

Magazine

THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE

SPECIAL EDITION – DECEMBER 2019



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THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE

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The right to live
poet Ho Chi Minh,
who struck from Vietnam
all of humanity.
No cannon will wipe out
the furrow of your rice
paddy.
The right to live in peace.

Indochina is the place
beyond the wide sea,
where they ruin the flower
with genocide and napalm.
The moon is an explosion
that blows out all the clamor.
The right to live in peace.

Uncle Ho, our song
is fire of pure love,
it's a dovecote dove,
olive from an olive grove.
It is the universal song,
chain that will triumph,
the right to live in peace.

(Víctor Jara)



We would like to thank the writers that collaborated with us on this edition.

Song: www.fundacionvictorjara.org - Cover Photo: www.soaw.org

Photos: SOAWatch, Denver Justice & Peace Committee and Internet

Translation to English: SOAW and Emily Rosenzweig

This magazine is made by SOAW Chile, which is a member of the Agrupación de Familiares de Ejecutados Políticos (AFEP), Corporación 3 y 4 Álamos, Comunidad Ecuémica Martín Luther King, Comité Óscar Romero, and Comisión Ética Contra la Tortura (CECT).

SOAW in Chile works with SOA Watch

SOA Watch, founded in the US, is a movement that fights to close the School of the Americas, end foreign militarization in Latin America, and end border imperialism.

Website: www.soaw.org - www.soawlatina.org

This November 16, 2019, marked 30 years since the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women in El Salvador. This day was significant for SOAW's founder, Roy Bourgeois, because it led him, along with thousands of activists, to fight to close the School of the Americas and end US interventionism which has only caused suffering, violence, and poverty in Latin America.

We remember that of the 25 soldiers who participated in the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) massacre, 19 trained and graduated from the School of the Americas in the US.

Though the names of the School of the Americas graduates of the last two decades are kept secret, in Latin America we keep discovering new cases of human rights abuses that implicate police and military officers in the repression of social movement activists demanding social justice.

More recently, in Haiti, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, and Chile, to name a few, we've witnessed the military and the police violently repressing social protest. Also, on the US-Mexico border, we've witnessed how the Border Patrol murders immigrants with complete impunity.

In short, the US's logic of "fighting the enemy" is upheld by SOA/WHINSEC and other military and police schools, which intend to neutralize social movements that fight for social and economic rights through violence, murder, and torture.

On this 30 year anniversary of the UCA massacre, we reaffirm our commitment to continue to challenge the "economic oppression" imposed by the US, or neoliberalism, and to continue fighting for an end to military, economic, and political interventionism that the US continues to impose upon our peoples.

At the close of this issue, sadly, we must recognize the coup d'état in Bolivia against President Evo Morales. Williams Kaliman, the Commander in Chief of the Military of Bolivia, graduate of the School of the Americas, asked for Evo Morales's resignation in the context of an operation to usurp the legitimate power of Morales by force.

According to the outlet The Grayzone, **"The United States played a key and direct role in the military coup in Bolivia."**

Directory of Latin American Organizations

Agrupación de Familiares de Ejecutados Políticos - Chile - www.afepchile.cl
 Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos - Argentina - www.apdh-argentina.org.ar
 Consejo Mundial por la Paz - www.wpc-in.org
 Comisión Ética Contra la Tortura - Chile - www.contralatortura.cl
 Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz - Colombia - www.justiciaypazcolombia.com
 Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo - Colombia - www.colectivodeabogados.org
 Comité de Familiares Detenidos y Desaparecidos en Honduras - www.cofadeh.org www.defensoresenlinea.com
 Corporación 3 y 4 Álamos - Chile - www.3y4alamos.cl
 Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (COPINH) - www.copinh.org
 Movimiento por la Paz, la Soberanía y la Solidaridad entre los Pueblos - Argentina - www.mopassol.com.ar
 Servicio Paz y Justicia - SERPAJ - www.serpajamericalatina.org - www.serpajchile.cl - www.serpajpy.org.py
www.adolfoperezquivel.org
 SICSAL - Servicio Internacional Cristiano de Solidaridad con los pueblos de América Latina - www.sicsal.net
 Jubileo Sur - www.jubileosuramericas.net - Fundación Lazos de Dignidad - www.fundacionlazosdedignidad.net
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SOA/WHINSEC graduate coup in Bolivia: US-backed regime massacres demonstrators

By SOA Watch

On November 10, 2019, two-time WHINSEC graduate and Commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces, General Williams Kaliman ‘suggested’ that Bolivian President Evo Morales resign. General Kaliman’s statement came after post-election protests bolstered by a false narrative of election fraud promoted by the US-dominated Organization of American States (OAS), a police mutiny, and a vicious campaign of violence by the far right-wing against members of President Morales’ political party, the Movement for Socialism (MAS). This included violent public attacks on MAS officials, burning their homes, and kidnapping family members. As a result, Morales and all three elected officials constitutionally in line to replace him — Vice-President, head of the Senate, head of the Chamber of Deputies — all resigned, citing a coup d’état. The Mexican government sent an airplane to rescue Morales and granted him and other MAS leaders political asylum, which Morales credits with saving his life.

The United States promptly recognized Jeanine Áñez, a right-wing senator, as President of Bolivia when she declared herself as such in a Legislative session without a quorum where only minority opposition legislators were present. In fact, the Bolivian Legislative Assembly, in which MAS holds a majority, had not even accepted Morales’ resignation, as is required for it to become official. The US attempt to normalize the coup government has been paralleled in the corporate media, which has whitewashed events in Bolivia and created a narrative that legitimates Áñez as president.

As Indigenous people and others throughout Bolivia protest the coup, the US-backed de facto regime has been brutally massacring them, with approximately 30 people killed since the coup.

COUP IN BOLIVIA: SOA/WHINSEC GRADUATES AND US-BACKING



Áñez issued a decree granting impunity from criminal prosecution to military and police forces who kill and shoot protesters, giving the military and police license to kill. On November 15, 2019, a joint military-police operation opened fire on Indigenous demonstrators in Sacaba, killing at least 9 people and seriously injuring many, many more. On November 19, 2019, the regime again massacred demonstrators, killing at least 8 people in Senkata.

At least 6 SOA/WHINSEC graduates played a role in the coup d’état in Bolivia. Two-time WHINSEC graduate General Kaliman was trained in a course for future military Chiefs of Staff and Commanders in 2003 and attended WHINSEC again in 2004. WHINSEC’s training of future heads of militaries is precisely to establish a US relationship with high ranking military officials to advance US goals, with WHINSEC’s Commander recently expaining “the relationships they built here...it helps them get things done.” The US ‘relationship’ with Kaliman was not limited to WHINSEC,

but Kaliman also served in Washington DC as military attaché for Bolivia's Embassy, as reported in this extensive investigation by Jeb Sprague on US connections to the Bolivian coup. Furthermore, Sprague found that:

'Within the Bolivian police, top commanders who helped launch the coup have passed through the APALA police exchange program. Working out of Washington DC, APALA functions to build relations between U.S. authorities and police officials from Latin American states....The late Philip Agee, a one-time CIA case officer who became the agency's first whistleblower, explained in his 1975 tell-all book how US intelligence traditionally relied on the recruitment of foreign military and police officers, including embassy attachés, as critical assets in regime change and counter-insurgency operations.'

Sprague also reports on leaked audio recordings published in the Bolivian press that reveal 'covert coordination took place between current and former Bolivian police, military, and opposition leaders in bringing about the coup... coup plotters discuss(ed) plans to set ablaze government buildings, get pro-business unions in the country to carry out strikes, as well as other tactics – all straight out of the CIA playbook.' At least 5 of them are SOA/ WHINSEC graduates. This includes SOA graduate Manfred Reyes Villa, SOA 'Distinguished Graduate' General Remberto Siles Vazquez, 1998 SOA graduate Colonel Julio César Maldonado Leoni — who also served as an instructor at WHINSEC from 2001 to 2003, two-time SOA graduate Colonel Oscar Pacello Aguirre, and SOA graduate Colonel Teobaldo Cardozo Guevara. The audios also show they understood they had the support of US Senators, including Marco Rubio.

