



our developing world's voices Volume 18 No 1

Accompanying the Hondurans in Resistance! An inspiring experience!*

The people in resistance (FNRP) come from every economic and social class, ethnicity, disabled, gender and gender orientation, feminists, religion, educational background: all opposed to the coup and determined to start the process toward a new constitution.



That was supposed to begin with a non-binding vote the day of the military coup June 28, 2009.

Many people, even in the rain, were collecting signature and thumb prints on documents to begin the process again.



Their theme song is *Nos Tienen Miedo porque No Tenemos Miedo*: They (or You to the police and military) are afraid of us because we're not afraid.

odw Cuba Tour April 21-30, 2011 click www.magiclink.net/~odw for more information and application on Reality EcoTour page

* To join another accompanying tour: jennya@friendshipamericas.org



Foreign Policy

A letter June 25 from 27 Congress people to Hillary Clinton maintain, contrary to the Secretary's statements in Lima earlier "political violence continues to wrack Honduras" one year after the June 28, 2009 coup. They write to:

"...express our continuing concern regarding the grievous violations of human rights and the democratic order which commenced with the coup and continue to this day."

Their call is for US Asst. Sec. of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Michael Posner, to visit Honduras and "make a prompt assessment of what is occurring there with regards to human and political rights." This hasn't happened.

We urge letters, emails to Clinton and Legislators and the President:

Hillary Clinton

US Department of **State**
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We've become aware of extreme human rights abuses in Honduras since the military coup and the election held under the coup and continuing today. The death threats are targeted by Billy Hojos, who played the same role in the '80s. He and others in Batallion 316 trained in the School of the Americas .

We are extremely opposed to our tax dollars (\$20 million recently) sent for security, (the military) while funding for projects for the poor under President Zelaya have been cut by the coup government and the Lobo presidency that is following the same policies.

Funding corrupt military on behalf of the wealthy who were the architects of the coup doesn't solve the problems of the poor. People of all classes are determined to get a new constitution. How can we stand in the way of such a democratic desire? That's the policy we should be supporting to win friends.

Sincerely,

August 2010 – Deadly Month for Human Rights in Honduras

The Committee of Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Honduras, COFADEH, emphasizes that the month of August continues from the '80's to be a period in which those who violate human rights choose to carry out particularly repressive action. p 2



This August, 2010 and continuing in to September is no exception. August 30 is International Day of the Detained and Disappeared, thanks to the efforts and pressure brought by family members and the Congresses of several nations.

In June and July when we were in Honduras there were many threats and harassments to individuals and their family members and at least one death of the son of a leader Some of what was reported to COFADEH (the Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared founded in the '80's) in August includes:

1. The National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNAH, becoming a battlefield between students and repressive forces, who beat, gassed, tortured and captured students at the request of university authorities, information which was reconfirmed by Security Minister Oscar Alvarez.

2 Teachers were victims of repression; harassment, threats, aggressions, imprisonment and assassination. Four were captured and tortured, and the Public Prosecutor's Office filed suit against them for exercising their right to peaceful protest. Three were captured and taken to the Transit Police Station where their bodies, bloodied from the beatings, were cleaned up as were those of other teachers. Three more were captured and taken to Liberty Plaza, next to the Presidential Palace, illegally detained for hours.



Teacher Union members are second only to LGBT members in numbers assassinated.

3. Repression against campesinos throughout the country use police and military funded by *our* taxes to protect the interests of powerful landholders to usurp land from legitimate, most often indigenous owners.

4. Repressive actions of the regime extended to journalists and media outlets that are p 3



not supportive of the coup (remember this is only in August!):

Against Swedish correspondent in Honduras, Dick Emanuelsson, Rene Rojas, in Santa Rosa de Copan in the west, detention and threats against journalist Brayan Flores of El Libertador, Eduardo Coto Barnica, of the Radio Uno collective of San Pedro Sula, was illegally and arbitrarily detained in Choloma, Cortez, Richard Casulá of Canal 36 and Carlos Paz, of Radio Globo, were savagely beaten by police while covering the violent repression against teachers, José Alemán of Ocotepeque, object of harassment by a local Municipal Council official, Radio Uno of San Pedro Sula sabotaged and shut down.

While we were there the indigenous radio station in La Celba was burned to the ground and the campesino station in Zacate Grande was closed, yellow taped and warrants issued for four leaders.

5. Threats to kill Mr. Heliodoro Cáceres, member of the National Popular Resistance Front in Tela, Atlántida, for his efforts in search of his son Oslin Càceres Obando who was disappeared on June 13, minutes after informing his family that he was surrounded by police.

6 10 Journalists have been assassinated since the coup. These are August Murders: Murder of Santos Remigio Ávila, member of the National Popular Resistance Front and General Secretary of the National Peasants Association of Honduras (ANACH) in Guaymaca, Francisco Morazán.

Murder of Víctor Manuel Mata; Sergio Magdiel Amaya; and youth, Rulbin Marel Villeda (14), on August 17, all members of the San Esteban Cooperative, Bajo Aguán.

Murder of journalist Israel Zelaya, who prior to being murdered had suffered threats for his opposition to the coup.

Murder by stabbing of leader in the teachers movement and active member of the FNRP, Luís Antonio Hernández, in Sinuapa, Ocotepeque.

