did. A high crime? Treason? Impeachable? Violation of the laws against starting a war of aggression? Not at all. Just say war is invasion. Better to torture the language than charge the President. Especially since we won. Or did we?

A second ploy to make a war palatable for a public that doesn't like to kill civilians is to fudge the number of civilians we kill. The first official figure for Panama, 84, was so obviously a lie that officials raised it to 516. Actually it was at least 1,000 and likely 4,000 or more, but they made their lies hard to challenge by whisking bodies into at least 14 mass graves, just one of which would later yield 124 bodies. Soldiers also reportedly used flame throwers to incinerate bodies beyond recognition, and tossed others into the sea. Contrast this with the extraordinary efforts made to return the remains of every last G.I. killed in Vietnam to their loved ones for proper burial. Didn't Panamanians, too, yearn for the remains of their loved ones?

Later U.S. officials applied the lesson of Panama to Iraq. Rather than be caught lying about the number of civilians killed, they have simply refused to offer a number -- an egregious censorship in a land that touts free speech and informed debate.

Colombia: Updates from the Literature

- On 8/17/10 the Constitutional Court of Colombia ruled the US-Colombia agreement on military bases invalid. Both the US and Colombia are actively considering ending it (See INTERCONNECT 7/10 "Continental Campaign Against Foreign Military Bases" by Moira Birns, who reported on that agreement, signed 10/09, allowing US troops unfettered access to seven Colombian military bases).
- One unauthorized military training exercise to unspecified Colombian forces was conducted by Blackwater (renamed XeServices) (Narco News 8/24/10, thanks to Timoteo Jeffries).
- On 8/10/10 new President Santos and President Chavez of Venezuela agreed to normalize ties (undoing former-President Uribe's charge that Venezuela had harbored FARC guerillas, a charge already dropped by the OAS).

Chavez says, "I will not tolerate the presence of guerillas in Venezuelan territory." (Center for Economic and Policy Research [CEPR], 9/2/10).

- 120 US intellectuals and progressive organizations urged President Santos to foster peace in a letter sent also to UNASUR and the OAS (thanks to Chuck Kaufman, Alliance for Global Justice).

- 4.5 million people (over 10% of the population) are now displaced in Colombia (CEPR 9/2/10).

Small Presence Generates Large Debate

-by Jamie Way

On July 1st of this year, the Costa Rican legislature granted permission to move 46 US warships (with the capacity to carry 7,000 marines and around 200 helicopters) into Costa Rican territory. The agreement, due to expire at the end of this year, has ignited a heated political debate in Costa Rica.

Due to the controversy, President Laura Chinchilla was forced to state that Costa Rica would not be cooperating with foreign armies, including the United States. However, she has emphasized the importance of US cooperation in addressing drug trafficking. According to the Centre Daily Times, Secretary of State Clinton said, "...small countries in Central America do not have the capacity (to address drug trafficking) and the newly inaugurated president of Costa Rica, Chinchilla, said, "We need help and we need a much more vigorous US presence."

The United Social Christian Party (PUSC) was among those leading the fight against granting permission to the US. Luis Fishman brought a claim before the Constitutional Court challenging the constitutionality of the agreement.

The court has agreed to hear the case. However, activist groups have organized ad campaigns, concerts and protests against the agreement. In a country that has consciously decided to go without a military, the tradition of pacifism is a strong motivator for political action.

Although one US warship, the USS Iwo Jima, was allowed to dock in Limon at the end of August, it appears to be the only confirmed docking, and it was said to be on a humanitarian mission. It appears that the massive US military presence that was planned will not move forward this year. It is likely, however, that the new year will bring a reinvigorated debate if the US seeks permission again.

[The author is with the Alliance for Global Justice.]

[Ed. note: This apparent turn-around should be credited to the Costa Rican people, who objected vigorously; their Constitutional Court; their Latin American neighbors who objected strenuously – and our solidarity movement!]

Let's Join Our Voices Together for Immigrant Rights

Reprinted with permission from Isabel Garcia and George Shriver, two of the authors in the Grassroots Immigrant Justice, a group recently formed by leaders in the immigrant rights and labor movements across the country.)