The US and Bolivia's right-wing have long wanted to oust Morales and MAS so that Bolivia's resources, including lithium, can once again be plundered by multi-national corporations. MAS has transformed Bolivia since Morales became the country's first-ever Indigenous President in 2006, elected with impressive popular and social

movement support. Morales and MAS created a new Constitution, made Bolivia into a plurinational state, and dramatically reduced poverty and inequality, creating an Indigenous middle class for the first time. They nationalized or increased state revenues from resources that previously primarily profited transnational corporations, using this to significantly improve life for the great majority of Bolivians. MAS governments opened hospitals and expanded access to medical care and education, dramatically reduced illiteracy, and increased the minimum wage. In implementing economic policies that benefited the majority of Bolivian people, Morales challenged US imperialism and its institutions of neoliberal control such as the IMF and World Bank, as well as Bolivia's right-wing elite.

In the process of carrying out and attempting to justify the coup, several narratives have been pushed and widely disseminated. One narrative is that of election fraud, alleged by the right-wing even before the elections took place and then promoted by the US-dominated Organization of American States (OAS), bolstering weeks of post-election protests against the supposed fraud that were co-opted by the far-right.





The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) has done an extensive analysis of the so-called irregularities the OAS used to question the election results and found no evidence of fraud; moreover they have concluded the OAS misrepresented reality.

Bolivian election authorities had reported that Morales had received slightly more than the 10% advantage required to avoid a runoff election; regardless, Morales even agreed to call new elections after the OAS report.

Additionally, much has been made of the fact that Morales was running for a fourth term based on a Constitutional Court ruling despite losing a referendum on the topic and other criticisms of Morales. It has been widely written about that these factors resulted in discontent and a reduction of support compared to Morales' previous landslide re-election victories (for context, a just over 10% margin of victory compared to his previous 37% margin of victory). Of course there are critiques of Morales, as there are with any president, and in fact some social movements have criticized Morales for not breaking enough with the global extractivist economy. However, how many terms a president can have and other issues are debates for the Bolivian people to have and resolve, NEVER justifications for US interference to help the far-right seize power through a coup.

The Bolivian people and social movements are fully capable of advancing the process of constructing the future they want; to claim otherwise to justify a coup and the imposition of a US-backed non-elected regime is racist and imperialist.

At the end of the day, the US-backed racist coup in Bolivia is not only against Morales but also against the Bolivian people's process of self-determination and their right to determine their own economic and political policies. It is this process that originally brought Morales and MAS to power. Now, Bolivia's Indigenous people and social movements are the targets of violence, being literally massacred in the streets by the police and military, and regime officials have threatened to detain MAS senators and arrest journalists. The Wiphala flag, representing the Indigenous peoples of the Andes, has been burned. Any possibility of democratic discussion about the future they want and the best way to construct it has been replaced by violence and racism, with a self-proclaimed far-right racist president who has literally said she wants to make Bolivia 'free of satanic indigenous rituals'.

SOA Watch thoroughly condemns the US-backed coup in Bolivia and we stand in solidarity with the Bolivian people who are once again struggling against US imperialism and a far-right dictatorship, which seeks to return their country's significant natural resources to multinational corporations and the elite for plundering, sink the majority back into poverty by imposing neoliberal economic policies, implement fascist and racist control, and deploy the military and police to murder with impunity.



Hegemony and Domination

We must understand the issue of hegemony as a well thought out organizational structure. Today this structure or superstructure has a higher vertex where the United States is.

The US always says that Latin America is its “backyard.” The problem is that we are 33 backyards -- if we were only one facing the capitalist hegemony of US empire, it would be another story.

What are the factors of hegemony?

The cultural hegemony of empire makes us believe that the Western world, the Christian model, would not be possible without the cultural base that the West imposes on us, from the manner of dressing, walking, and expressing ourselves. Cultural hegemony is perhaps the most important and influential element of worldmaking.

Nuclear hegemony: When Trump agrees to talk with North Korean President Kim Jong-un, we are witnessing a change in the world. The change is that today, the US or imperialism doesn’t respect countries that don’t possess nuclear capacity.

The world is now entering a difficult era regarding important issues like the safety of our nations and of all the peoples of the world, facing the possibility of a nuclear catastrophe initiated, obviously, by the US. What we can be sure of is that neither China, nor Russia, nor India, nor Pakistan, will start such a war.

Today nuclear hegemony is in dispute, as it is no longer clear that the US has its hands on the nuclear controls of the world. Is this more dangerous? I believe the US is more dangerous with all the cultural, political, and economic power and, above all, the power to detonate or not to detonate an Armageddon. Therefore, I view it as a positive that there is some room for balance in the issue of nuclear hegemony.



In terms of financial hegemony, the world is changing -- fortunately for the better, I would say -- because there is not a single source of power or financial axis that emanates from the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, and the New York Stock Exchange, as they are already beginning to face competition with other world actors.

Food hegemony: It is a great achievement that courts, even in the US, have condemned Bayer-Monsanto, one of the largest, most perverse business associations in the history of mankind. Monsanto poisons the people and Bayer tries to cure them. Today there are four businesses in the world that dominate the technology of transgenic seeds. The world’s food security is in danger.

Energy hegemony: It is well known that the US and Europe intend to dominate both the energy sources and energy routes given that oil supposedly runs out. Therefore, they want to dominate the remaining oil to continue accumulating “capital” for the arrival of the New World Energy Order.

Hegemony of the routes: A geopolitical conflict is about to erupt in the Strait of Hormuz for cultural and religious reasons, with Israel and Saudi Arabia facing Iran. We are also witnessing the war of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries against Yemen, precisely for trying to maintain dominance over the Gulf of Aden.

Cybernetic hegemony: This is the extraordinary capacity to exercise influence over the performance in terms of development, exchange, and knowledge. We know that this is essentially concentrated in no more than ten countries. Fortunately, China and India are among these countries.

Hegemony of drugs: The US, for example, from 15 thousand kilometers away, at a drone control center, is able to launch a missile through the window of a humble home in the Middle East and kill an entire family. But the US, curiously, with all its technology and radars and planes and satellites is incapable of intercepting drugs that arrive in the US from Colombia and Peru.

The US is also incapable of intercepting illegal arms trafficking. The planes that arrive with drugs then return to Peru and Colombia with guns and ammunition. The US also cannot detect the movement of its own dollars; they do not know how dollars were once freshly printed in federal reserve are then transported in packages by the millions in an airplane, which is also not detected. This undetected airplane on US territory leaves an airport and then transports this money, like the weapons, to Colombia and Peru. Why? Because of the power of drugs.



Ambassador to Venezuela in Chile, Arévalo Méndez Romero

Communicational hegemony: The media are very knowledgeable about the issues of cultural, political, geopolitical, economic, and financial hegemony, so we must not overlook these elements.

Historically, the US has always had three major fears: the growth of China, the loss of dollar hegemony in the world economy, and Latin American unity.

If we come together, this continent would have a different story. The US is desperate because the Organization of American States has renewed its role that it was assigned when it was founded: to ensure that geopolitics in this continent, its natural resources, water, everything, work in favor of the US economy.

There is a theorist who says that if the world ends immediately and only the American continent remains, Canada and the United States have their future secured.

They do not need Asia, or Africa, or Europe -- they just need Latin America and the Caribbean so that they feel satisfied and comfortable in the house that they believe is theirs.

* This text is a summary of the speech of Ambassador to Venezuela in Chile, Arévalo Méndez Romero, presented on May 16, 2018 in the Le Monde Diplomatique bookstore in Santiago, Chile. This event was organized by a local chapter of SOAW in Chile.

Chile: Stop sending soldiers to School of the Americas

By Carlos González*

The principle aim of our organization, School of the Americas Watch in Chile, is to close this school that creates torturers and murderers. This is not an understatement -- far from it.

These torturers and murderers are known as “outstanding students” of this school throughout our continent. They have been active coup leaders and have enacted repression upon our people for decades. In Chile, they formed DINA (1) and its “merits” were killing and torturing thousands of fellow countrymen, in defense of their imperialist interests.

Chile is ranked second (behind Colombia) in sending more soldiers to School of the Americas than any other country in the world. Obviously, this concerns us and occupies much of our time. We do not want Chile to send any more soldiers or police officers to this military school. We do not want these “students” to end up murdering and torturing in Chile nor anywhere else.

To achieve this goal, at the end of last year, we spoke with the former president of the International Relations Commission of the House of Representatives, Representative Pablo Vidal, to whom we expressed our concerns about Chilean soldiers being trained at the School of the Americas.

This past June we had the chance to speak with the new president of the International Relations Commission of the House of Representatives, Representative Jaime Naranjo.