Murder of Bessy Pamela Cerrato Banegas, in Yucarán, El Paraíso, who bore machete wounds and signs of torture, daughter of Arminda Banegas, member of the Eighth Section of the Bottling Workers Union, STIBYS, and member of the FNRP. Six months have passed since this criminal act and the Public Prosecutor's Office has not prosecuted those responsible.



COFADEH demands that the national and international community take actions that will stop the persecution and political crimes against different sectors of Honduran society who are committed to the the struggle for a National Constituent Assembly, through the National Popular Resistance Front.

**FOR THE ACTS AND THE PERPETRATORS
WE WILL NOT FORGET, NOR FORGIVE**

**Committee of Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Honduras
COFADEH**

September 3, 2010 Tegucigalpa



Juan Almandares MD founder of the Prevention and Treatment of Torture and (Co-Founders Zenaida Velasquez) and Berta Oliva, now Director of COFADEH at the inauguration of the Real Truth Commission in July. The government Truth Commission said that the results of their investigation of the coup and beyond will be sealed for 10 years so Juan and Berta were among those who designed and invited international human rights jurists to be members of the Real Truth Commission.

AND YET!

At least one million signatures and thumbprints have been gathered in the campaign for 1.2 million by September 15, Honduran Independence Day. Spirits are high and the theme song “You’re afraid of us because we’re not afraid” continues.



Energizing and Inspirational!



odw voices fall 2010

Havana harvest: Organic agriculture in Cuba's capital

February 26, 2010



The 44th Street and Fifth Avenue Organoponico in Havana was founded in 1992, at the beginning of the “special period.” Each weekday the ripe beds are picked and sold to the neighborhood at the Punta de Venta on site. – Photo: Scott Braley



our developing world

Cuba reality tour 2011

Organic Spring Island Tour Optional: participate in a Passover Seder, Good Friday and/or Easter mass April 21 - 30, 2011 \$2,700 from Cancun

- * See the Cuban people’s reality through a clinic, a school, a home for the elderly, a cooperative farm, hurricane hit communities also have organic urban and rural gardens and markets.
- * Learn how people's health has improved, how it's become a public health tool and improved personal economy.
- * We can bring donated organic seeds, and garden hand tools.
- * Learn about community relief efforts, emergency planning and services for communities hit by hurricanes we'll visit.
- * We can bring small plumbing and electrical donations to communities still repairing.

When Cuba overthrew the dictator Batista in 1959, wealthy Europeans, Americans and Cubans fled and the U.S. cut off economic and political relations. Cuba turned to the Soviet Union. For about 30 years exported its sugar, nickel, coffee and tobacco to the socialist world at better than market prices. Russian oil powered agriculture. When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, a stunning blow for Cuba, and the U.S. tightened its trade embargo, Cuba had to come up with hard currency for all its imports. They overcame by using what they have – scientific intelligence, organization and human energy instead of money and machines. For more than 15 years Cuba has been raising its fruits and vegetables organically, tripling farmers’ average income, building stronger people and communities and shown the way to living well after the end of cheap oil. Just this year the option of family farming was offered.



One immediate way people confronted the food crisis was by starting to grow food in their own back yards, in vacant lots, even on their balconies. State institutions did the same. Catherine Murphy, researcher for Food First, writes: “The Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) tore up the front lawn at their modern headquarters in Havana, and planted lettuce, bananas and beans. Many employees that regularly worked behind desks began watering and weeding to ensure a steady food supply for the ministry’s lunchroom.”

Alamar – people’s farm in Havana’s suburbs



Photo: Scott Braley

One of those Ministry of Agriculture bureaucrats was Miguel Salcines Lopez, who came out from behind his desk to learn to be a real farmer. Today he is president of the Alamar Food co-op.

Farming in the city

Havana has almost 10,000 gardens, ranging from back yards to truck farms like Alamar. The 44th Street organopónico (the official term for the organic gardens in raised beds), founded in 1992, takes up half a city block on what used to be a dumping place. Its 48 raised concrete beds are filled with a planting mixture made of soil brought in from farther out in the country, mixed with worm compost from a bigger garden near them. They start the plants in three shade houses, harvest a bed all at once and set out new plants the same day.

They grow sorghum around the edges of the whole garden as a trap plant; the bugs like sorghum and munch on it instead of the leaf vegetables. Garden director Roberto Perez Sanchez says that the sorghum “keeps the insects entertained.” Basil and marigold bloom at the foot of every bed to ward off more insects; and onions or garlic planted close together as a border inside each bed is a third line of defense.

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Monday volunteer: Gay Lynn
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*We're asking \$15 per year from our readers to mail **voices** and support the publishing and broader circulation of this newsletter. Thank you!
We welcome your email address to send it electronically with no trees!*

At the 44th Street and Fifth Avenue Organoponico in Havana, crops are protected from insects by amaranth, marigolds and basil (shown), which repel insects and are planted at the end of each bed. Onions or garlic (shown) are also planted on the perimeter of each bed to repel insects. – Photo: Scott Braley



Good news!

"Elizabeth Warren, who conceived of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will oversee it. *Sewell Chan, The New York Times*

BP's Blown Well Expected to Be Permanently Sealed by Sunday
Harry R. Weber, Associated Press