In the midst of an uncertain political climate, we are proposing a different approach to discussing the issue of immigration; one that is based on the needs and wants of the immigrant community. We need to generate a national debate based on immigration as a labor mobility and human rights issue, not as an issue of national security and enforcement. Immigrants have made vast contributions to the U.S., and they should be granted the right to live here legally and without fear. We should recognize migration as the global phenomenon it is and address the root economic causes of migration.

The principles guiding the national debate around immigration reform should consist of:

1. Build bridges between the peoples of the U.S. and Mexico instead of walls that segregate them and turn them into competitors in a struggle for survival. Take immediate action to stop the deaths along the border and end border militarization.
2. Analyze the effects of free trade agreements like NAFTA on the economies of "sender" countries. End all economic and foreign policies that leave people in "sender" countries with no choice but to migrate in order to support their families.
3. Provide a clear and easy legalization program for the millions of undocumented immigrants who have built their homes here and contributed greatly to the prosperity of the U.S. economy. All immigrants deserve the full rights accorded to U.S. citizens, not a second-class status.
4. Clear the backlogs of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have been waiting to legalize their status since the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Allow more families to reunite with their loved ones by expanding the definition of "family" under current immigration law.
5. Bracero-style guest worker programs and other forms of labor exploitation should be eliminated, and the labor system made to benefit workers and their families, not corporations and agribusiness. Increased labor protections for immigrant workers should also include the freedom of movement between jobs and across national borders.
6. End the criminalization of work through the use of I-9 audits, E-verify, "silent raids," and other tactics used to carry out mass firings of workers. All workers, immigrants included, have the right to work and seek work without the fear of retaliation.

7. Immigrants and their families have the right to live in their communities without fear. Stop the raids and deportations, end 'enforcement first' policies like 287(g) and Secure Communities, eliminate the privatization of the detention system, and decriminalize the status of undocumented workers. Extend equal rights to all by ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers.

Now more than ever, we are living in a time of great uncertainty, when political, verbal, and physical attacks on immigrants are becoming increasingly commonplace. Immigrant workers and their families are living in a place of increasing fear, while politicians debate laws to take away birthright citizenship and detention centers are constantly filled with people waiting to be torn from their families. Recent proposals for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, such as Gutierrez's CIR ASAP and Schumer's REPAIR proposal, focus on increased enforcement and limited paths to citizenship, and have become political deadweights with little hope of being passed.

In fact, instead of protecting worker's rights, recent Comprehensive Immigration Reform proposals (by Rep. Luis Gutierrez and Sens. Schumer and Menendez, among others) have all included tools used to conduct workplace raids, break unions, and fire workers by the thousands. E-verify is already being used by many companies to check the immigration status of new hires, but the REPAIR proposal goes even farther. It includes a plan for a nation-wide biometric ID system that would affect not just immigrant workers, but all workers. CIR proposals also allow the continued use of I-9 audits (also known as "silent raids") and home raids, which have often targeted union organizers and funnel immigrant workers into the for-profit detention system.

At the same time, companies that have been exploiting immigrant workers often face few consequences for their abuse. Guest worker programs are offered as a solution for the "labor shortage" we face, yet politicians fail to recognize that these programs were notorious for their exploitation of immigrant workers in the past. Instead of focusing on the root causes of migration, such as economic trade policies like NAFTA, U.S. companies remain free to exploit immigrant labor.

These proposals for Comprehensive Immigration Reform have also included provisions to increase militarization of the border and to draft low-income students of color into the military. The DREAM Act would give the children of undocumented immigrants the option to either attend a university or join the military in order to "earn" their papers. Meanwhile, thousands of Latino students drop out of high school every year and will never have the opportunity to go to college at all. The poverty draft has affected communities of color for decades, and this is no exception. After the DREAM Act was recently attached to the Defense Department's appropriations bill, student organizer Raúl Al-qaraz Ochoa wrote in a passionate letter, "Passage of the DREAM Act would definitely be a step forward in the struggle for

Migrant Justice. Yet the politicians in Washington have hijacked this struggle from its original essence and turned dreams into ugly political nightmares."

Immigrant workers provide some of the most needed services in the U.S., but are treated like second-class citizens and daily face the threat of separation from their families. Immigrant workers are facing many of the same problems and discrimination that have affected working class communities of color in the past and present. Instead of allowing politicians to divide and conquer, we must stand in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters as "One Nation Working Together." We must recognize that our struggles are inextricably linked. Now is the time to engage with our communities in honest dialogue and continue to hold our elected officials accountable to the vision of justice coming from the immigrant communities that make up our nation. As we stand shoulder to shoulder today in Washington, D.C., we raise our voices together: "We shall overcome! ¡Venceremos!"