Representative Naranjo was very cordial and listened to us attentively, and once we shared our views, he voiced his agreement with our demands.

Representative Naranjo opposes sending Chilean soldiers to School of the Americas, and shared two elements that we wanted to include:



First, that this decision is made under the power of the House of Representatives and second, that he would speak with Representative Jorge Britto, president of the Defense Commission about this topic, with the goal to join forces and draw up a resolution as a Chamber to not send any more soldiers to the School of the Americas.

We hope that this process has begun, as it will definitely be long, complicated, and not without conflict. These issues are not easy, but we are happy to make a contribution, no matter how small, so that once and for all leaders decide to end the creation of torturers and murderers, who could brutalize our children and grandchildren at any moment, just as they did with us. Unfortunately, today they are brutalizing indigenous communities precisely because the police and the armed forces train in places like the US and Colombia that have a track record for creating murderers.

* Member of School of the Americas Watch in Chile and survivor of the clandestine detention center known as 3 y 4 Álamos.

(1) DINA or National Intelligence Directorate was led, during the period of Pinochet's dictatorship, by Manuel Contreras, who was trained at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, in the United States.

Protests Throughout the Hemisphere Against US-backed Neoliberal Model

By SOA Watch

In recent weeks, massive demonstrations have been occurring in Chile against the US-exported neoliberal economic model. The imposition of the neoliberal model in Chile occurred under the Pinochet dictatorship and was designed by the 'Chicago Boys', economists trained under Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago. Chile has long been uplifted as a model for the success of neoliberalism, which includes privatization of public services and goods, deregulation, and cuts to public spending in areas such as health and education. However, Chile's so-called 'economic miracle' has come at the cost of the majority of the population, as Chile is the most unequal country of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations.

One of the slogans of the protests in Chile is 'It's not 30 pesos, it's 30 years' referring to the fact that although the 30 peso increase in metro fare that sparked the current wave of demonstrations has been reversed, what they are protesting is 30 years of neoliberal economic destruction — enshrined in the Constitution, imposed during the Pinochet dictatorship, and evidenced in the continued privatization of public services, including education and pensions as well as policies that benefit the economic elite while cutting public spending. Many demonstrators are demanding a new Constitution that ensures rights for all Chileans.

The demonstrations in Chile follow similar massive demonstrations in Ecuador, where protests were sparked by International Monetary Fund (IMF)-imposed cuts to fuel subsidies, the latest move in a series of neoliberal economic poli-



cies. The IMF is the US-dominated international financial institution that imposes neoliberal economic policies on countries in exchange for loans, wreaking havoc throughout the world. Earlier this year, IMF-backed changes to education and healthcare in Honduras also sparked months of massive protests. In Ecuador, after days upon days of demonstrations that paralyzed the country, Indigenous leaders reached an agreement with Ecuador's government to cancel the IMF austerity package. However, Indigenous organizations have been clear that this is not enough. In a recent letter to the IMF, Ecuadoran Indigenous organizations demanded the IMF 'stop the pressures to sign letters, treaties, agreements that do not benefit the Ecuadoran people' and indicated they would return to the streets if policies that benefit powerful economic groups and hurt the majority of the population continue to be imposed.

Massive and ongoing demonstrations have also been taking place in Haiti over the past year, demanding the resignation of US-backed

President Jovenel Moïse. The demonstrations, which have been occurring since at least July 2018 and intensified this September and October, also have their roots in US policy. Previously, Haiti had received cheap oil through Venezuela's Petrocaribe program — which had provided very significant aid to Haiti for years — but this ended under President Moïse, who began towing the line of US policy towards Venezuela, negatively impacting the population. An audit also found that Moïse and other politicians had stolen millions in Petrocaribe assistance funds increasing public outrage. In July 2018, fuel price hikes, yet again as a result of the IMF, sparked demonstrations and since then demonstrators have been demanding Moïse's resignation. Despite more than a year of mounting protests demanding his resignation, Moïse refuses to step down — it is widely understood that Washington is keeping him in power. As Haitian photographer Georges Harry Rouzier stated in this NACLA article, "Nobody supports Moïse—not the people. He came to power without popular support... But he has the U.S. as his bwa banann (the support that holds up a banana tree), so he stays in power."

The massive demonstrations in all three countries have been met by militarization and brutal repression by state "security" forces. In Haiti, the National Human Rights Defense Network reports that just between September 16-30, 2019, at least 17 people were killed in the state repression of the demonstrations. Demonstrators in Ecuador were also killed by state repression and persecution, including Indigenous leader Segundo Inocencio Tucumbi Vega. Ecuador's Indigenous federations report that the violence and repression in the context of the protests left 8 people dead, 1340 injured, and 1192 detained. In Chile, President Piñera declared 'we are at war' on the protests. This, combined with brutal repression, has led the demonstrators to demand his resignation. While estimates from organizers on the ground are higher, the Chilean state's National Institute for Human Rights (INDH) reports 20 people have died in the context of the protests and has

announced that it will be presenting criminal cases for 5 people it has documented as being killed by the military and other state "security" forces. According to the INDH, 1,233 people have been injured and 3,712 people detained (again real numbers may unfortunately be higher) and there have been numerous cases of sexual violence by state authorities against detainees. Demonstrators have also denounced the use of the metro station's tunnels as a torture center and other human rights violations by state "security" forces during the repression against the demonstrators.

As the protests and repression continue in Chile, its National Coordinator of Human Rights Organizations writes 'the impunity for the crimes of yesterday causes the injustices of today'. The US trains and provides assistance to the military and other "security" forces in Haiti, Ecuador, and Chile, which are responsible for the brutal repression against demonstrators. After Colombia, Chile sends the second highest number of "security" forces to be trained at the SOA-WHINSEC.

SOA Watch stands in solidarity with demonstrators throughout the continent who are challenging the US-exported neoliberal economic model and its institutions, such as the IMF, which only lead to inequality, privatization and injustice. It is at moments like these, when this economic model is in crisis, that the US agenda of training and financing security forces throughout the continent is made clear: impose right-wing economic policies that benefit corporations and the elite and result in privatization and cuts to public spending, harming the overwhelming majority of the people. These policies are enforced by US-backed regimes and US-trained and financed "security" forces, who do not think twice about firing live bullets at their own populations — those who are simply demanding the right to determine their own economic models and live with dignity.

Cuba: Seminar held against foreign military bases

The sixth International Seminar for Peace and for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases was held in Guantanamo, Cuba, from May 4 - 6, 2019. The seminar had 90 foreign participants from 35 countries, including leaders from the World Peace Council (WPC), peace activists, pacifists, and friends in solidarity with Cuba.

The event was developed within the context of a complex international situation characterized by increasing imperialist aggression and interventionism from the United States, European Union, and NATO in their efforts to impose their hegemonic decrees at the cost of freedom, independence, and sovereignty of the peoples of the world.

The United States continues to be the nation with the highest number of military bases across the globe and, with its NATO allies, has the largest nuclear arsenal and most conventional military forces in the history of mankind.

Imperialism continues to spark wars and warlike conflicts throughout the world, while fostering controversy, tensions, genocidal blockades, and "sanctions diplomacy" against countries that are considered enemies like Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and in Latin America, against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

From that perspective, and in line with the agreements established at the Regional Meeting of the World Peace Council, the seminar's participants reaffirm their unwavering support at the Global Campaign against US and NATO foreign military bases. They pledged to hold more actions in recognition of February 23, the date that the US established its first military base in Cuba, declared the "Global Day against Foreign Military Bases."

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Read the full declaration at: www.cubaporlapaz.wordpress.com

Argentina: Rejection of US military base in Neuquén

Elsa Bruzzone, a history professor and secretary of the Military Center for Democracy in Argentina, affirms that the Emergency Operations Center, a US military facility, is a "covert base." Located in Neuquén, the facility has a view of the region's rivers. Bruzzone specializes in geopolitics, strategy, and national defense.

"Without a doubt, the Neuquén facility is a covert military base; I know all of them: the bases in the Amazonian region, in Peru, also disguised as humanitarian aid, or the facility in Concón in Chile, disguised as a peacekeeper training center," said Bruzzone.

The professor noted that the objectives of these "disguised" humanitarian donation facilities of the US Southern Command are specified in US Defense documents and are the basis of the creation of the Southern Command, particularly in regions of specific interest to the US for their natural, energy, and mineral resources.

Also, according to Bruzzone, all US military bases "will eventually have a runway of two or three kilometers to evade the controls of the National Congress, and disguise them as donations."



30th Anniversary Commemorative Gathering at Fort Benning November 15-17, 2019

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Central American University (UCA) massacre. On the morning of November 16, 1989 the Atlacatl Battalion of the Salvadoran Army, led by 19 School of the Americas (SOA) graduates, entered university grounds and brutally assassinated Elba Ramos, her 16-year old daughter, Celina Ramos, and six Jesuit priests—amongst them, Father Ignacio Ellacuría, an outspoken critic of El Salvador's military dictatorship. The SOA Watch movement initially formed to denounce this massacre — one of the many atrocities that occurred in Central America as the United States funded civil wars and trained military at the SOA/WHINSEC.



We estimate that more than 83,000 Latin American state forces have been trained at the SOA/WHINSEC in counterinsurgency techniques (i.e. civilian-targeted warfare), sniper tactics, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence, interrogation tactics, and torture. Graduates of the SOA have consistently used these tactics to wage war against their own people — resulting in massacres, assassinations, torture, forced disappearances, the destabilizing of economies, land grabs by corporations that pillage the earth and value profit over people, and forced migration of millions throughout the hemisphere. Additionally, in September 2019, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shared that Fort Benning, GA, home of SOA/WHINSEC will be the new location of an “urban warfare” training facility that is expected to include “hyper-realistic” simulations of homes, hotels, and commercial buildings in Chicago and Arizona. This means that ICE, in addition to US Border Patrol agents already being trained at the SOA/WHINSEC, will have access to similar training to use on communities within the United States. Border Patrol, which operates with impunity, is accused of serious human rights violations, including murder, rape, and destroying critical humanitarian aid.



In Honor of the Victims ~ ¡No Más! No More!

By SOA Watch

Today we gather on the ancient lands of the Cherokee and Muscogee Creek peoples. We uplift all of their descendants and the communities that live and resist here. While a white supremacist state exists on stolen land, there will never be justice! May our witness honor them all. Together, We Cry!

Today we gather in memory of the predawn raid on the campus of the Universidad Centroamericana in **El Salvador**. Soldiers and their guns, Generals and their commands, politicians with their international backing assassinated Elba and Celina Ramos, Ignacio Ellacuria, Segundo Montes, Ignacio Martin Baro, Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, Juan Ramón Moreno, and Amando Lopez. In the thin light before the sun awakens the powerful celebrated the deaths of those who loved the people of El Salvador. They could not imagine thirty years later their names would still be spoken, their stories still remembered and told, and that their resistance would still be thriving. They could not comprehend the power of the love of the people. Love does not stop at borders. Love does not forget. Love does not disappear with death. Love says, Recordamos – We remember. Love demands justice, Ya Basta! Love tears down border walls saying Bienvenido – Welcome. Together, We Cry!

Today we gather in spirit with all of those whose lives according to white supremacy are expendable in the pursuit of domination and exploitation. We stand together today to denounce one small piece of this puzzle: the School of the Americas renamed WHINSEC. Today at Ft. Benning, not only are military and police from Latin America being trained so are Department of Homeland Security agents from Border Patrol and ICE. These agents enforce US policies that are making people leave their home and then criminalizing, dehumanizing, and murdering them when they migrate. Today we gather in Georgia united to our struggles in

Nogales and in solidarity with every community confronting the violence and oppression of Border Imperialism. Border Imperialism is rooted in US white supremacist history. Border Imperialism is rooted in the vision of SOA/WHINSEC. We see these deep ties as ICE has announced that Ft. Benning will be the new location of ‘urban warfare’ training facilities. This urban war is on migrants and immigrants and other vulnerable communities in the United States. Border Patrol and ICE join in the long SOA legacy of violence renamed security and oppression renamed democracy. This moment calls for an international peace and racial justice movement in solidarity with peoples’ struggles for justice, freedom, and dignity. We are here to fight. We are here to create. Together, We cry!

Just days ago in Bolivia, at least six SOA-WHINSEC graduates, led by General Williams Kaliman Romero, facilitated a coup against the will of the Bolivian people that democratically elected President Evo Morales. We condemn this imperialist assault on Bolivia’s people. We denounce the burning of the Wiphala, a symbol of indigenous unity, strength, and resistance. We stand with the indigenous and campesina communities and support their autonomy, right to organize, and to decide the fate of their territories outside the grasp of the United States. As long as the Wiphala is flown, the fire of the resistance will continue to light Abya Yala. Together, we cry!

The US trains and provides assistance to the security forces in Haiti, Ecuador, and Chile, which are responsible for the brutal repression against demonstrators. After Colombia, Chile sends the second highest number of security forces to be trained at the SOA-WHINSEC. SOA Watch stands in solidarity with demonstrators throughout the region who are challenging the US-exported neoliberal economic



model and its institutions, such as the IMF, which only lead to inequality, privatization and injustice. It is at moments like these, when the economic model is in crisis, that the US agenda of training and financing security forces throughout the continent is made clear: impose right-wing economic policies that benefit corporations and the elite and result in privatization and cuts to public spending, which harm the overwhelming majority of the people. These policies are enforced by US-backed regimes and US-trained and financed security forces, who do not think twice about firing live bullets at their own populations — those who are simply demanding the right to determine their own economic models and live with dignity. We place our bodies in the streets in solidarity and Together, We cry!

Colombia has long been the number one client of the SOA, sending over 10,000 troops. Nearly 8 million Colombians have been internally displaced due to the violence. Each day that passes without fulfilling the Peace Accords brings with it a cost in the lives of the poorest sectors of the country that will never be recovered. In this climate of uncertainty that surrounds the

implementation of the Peace Accords, we add our voices to those of the people of Colombia. We demand the cessation of assassinations of our campesino brothers and sisters; of Indigenous, afro-descendant, union and student leaders; of ex-insurgents who have handed in their weapons in favor of peace. We denounce those who support transnational capitalist interests that reject the Peace Accords. We condemn the US government that cultivates violence and displacement, all the while refusing to support the grassroots work that seeks to end over 50 years of war. We join today in the promise of a Colombia with peace and justice. Together, We Cry!

In Mexico, the Merida Initiative has guaranteed the expansion of US military and police training, weapons, and operations south of its political border and has perpetuated violence and state-sponsored terror south of the Rio Grande. Since 2006 more than 220,000 people have been killed and more than 30,000 have been disappeared, including the 43 students of Ayotzinapa. The Southern Border Plan and Operation Faithful Patriot use Mexico as an extension of the United States' attempts to



control Mesoamerica – where thousands of migrants and refugees have been disappeared, journalists have been murdered, human rights activists have been assassinated, women have been victims of an ongoing femicide, members of the LGBTQ community are murdered each month and where indigenous communities continue to resist their extermination. Together, We Cry!

Years after the SOA graduate-led military coup in Honduras and its consolidation in the fraudulent elections, Honduras continues its policies of terror and violence against its citizens. Militarization as a state policy has made Honduras the country with the highest levels of violence in the world. They suppress peasant groups that are protecting their land, as seen in the cases of the Bajo Aguán and Zacate Grande. We do not forget that one of the intellectual authors of the chaos in Honduras is the Pentagon, as SOA graduates are at the helm in all branches of the Honduran security forces. Human rights workers, indigenous and campesino communities, environmentalists, lawyers, journalists, LGBTQ community members, student activists, and social movement leaders are targeted for criminalization, attacks, and murder. Those who speak out face repression yet they continue struggling to defend their land and rights while the United States continues financing and supporting the repressive regime to protect the interest of multinational mining and manufacturing firms. Guided by the self determination of the Honduran people. Together, We Cry!

In Guatemala and El Salvador, the social fabric was ripped apart by US-backed violence during decades of armed conflict. These wounds continue to shape the lives of communities throughout Central America today, as people are left with few options and are forced to flee. The US is shamefully aiding the re-militarization of Central America through the “Alliance for Prosperity.” Social movements on the ground in Guatemala and in El Salvador have not forgotten and through historical memory they lead the fight for a dignified life in every sense that requires the recovery of the memory of our disappeared, the refusal to be a militarized people, the defense of our lands, and the continuing work of resistance. Alongside those who are impacted by the failed past and present policies that employ military solutions for social problems, and Together, We Cry!