[To learn more or to sign the Open Letter on Immigration Reform, contact JN at www.grassrootsimmigrantjusticenetwork.blogspot.com.]

¡Presente! Rev. Lucius Walker

Executive Director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace

Our friend and hero, whom we all called Lucius.



Lucius Walker with Fidel Castro

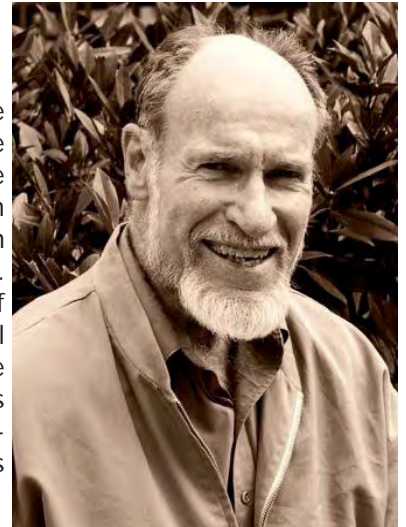
Lucius Walker died at age 80 on September 7, 2010, having just celebrated his Birthday. This was also the day the 21st Friendshipment completed delivery – again without a license – of 100 tons of humanitarian aid to the people of Cuba. Lucius always told us, "I would rather obey the laws of God than those of the United States." Having successfully challenged the Cuban embargo for twenty one years his was one of the greatest examples of civil disobedience and non-violent resistance in our country.

Rev. Luis Barrios, a close friend and member of his Board of Directors, said, "He is not just a leader, he is also a prophet in this struggle for peace with justice." In Cuba the newspaper Granma said that "Cubans, in gratitude, don't want to think of a world without Lucius Walker."

¡Presente! William R. Callahan

Father Bill Callahan, the Jesuit priest who became a great innovator for peace and justice, especially in Central America, died on July 11, 2010, at age 78. One of the founders of the Quixote Center, Bill "dreamed the impossible dream of justice" all his life. Here are a few highlights from the life of this remarkable man. He:

- founded the Center of Concern – for global justice, in 1971.
 - founded Priests for Equality in 1975, summoning the Church to act out the words of justice proclaimed by the Second Vatican Council.
 - was one of three founders of the Quixote Center in 1976.
 - was silenced by the Jesuits in 1980 for calling for the ordination of women.
 - testified before Congress against the contras and the US economic embargo of Nicaragua and was part of Catholics Speak Out (on behalf of Nicaragua) in the 1980's.
 - was dismissed by the Order of Jesuits in the 1990's.
 - became so involved with Haiti that in 1991 he founded Haiti Reborn at the Quixote Center.
- For more, go to: www.quixote.org/blog/funeral-mass-and-memorial-service-bill-callahan



Thank you!

We appreciate donations from:

Massachusetts	Joseph and Mary Palen
New Jersey	Jean B. Quandt
Pennsylvania	Richard Carroll
Washington	Patty and Jerry Rasmussen

A Solidarity Glossary

ALBA	Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) *+ - Bank of ALBA
CELAS	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States *+x
MERCOSUR	Union of South American Nations. Regional trade agreement including five full member nations and five associate members
UNASUR	The Union of South American Nations The South American Defense Council is an agency of UNASUR *+x
PARLACEN	Central American Parliament
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* excludes US and Canada+ includes Cubax excludes Honduras

RESOURCES

Major Events

11/18-21 **Close the SOA!** SOA Watch Annual Vigil. Columbus, GA (Ft. Benning). 11/18 (Thursday) LASC (Latin America Solidarity Coalition) strategy planning conference re US militarization.

11/29-12/10 **16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.** Cancun, Mexico. (COP is in Copenhagen. www.viacampesinos.org).

Spring 2011 **LASC V in Washington, DC.** National conference on US militarization of Latin America. Details forthcoming. Probably April 8-10 (see www.lasolidarity.org).

Campaigns

- **Break the Chains of Debt.** For cancellation of international debt, especially World Bank/IMF debt of poor countries. www.jubileeusa.org.