Decades after the U.S. Invasion of Panama and Operation Just Cause, more than 500 families continue to demand justice for the disappeared, yet U.S. Southern Command troops maintain a presence, training Panamanian police to combat “narcotrafficking and organized crime”. It is one of the few countries without an army, yet spends more on security than any other country in the region. Over the past decade, security forces have committed Human Rights violations of civilians, squashing protests and leaving more than a dozen dead and hundreds injured. SOA began in Panama, together with the people of Panama we demand an end to U.S. intervention and Together, We Cry!

In the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, the War on Terror has resulted in the deaths of at least 2 million people since 2001. The War on Terror destabilizes countries, props up puppet regimes or monarchies that are friendly towards American empire. Today, we uplift the victims of the War on Terror, living and dead, who are mainly Muslims, and have been destroyed to further American hegemony. We uplift the 1 million lives lost in Iraq and the 300,000 Iraqi refugees. We uplift the 220,000 killed in Afghanistan, and the 80,000 people killed in Pakistan. We uplift the victims of US drones in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, and Syria.

We uplift the hundreds and thousands killed in Syria. We uplift the people of Palestine, who have been the victims of Zionism and US imperialism in the Middle East. We uplift all whose lives have been destroyed, the refugees fleeing wars and dying in the process; the youth working to take care of their families; and, the women who are resisting to keep their communities alive. We uplift the resistance and struggles of the people in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia to self-determination, a life of dignity, and an end to US wars. Together We Cry!

In Lumpkin, Eloy and so many towns across the U.S., for-profit migrant prison rips families apart and conceals loved ones behind walls made to break their dignity. Segregating those branded as unwanted behind bars is an all too common practice in the United States, where 2.4 million people are held in corporate, State and Federally-funded prisons. Migrants are displaced due to the economic and political agenda of the United States. As long as the criminalization and warehousing of entire communities continues, Together, We Cry!

In Ferguson, Baltimore, Cleveland and countless other cities across the United States the Pentagon is pumping 5 billion dollars into the streets in the form of tanks, military-grade equipment and drones. In the face of this assault on our communities, we lift up the work of fearless organizers and activists courageous enough to stand up against the racist brutality we see in police departments, in prisons, in schools, at borders and in our communities. It is time to stand together against the racism, capitalism, materialism and militarism that is tearing apart our families and destroying our communities. It is time to build, while we resist. No longer is it enough to videotape and circulate the violence being waged against us. No longer is it not enough to trend on social media. We must become visionary. We must become neighbors again. It is our time to come from behind our blinds and our doors and turn to one another. Our communities are not war zones. Together We Cry!

For all the labor organizers, students, religious leaders, artists, educators, journalists, and farmers; for countless other communities in resistance, and those who, with dignity, fight to protect their lives, their land; for all those who are creating new forms of resistance to protect their communities, and for those who organize to transform the horrendous reality they see with their own eyes Together, We Cry!

Commissioning of Funeral Procession Leaders

By participating in this memorial funeral procession, you honor the lives of those who have and continue to suffer because of the School of Assassins and all other acts of terror. You go as emissaries of peace to confront violence with nonviolence. Will you commit yourself to be nonviolent in your spirit and action today as you join this solemn funeral procession? And in the months to come, will you continue to work to close the School and encourage others to do likewise?

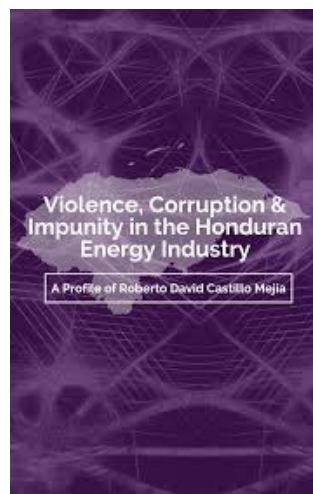
Response: I will be nonviolent in my spirit and action today. By presence, work, and action, I will honor those in the borderlands, in Latin America and the Caribbean who have suffered, as well as others who have suffered from global terrorism, and those who continue to put themselves at risk for justice. I will continue the work in the months to come until the School of Assassins is closed and the structures of oppression in which it is based are dismantled.

Community Blessing

May love and courage go with us as we do the work of building community and transforming injustice. May memory and wisdom root us we face the radical violence of a failing empire. May humility and gratitude guide us as we join in solidarity with people all over the world fighting for their lives. May joy and beauty nourish us as we vision past failed structures and institutions to another world. May awe and imagination teach us how to listen for the voices of our ancestors who know the way back home. Together we cry.

Report: Violence, Corruption & Impunity in the Honduran Energy Industry

On August 30, 2019, the Due Process of Law Foundation, Guatemala Human Rights Commission, International Platform Against Impunity, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and School of the Americas Watch released a report which profiles Roberto David Castillo and related companies. Castillo is a former Honduran military intelligence official, former government official, and businessman charged with the murder of internationally recognized Indigenous and social movement leader Berta Cáceres. The report brings together information that implicates Castillo in a pattern of human rights violations and corruption to benefit companies with which he was associated.



Evidence suggests that the murder of Berta Cáceres was part of a pattern of violence, corruption, intimidation, malicious prosecution and impunity orchestrated by Castillo and others at DESA, who appear to have functioned as a criminal structure. Evidence admitted in the first trial for the murder of Berta Cáceres suggests that Castillo and his associates and employees enlisted the support of key agencies of the Honduran government, using improper influence in the Ministry of Security, police, military and the Honduran judiciary, seemingly to advance efforts to intimidate, persecute, and neutralize Berta Cáceres and COPINH's opposition to the Agua Zarca project. The report also sheds light on the role of international actors, including development banks and investor. **Read the report here: www.soaw.org**



Photo: www.copinh.org

Material Authors Sentenced But Impunity Continues For Those Who Ordered Murder of Berta Cáceres

By SOA Watch

On December 2, 2019, a Honduran court sentenced seven men for the murder of visionary Honduran social movement leader Berta Cáceres — over a full year after finding them guilty. This includes Douglas Bustillo, an SOA graduate and former head of security for the hydroelectric dam company DESA, and fellow SOA graduate Army Major Mariano Díaz. Díaz was trained by the United States not only at Ft. Benning, but also in counter-terrorism at the Inter American Air Force Academy in Texas, and was part of the the US-led war in Iraq. He was as an Army Major, instructor for Honduras' Military Police, and head of military intelligence for Honduras' First Battalion.

However, neither Bustillo nor Díaz nor any of the five sentenced were the ones who ordered and paid for Cáceres' murder. Those sentenced primarily had roles related to the preparation or execution of the murder, but the money and order to carry out the murder came from above. Over three and a half years after Cáceres' murder, none of the intellectual authors have faced trial.

Bustillo and Díaz were sentenced to 30 years and six months and 30 years respectively. Bustillo and Díaz communicated with Henry Hernandez, a former soldier who had served under Díaz in the military. Hernandez led a group of hitmen to Cáceres' home on March 2, 2016 to execute the murder. Hernandez and three other hitmen were sentenced to 50 years for both the murder of Cáceres and the attempted murder of Mexican environmentalist Gustavo Castro, who was at Cáceres' home at the time of the murder. Additionally, Sergio Rodríguez, DESA's Environmental and Social Manager, who coordinated informants who monitored Berta Cáceres and COPINH, was also sentenced to 30 years and six months. The verdict and sentences are subject to an appeal process and several defense lawyers have indicated they will file appeals.

The court's sentence affirmed that Cáceres was murdered for her leadership in COPINH's opposition to DESA's internationally-financed hydroelectric project on the Gualcarque River. Moreover, according to Cáceres' organization COPINH, the court ruled in its sentence that Berta's murder was planned 'with the knowledge



and consent of the executives of the DESA company, including Mr. Sergio Rodríguez and others who are not part of this process.' Only one other person has been arrested for Cáceres' murder, former Honduran military intelligence officer and President of DESA, Roberto David Castillo. The evidence admitted during the trial of the seven suggests that Bustillo was the intermediary in planning the murder who coordinated with his former boss, Roberto David Castillo. However, beyond Castillo nobody else has been arrested and Castillo's case has moved extremely slowly.

As long as all of the intellectual authors who made the decision to murder Berta Cáceres and who paid for the murder to be executed are not brought to justice, impunity will persist. Furthermore, the entire criminal structure that persecuted Cáceres and COPINH must be dismantled. Cáceres murder was the culmination of years of persecution and violence against COPINH members who opposed the Agua Zarca Hydroelectric Project on the Gualcarque River. Additionally, it is extremely concerning that the concession of the Gualcarque River that Berta was killed while opposing has not been cancelled.

SOAW joins COPINH and Berta's children in calling for all of the intellectual authors, however powerful they may be, to be brought to justice and for the concession of the Gualcarque River to be cancelled.



US: September 11th Attacks

For judicial purposes, the US Department of Justice revealed the name of a Saudi official that supported the attacks on September 11, 2001 perpetrated by Al-Qaeda.

This declassification only made possible after pressure from the families of victims of the September 11 attacks. The attacks left 3,000 people dead. The families of the victims have sued the Riyadh regime before US courts and claim compensation.

According to the press, the FBI claims to have 80,000 documents that indicate possible Saudi Arabian support of the hijackers of the 9/11 attacks. However, the US attacked Iraq with false evidence and currently sells weapons to Saudi Arabia.



Chile: Hacking the Police

Amidst the social protests in Chile, the uniformed police was attacked by “Anonymous” who hacked and leaked no less than 10,515 files of the Chilean police.

The media outlet CIPER reviewed some of these leaked documents, which included intelligence documents, details about officials and the armament of some police units, and the most surprising, the monitoring of people and entities categorized as “targets of interest.” In other words, the leaks revealed that the Chilean police have been surveilling organizations and social movement leaders.

This mirrors similar practices in the US, when the FBI surveilled SOAW for many years, and has also surveilled Black Lives Matter and continues with these practices to this day.

Spain: August 17th Attacks

Abdelbaki Es Satty, the imam of Ripoll, brain of the terrorist attacks of Barcelona and Cambrils on August 17, 2017 that left 16 dead and more than 150 wounded, was a confidante and collaborator of the National Center of Intelligence (CNI) of Spain until the day of the attacks, according to the digital newspaper ‘Public’, which indicates that Spanish intelligence services knew the activities of the jihadist cell.

However, the National Court did not want to investigate the supposed links between the brain of the attacks and the CNI.

Manta Airbase 2.0: Renewed US military presence in Ecuador

Under the justification of “cooperation” and humanitarianism, US military forces return to Ecuador after a decade of being expelled. This renewed presence will not only reactivate the mission of the Manta Airbase (1999-2009), but also will begin a new phase of military intervention in the country. This phase has already begun; on August 2, 2018, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency opened in both nations.

Nevertheless, it is reasonable and necessary to alert Ecuadorians that this “cooperation” is unconstitutional. According to Article 5 of the 2008 Constitution, Ecuador declares itself to be a territory of peace, where “it is not permitted to establish foreign military bases or foreign facilities with military purposes. Additionally, it is forbidden to cede control of national military bases to foreign armed or security forces.”

But for the government, the Magna Carta is not important. All of the strategies implemented by the DSCA are acts of war in which they will not only establish foreign facilities but also establish short, medium, and long-term plans to relinquish national sovereignty, state institutions, and inevitably, peace in Ecuador.

It would seem that the chant “Gringos, go home” has been silenced in Ecuador in order to establish a Manta Airbase 2.0 with impunity.

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By Martín Pastor. Complete article at:
www.resumenlatinoamericano.org



Actions against the NATO Summit

NATO turned 70 years old and celebrated its anniversary on April 4, 2019 in Washington, DC. In this context, the International No to war -- No to NATO Network carried out various actions in the US and around the world to say once more: No to NATO.

We remember that NATO proclaimed it would fight for collective defense and to preserve peace and international security. However, NATO has never been true to its word.

NATO is the largest military alliance in the world, with the largest military spending budget and with nuclear arsenals. At the same time, it is the main driver of a new arms race and the primary obstacle to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has transformed into a global alliance structured to fight wars “outside of its geographic zone” in Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, as well as “containing” China. With the maintenance of military troops at the Russian border, new nuclear weapons, and a military defense shield, NATO represents a key factor in the conflict with Russia and is responsible for the corrosive discourse of the “enemy” and of global insecurity.

In other words, NATO is incompatible with a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

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See more at: www.no-to-nato.org

For Peace: We Must Prevent a Nuclear War

We are deeply concerned that the United States, after abandoning the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), also plans to abandon its New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) and its Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). At the same time, tensions continue to build with both North Korea and Iran.

In this context, there is the risk that more modernized nuclear weapons will be deployed in various regions of the world and the danger that these weapons will be used in conflicts between states and nations.

The US military headquarters has openly shared the possibility of a limited nuclear conflict attacking specific targets, which would still pose a great danger to our planet.

With all of this in mind, individuals and organizations advocating for peace from Latin America, the United States, and Europe ask that on September 26, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, you publicly denounce Donald Trump's destructive political arms race, calling for the United States to maintain the New START and CTBT treaties and take significant steps towards a dialogue with Russia, North Korea, and Iran in order to find common ground and reduce the nuclear threat that all of humanity suffers today.

We hope to have your support for this initiative and look forward to your response to our proposal.

Sincerely,

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize, Argentina

Noam Chomsky, Laureate Professor of Linguistics, Agnese Nelms Haury Chair, Universidad de Arizona

Martin Almada, Alternative Nobel Prize, Paraguay

Roy Bourgeois, SOAWatch Founder, EEUU/USA

Frei Betto, writer, Brazil

Ana Esther Ceceña, Coordinator of Observatorio Latinoamericano de Geopolítica (OLAG) and President of Agencia Latinoamericana de Información (ALAI)

Camille Chalmers, University professor and leader of Plataforma Alternativa Por el Desarrollo de Haití (PAPDA), Haiti

Judith Kelly, Pax Christi Pentagon, EEUU/USA

Alfred L. Marder, President, US Peace Council, EEUU/USA

Martha Hennessy, Member of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7, EEUU/USA

Dario Azzellini, Cornell University, Ithaca, EEUU/USA

Eva Golinger, Attorney, Journalist and Author, EEUU/USA

Helen Schietinger, Witness Against Torture, EEUU/USA

Medea Benjamin Codepink, EEUU/USA

Andrés Thomas Conteris, founder Democracy Now! en Español, EEUU/USA

Atilio Borón, political scientist and sociologist doctorate in political Science from Harvard University, Argentina

Patricia León, from the Coordinating Committee of Red Europea de Asociaciones Chilenas por los Derechos Cívicos y Políticos, Belgium

Paula Polanco, Presidente Intal, Belgium

Michel Collon, Investig'Action, Belgium

Kate Hudson, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's General Secretary, United Kingdom

Robert Austin, University of Sydney, Australia

Alicia Lira, President of AFEP, Chile

Carlos González, survivor 3 y 4 Álamos, Chile

Hervi Lara, President of Fundación Helmut Frenz

Call for International Days of Action Against Sanctions & Economic War: March 13 – 15, 2020

Sanctions are imposed by the United States and its junior partners against countries that resist their Agendas. They are a weapon of Economic War, resulting in chronic shortages of basic necessities, economic dislocation, chaotic hyperinflation, artificial famines, disease, and poverty. In every country, the poorest and the weakest – infants, children, the chronically ill and the elderly – suffer the worst impact of sanctions.

US imposed sanctions, violate international law and are a tool of regime change. They impact a third of humanity in 39 countries. They are a crime against humanity used, like military intervention, to topple popular governments and movements. They provide economic and military support to pro-US right-wing forces.

The US economic dominance and its +800 military bases worldwide demands all other countries participate in acts of economic strangulation. They must end all normal trade relations, otherwise they risk having Wall Street's guns pointed at them. The banks and financial institutions that are responsible for the devastation of our communities at home drive the plunder of countries abroad.

Many organizations have been fighting Sanctions and Economic War for some time. NOW is an opportunity to combine efforts to raise consciousness on this crucial issue.

This broad campaign will include protests and demonstrations, lobbying, petition drives and all forms of educational efforts.

As an initial step for this campaign we encourage mobilizations and educational efforts to be organized for the International Days of Action against US imposed Sanctions and Economic War on March 13-15.

Please add your endorsement and help spread the word

Sign on here: www.sanctionskill.org

www.afgj.org

**SANCTIONS
KILL**



Peace Activists Face 25 Years for Action at U.S. Nuclear Submarine Base

They face 25 years in prison for exposing illegal and immoral nuclear weapons that threaten all life on Earth. The seven non-violently and symbolically disarmed the Trident nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, GA on April 4, 2018, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Info: www.kingsbayplowshares7.org



Chile: Organizations hold People's Stations of the Cross for Memory and Against Injustice

On April 19 in Santiago, Chile, Christian communities and nondenominational human rights and memory organizations carried out the People's Stations of the Cross from the intersection of José Arrieta and Tobalaba to the Villa Grimaldi Peace Park. The final destination, now a memory site, was a clandestine detention center under Pinochet's dictatorship, where people were tortured, executed, and disappeared.