- **Vulture Funds:** Press Congress to prohibit profiteering from poor country debt relief. www.jubileeusa.org.

- **End Haiti's debt** (The World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank cancelled that debt after the earthquake. However, The IMF gave a \$60 million new loan and the future cost to Haiti is still unclear).

- **Cuba: Lift the Travel Embargo.** (64% of Cuban-Americans in Miami now support a unilateral lifting).

1. Contact IFCO/Pastors for Peace at www.ifconews.org. IFCO's goals are ending the embargo, freeing the Cuban Five, taking Cuba off the US State Department's "terrorist list," and normalizing relations.

2. Pressure Congress to pass HR 4645, the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act. To find out status of the bill and whether your Representative is a co-sponsor go to: www.govtrack.us/congress/bill?bill=h111-4645.

- **Cuba: Free the Cuban Five.** The Five have been imprisoned over 12 years. On 8/3/10 Gerardo Hernandez was released from solitary confinement. www.freethefive.org.

- **Campaign to "reject the failed free trade model' and NAFTA** – and to support H.R. 3012: Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act of 2010. See: www.citizen.org/documents/TRADEActFactSheet2009.pdf and, to check out status and co-sponsors of HR 3012: www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h111-3012. For an excellent letter to the White House and Congress contact the Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ) www.afgj.org.

Special Reports

- **Making the Grade? The G20's Commitments to the World's Poorest** (Jubilee USA, www.jubileeusa.org).

- **Latin America and Twenty-first Century Socialism** (Monthly Review, vol. 62, No. 3, July/Aug). \$12 to the Journal at 146 W 29th St. #6W, New York, NY 10001.

- **Empire's Apprentice: Canada in Latin America** (NACLA Report on the Americas, 5/6/10, Vo 43, No. 3).

Books

Debt, the IMF and the World Bank: sixty questions, sixty answers, by Eric Toussaint (author of *The World Bank* and President, Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt, Belgium).

Dancing with Dynamite: Social Movements and States in Latin America [Paperback] by Ben Dangl, AK Press 2010. "Ben Dangl breaks the sound barrier, exploding many myths about Latin America that are all-too-often amplified by the corporate media in the United States. Read this much-needed book." Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now!

Movie: "South of the Border", directed by Oliver Stone; written by Tariq Ali and Mark Weisbrot. Now playing in US theatres. From Democracy Now: "Stone takes a road trip across South America, meeting with seven presidents about the revolution sweeping the continent. The leftist transformation in the region might be ignored or misrepresented as nothing but "anti-Americanism" in the corporate media, but this film seeks to tell a different story."

Youtube: Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VfS5sjlm0> and hear Rochester, NY, activist and Raging Granny, Vicki Ryder perform "Help me Understand," a song that she says "bubbled up in me in July 2010 when I heard that the U.S. was sending 7,000 Marines and 46 warships to Costa Rica to fight a 'war on drugs.' I'm 68 years old, and my country's been waging one war or another my whole life! Enough!"

Job Opening

CISPES National Organizer. Based in Washington, DC. The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. alexis@cispes.org or 202-521-2510, ext. 205.

Travel (see Codes below)

Border: 4/23-26(GX immigration, labor, environment).

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

Colombia: 1/14-24 (WP US military assistance and human rights); 4/16-23 (CPT Colombians or for others who are fluent in Spanish and have substantial first-hand experience of the Colombian context.).

Costa Rica: 11/20-29 (GX eco-tourism).

Cuba: 12/27-1/5 (GX New Years in Havana); 12/27-1/5 (GX health care); 12/27-1/5 (GX sustainable development); 1/14-23 (GX law, legal system); 1/16-29 (WP professional research delegations); 2/11-20 (GX sustainable agriculture); 2/12-20 (GX environmental education); 3/4-13 (GX health care); 3/25-4/3 (GX public education); 4/1-10 (GX sustainable architecture, urban planning); 4/2-10 (GX renewable energy); 4/23-5/2 (GX labor, law, health rights).

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

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

El Salvador: 11/29-12/5 (CRISPAZ. 30th anniversary of the 4 martyred US churchwomen, 513-381-4520 or www.crispaz.org); 11/29-12/6 (SHARE, 30th anniversary of martyred churchwomen joseartigae@gmail.com; 510-848-8487); 3/19-28 (GATE improving El Salvador from within, trade agreements, emigration).