On the journey of People's Stations of the Cross, leaders condemned the current political situation in Chile, where students, Mapuche, and migrants are detained and face police repression. They also decried the difficult situation for retirees and elderly people who receive inadequate pensions and lack access to a high quality healthcare system.

At the entrance of the Peace Park are images of Ana González y Violeta Zúñiga, two relatives

of disappeared detainees, along with the quote: "We are dying and we don't know the truth."

Upon entering Villa Grimaldi, Evelyn Gahona danced the traditional "Cueca Sola" and said, "In 1975 I was only six years old. My brother Yuri was seven years old. On September 8, 1975, the dictatorship destroyed our lives -- our father was detained."

The leaders also recognized Santiago Maldonado and the 43 normalistas from Ayotzinapa that were detained and disappeared in Argentina y Mexico, respectively. They also called attention to the "disappeared under Democracy" in Chile: Where is José Huenante? Where is José Vergara? Where is Hugo Arispe?, they demanded.

The act ended with "the door of Never Again" in Villa Grimaldi, where leaders held up photos and stories of activists who were killed in recent years in Colombia, Chile, Honduras, and Costa Rica, among others.



Photo: www.villagrimaldi.cl

The Use of God and the Church in Geopolitics

Many political leaders have used churches for political purposes and have failed to comply with the second commandment to not use God's name in vain.

In Latin America, there are plenty of examples of coup d'états that anchored their actions in an allegorical narrative of religion and family. At the same time, they used the most inhumane, and consequently anti-Christian, tactics including death squads, degrading treatment, and kidnapping to impose this nightmare on their opponents.

In the 17 years of Augusto Pinochet's regime in Chile, over 40 thousand people suffered crimes against humanity, including torture, executions, and disappearances. General Pinochet once said: "everything I do I dedicate to God."

Today, Brazil rests in the hands of President Jair Bolsonaro, a self-declared admirer of Pinochet and his methods. "Brazil before everything, and God above all" was the slogan of his campaign. He also won with substantial support from neo-Pentecostal churches and televangelists.

In contrast, the nondenominational movement all over the world has made significant advances in promoting a culture of peace and in fostering cooperation and solidarity towards different peoples.

Beyond our own continent, we can also recognize the use of the church for anti-Christian ends with the break of the historical tie of over 330 years between the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Orthodox Church of Russia.

Obviously, this separation emerged in the context of a political, economic, and military realignment between Ukraine and the United States after the coup d'état of 2014. Because of this, it is not surprising that the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, known for his islamopho-



bic statements and his defense of torture, has expressed support for this split.

And in Ukraine under Petró Poroshenko's administration, various neo-Nazi groups were operating, including Azov Battalion, and were incorporated into the National Guard and were involved in the kidnapping of Brazilian Rafael Lusvarghi, along with Svoboda Party and S14 paramilitary extremists.

The formula of "Divide and Conquer" is renewed once again, now under the specter of religious geopolitics. Herein lies the question: for whom do the bells toll in the newly created Orthodox church in Ukraine?

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*This is an excerpt of a full article in:

www.alainet.org



Rafael Lusvarghi

ABC's of Geopolitics: Biological Warfare

Biological warfare is the use of bacteria, viruses, or other organisms adapted for military purposes to cause illnesses in humans, animals, or plants with the goal to annihilate or cause major damage to the enemy.

Did you know that the US has a military base in Peru, called NAMRU-6, that investigates infectious diseases?

Let us begin earlier. Biological agents have been used as weapons since the 20th century, but it was during World War II that biological weapons became more sophisticated. The world powers created state programs with the backing of scientists and laboratories of powerful corporations.

Innumerable experiments were practiced on humans, the most famous ones being those carried out in Nazi concentration camps. However, Great Britain and the US also have a long history of doing chemical and bacteriological experiments on people without their knowledge or consent.

At the end of World War II, the United States recruited Nazi scientists for "Operation Paperclip" or "Overcast." These German scientists specialized in the so-called "wonderful weapons of the Third Reich".

One of the most important scientists was Eric Traub, who was responsible for Hitler's biological weapons department. He was an expert in viral pathogens. Once he arrived in the US, he worked for the Marines and was responsible for the investigation of the 40 most virulent strains in the world.

Eric Traub was also an advisor at Fort Detrick, which up until 1969 was the Biological Weapons Program Center of the US. Today, it is the target of different investigations and complaints of manipulation of infectious agents for military purposes.



Fort Detrick has also been accused of the spread of dengue in Nicaragua in 1985 through the spread of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, which is also the transmitter of chikungunya, zika, and yellow fever. Years before, the same *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito and other biological vectors were used against Cuba.

In response to this attack, Fidel Castro remarked that, "In less than three years, five serious plagues and epidemics have scourged our cattle, our plantations, and, even worse, our population. Swine fever, blue tobacco mold, cane rust, hemorrhagic dengue, and, finally, hemorrhagic conjunctivitis."

Additionally, the Director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Cuba, Doctor Pedro Kourí said, "In 1981, type two dengue entered Cuba in an unnatural way. Type two dengue appeared simultaneously in three places on the island 300 kilometers apart from each other. It produced a huge epidemic of hemorrhagic dengue outside of the epidemiological context of the region, where practically throughout its entire history, only 60 cases of hemorrhagic dengue had ever been reported in the Americas. In this Cuban epidemic, 10 mil cases of hemorrhagic dengue were reported, with 158 deaths, which were 101 children and 57 adults, and the economic burden of 103 million dollars in 4 months, but we managed to control the epidemic."

In 1975, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction emerged with force.

A few years after, the South African Apartheid regime launched a secret program called “Project Coast”, led by Doctor Wouter Basson, also known as “Doctor Death.” His primary objective was to develop biological and chemical agents with the goal of killing and sterilizing the black population as a way of neutralizing political enemies.

Among these agents were viruses Marburg, Anthrax, and Ebola. Thousands of people died in these experiments.

Basson confirms that he had had contact with Western agencies that provided “ideological assistance” to “Project Coast” in spite of the concerns from Washington that “Doctor Death” would reveal the connections between “Project Coast” and the Pentagon.

In the same decade of these secret collaborations between US agencies and the apartheid regime, a US Marines biomedical research laboratory was installed in Peru. This lab is known as NAMRU-6 (Naval Medical Research Unit 6). One of its stations is located in the Peruvian Amazon, near the Amazon River, in the city of Iquitos, which should raise concerns for social movement leaders and members of the community. This station poses a great risk of contamination and proliferation of infectious agents, although NAMRU-6 formally states that it exists to identify and intervene to prevent the spreading of tropical diseases.

Throughout history, where the US government’s rhetoric and actions have been in stark contrast to one another, concerns remain about the manipulation of pathogens by foreign military institutions that have historically been directly involved in the development of biological weapons.

All US military bases in Latin America take part in the politics of external interventionism. NAMRU-6, in addition to its military nature, develops bacteriological research in the service

of a country that has demonstrated resistance to the UN convention that prohibits biological warfare. Furthermore, the US has a history of engaging in military intervention in order to destabilize democratic governments throughout our continent.

In Indonesia, the US has also established NAMRU-2, but this military laboratory was closed later on once the Indonesian government discovered its questionable aims.

Finally, Hervi Lara, professor of political philosophy, spoke out about this subject, remarking, “There is a basic principle with respect to science, the characteristics of science, and technology, and it is that it should be public. And therefore, the fact alone that investigation took place in a secretive way, with purposes that are not publicly shared, already tells us it is deserving of criticism. One can suspect the worst if military institutions are doing research without respecting the norms of scientific investigation or the common good. I believe that we in Latin America understand that military bases, the army, and the armed forces have always posed a danger because they aim to defend the interests of capital, and therefore are against the people. Consequently, it is even more of a risk if the military bases are North American. We already know their interests and intentions. They are in Peru, and Peru is part of the Amazon. The Bacteriological War in Cuba has left thousands of people dead. This is unfortunately not talked about enough. And this is also what, I believe, will eventually happen in Venezuela.”



Hervi Lara

The Use of Sports for War: Between the Eagle and Prometheus

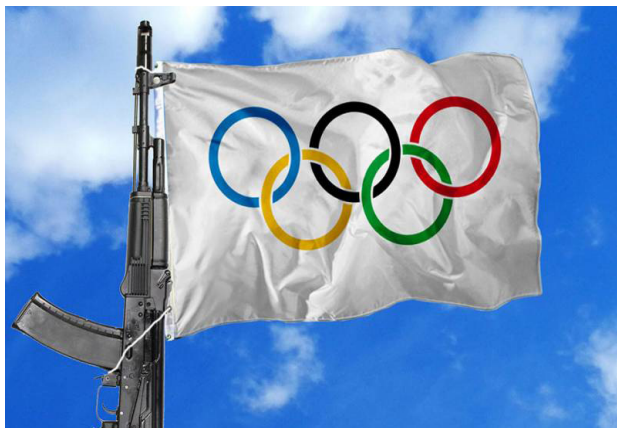
By Olga Pinheiro

From Hitler to Franco, from Videla to many other puppets, throughout history, world sporting events have become an arena for political debate. Events that would normally encourage cooperation and celebration between peoples, such as the Olympians, have frankensteined into distorted ideological disputes, particularly with the issue of doping.

Doping is the use of substances that artificially improve performance, agility, and strength, making clear the reasons for its prohibition to prevent the risk of disadvantaging athletes who abstain from using performance enhancers. Not even Einstein can explain the relativity of the doping rules depending on the country in question.

This leads to the perception that not all doping is forbidden, at least for US athletes, as shown by leaks from the group Fancy Bear, which revealed sisters Serena and Venus Williams' (tennis players) and Simone Biles' (gymnast) use of illegal drugs. Biles won five medals in Rio 2016, and in spite of testing positive for doping, she was not suspended. The justification was that Biles is included in the Therapeutic Use Exemptions Program (TUE) of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Such a program is questioned by previous board members of WADA, such as Swiss Arne Ljungqvist, former vice president of the institution between 2007 and 2013. Regarding certain athletes receiving permission for banned substances, Ljungqvist said that, "When the therapeutic exceptions began to be discussed, very important people in charge of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) observed that if someone was really sick enough to need prohibited substances they should not even be competing."



"Legalized doping" carries the indelible characteristic of benefitting Western athletes and, especially, athletes from the Northern hemisphere. For example, there are over 200 US athletes that were authorized to use prohibited substances for therapeutic purposes.

In this regard, it is worth remembering the words of Danish world champion (1999) cyclist Michael Rasmussen: "A test can easily detect the presence of a substance, but when you have permission to use it, it's another story. It all comes down to inventing an injury."

While there was much media attention on the doping scandals of athletes from the United Kingdom, Kenya, Russia, and from Nordic ski teams, there is a distinct lack of reporting on the revelation that the United States has the most cases of doping and corruption, according to the data revealed by sports federations/press released by the Movement for Reliable Cycling (MPCC), in January of this year.

Not one of these countries received sanctions as harsh as did the Russian Athletics Federation, wherein the entire country, not indivi-

dually accused athletes, was suspended from every international athletics competition. The Federation received these sanctions despite the fact that the International Olympic Committee did not find any evidence of the alleged collaboration of the Russian State with the cases of doping.

It is also striking that the start of the WADA investigation coincided with the release of a documentary by a German radio station (ARD), which exposes the testimony of a couple who testified about the alleged systematic doping among Russian athletes. Coincidentally, this couple now lives in the US.

Another main character in the “institutional doping” scandal is Grigori Rodchenkov, who was the former director of the anti-doping laboratory in Moscow and a WADA informant. With an arrest warrant in Moscow for the illicit trafficking of stimulants, Rodchenkov moved to the United States and is currently under witness protection.

Since Russia was welcomed back into international sporting events by WADA, the president of USADA (US Anti-Doping Agency) Travis Tygart continues to urge the Olympic entities to suspend Russia on a solely political, rather than factual, basis. His enthusiasm in accusing the Slavic nation of presenting “unprecedented levels of corruption” is only comparable to his unprecedented cynicism, given that he represents an anti-doping agency of a country with most cases of doping and the most cases of corruption related to game fixing and financial negligence (according to what was disclosed by the MPCC).

Inevitably one may wonder if this is all just a dirty game and a modern-day version of the Cold War in athletic uniforms. And even the cultural industry cannot be left out; last year the Oscar for best documentary was awarded to “Icarus” by Bryan Fogel, which covered doping speculation in Russian sports.

And when one thinks they have seen the most explicit manipulation possible, in comes WADA to further surprise you with a proposal to reform WADA into an autonomous body of any Olympic jurisdiction — that is, an entity even more conducive to the influence of other actors in the geopolitical war of international sporting events.

In this context of instrumentalizing sports for political means, it is worth remembering that during the Olympic ceremonies, athletes carry the torch to represent the fire that the Titan Prometheus gave to humanity, challenging and awakening the wrath of the Gods.

According to the Greek tragedy, the Titan did what he did for a profound hope in the creative potential of humankind to make this flame “more than an instrument” but a means of progressing in collaboration, and thus reducing the sufferings of our species.

Because of his boldness, Prometheus was chained to a rock, with the punishment of an eagle eating his liver every night, which would grow back because of his immortality. In this story there is an archetype we see today. There are two teams in the arena. Those that lean towards Prometheus are those that still believe in the flame of peace and friendship between peoples, celebrated through athleticism, where the beauty of strength and unity represent the nations in their distinct colors and cultures. Where the demonstration of vulnerability is also an act of courage, for being preferable to perfidy.

Nonetheless, sports continue to be politicized, and the doping test becomes more relative as a result. Gimmicks continue to be deployed so that the World Anti-Doping Agency can move away from the legitimate jurisdiction of the International Olympic Committee in order to act with pseudo-autonomy, isolated from the historical credibility of a multilateral instance: it is twisted by the eagle.

The reform of WADA requires us to contemplate the shifting winds of today, coerced by interests that value the crowns of dollars, not of the laurel. The eagle that today devours the liver of the athletic spirit, is it bald? Is it American?

The Statutes of Man by Thiago de Mello *

English Rendition: Os Estatutos do Homem

Translation by Rosaliene Bacchus

It is decreed that now the truth counts,
that now life counts,
and hand in hand,
we will all work for a life that's true.

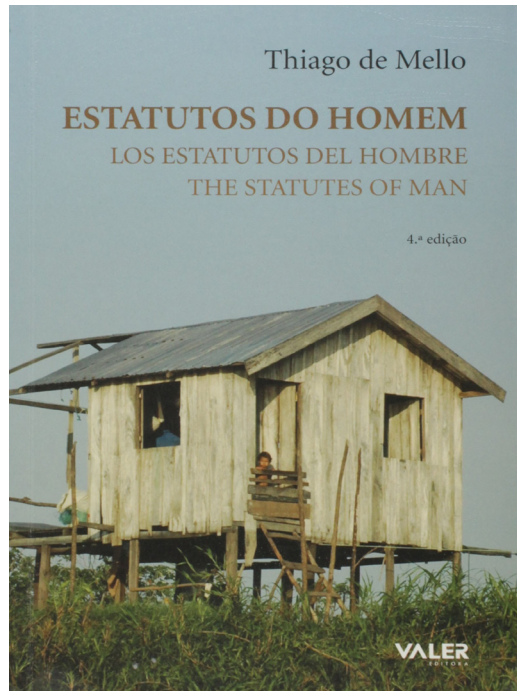
It is decreed that every day of the week,
including the greyest Tuesdays,
has the right to become Sunday mornings.

It is decreed, from this moment on,
there will be sunflowers in every window,
that all sunflowers will have the right
to open in the shade;
and that windows should be open, all
day long,
to the green where hope grows.

It is decreed that the greatest pain
always was and always will be
inability to bestow love to the one loved
and to know that water
gives the plant the miracle of the flower.

It is decreed that money
will never more buy
the sunshine of mornings to come.
Driven from the large chest of fear,
money will become a fraternal sword
to defend the right to sing
and the sunshine of a new day.

It is forbidden
the use of the word freedom,
which will be abolished from all dictionaries
and from the deceptive quagmire of mouths.
From this moment on
freedom will be alive and transparent
like a fire, a river,
or like a grain of wheat
and its home will always be
within the heart of man.



This is an excerpt from the original poem

No more murderers, no torturers, no dictators

No more Military or Police to the School of the Americas



**Enough of Impunity
Accountability, now**



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