Guatemala: 11/13-21 (Social Impact Adventures. Mayana culture, micro-finance, 612-751-3524, cristina@socialimpactadventures.com); 4/13-23 (GATE Holy Week).

Mexico: 12/27-1/4 (GX Chiapas, indigenous land rights, Anniversary of NAFTA, the Zapatistas); ¼-15 (GATE Mexico City and Chiapas); 1/29-2/6 (GATE); 3/17-25 (GX Chiapas, indigenous, land rights).

Nicaragua: 1/12-21 (WP sustainable development, fair trade); 1/15-24

(GX fair harvest); 1/15-25 (WP health care, human rights).

Venezuela: 11/20-30 (GX new vision for the Americas); 1/8-18 (GX grassroots); 5/21-31 (GX community-based organizing, Bolivarian revolution); 2/20-3/2 (GATE Caracas and countryside, govt. representatives and church leaders).

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.

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

Movement News in Brief

Mexico: On 9/15 Sec. of State Clinton said, "We face an increasing threat from a well-organized network of drug trafficking...morphing into an insurgency in Mexico and in Central America...more and more like Colombia looked 20 years ago..." (Laura Carlsen, "Plan Colombia for Mexico," Counterpunch, 9/16/10 – thanks to Robert Roth).

Nicaragua: President Daniel Ortega: "How can anyone explain US involvement in the coup in Honduras...the world is changing. The US isn't changing its expansionary and imperialistic policy (Russia Today, 8/23-10).

El Salvador: On 9/2/10 39 of our allied groups in the Alliance for Responsible Trade (ART) wrote President Obama to oppose two law suits via the trade agreement CAFTA-DR, one by Pacific Rim (Canadian Mining Corp.), the other by the US-based Converse Group Corp, against El Salvador's refusal to allow mining due to environmental violations.

Guatemala: On 7/3/10 US Trade Representative Ron Kirk filed the first US complaint via CAFTA-DR against Guatemala for violating labor standards (Council on Hemispheric Affairs memo).

Honduras: United Students Against Sweatshops and the Worker Rights Consortium (now including 186 universities) have forced Nike to pay \$154 million in severance pay to 1800 workers in Honduras who lost their jobs when two subcontractors closed their factories. This followed long campaigns at Cornell University and the U. of Wisconsin (thanks to the Alliance for global Justice).

Arizona-Mexico border: (1) Although President Obama condemned Arizona's new anti-immigrant law SB 1070, in May he ordered 1200 National Guard troops deployed to the border; and the Administration remains committed to Operation Steamline that criminalizes undocumented migration. An average of 70 people per weekday are convicted in Tucson with prison time from 30 days to six months (NACLA Report on the Americas 7/8/10). (2) National guard troops are now patrolling Arizona border (The Arizona Republic, 10/9/10). (3) When undocumented immigrants are picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and rapidly placed in detention centers, most of them essentially become invisible and voiceless for weeks, if not months or years. It's common for

someone arrested in New York to be shipped to a detention center out of state, even as far as Texas, making it difficult for family members, friends, lawyers or advocates to visit them and learn about their story. What happens in these detention centers, and how people end up there, is often difficult to investigate. ICE is tight-lipped, and the general public only learns about "shocking" conditions and "routine violations" in the detention system through news articles. (news.feetintwoworlds.org, "Lifting the Veil from the Immigrant Detention System," 10/6/10).

Brazil: The presidential election will go to a runoff on Oct. 31 which will decide whether President Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva's foreign policy, independent of the US, will continue. The LA Times reported on 10/4 that Workers Party's Rouseff (who favors the President's policy) came first in the three-way election but short of 50%. The opposition conservative Sevia is opposed (Nikolas Rozloff, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 9/8/10).

Latin America: School of the Americas Watch's director, Father Roy Bourgeois, has written his Maryknoll community to support the idea of women priests. Maryknoll has withheld its \$17,000 contribution for this year (Rochester Catholic Worker, Fall, 2010).

Cuba: On 10/1 a NY Times op-ed by Julia Sweig states that US-Cuba policy is "bereft of credibility, accomplishing nothing, and missing what American allies have" – taking advantage of President Raoul Castro's travel and business opportunities in "Cuba oil, minerals, tourism, infrastructure, agriculture and biotech."

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