

ROCLA UPDATE ON THE AMERICAS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA

ROCLA

MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1973, the Rochester Committee on Latin America (ROCLA) seeks to build bridges between the Rochester, NY, community and the people of Latin America. Through its monthly presentations, speakers, films, and quarterly newsletters, ROCLA educates local residents about the culture, economics and politics of the countries of Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean and the ways globalization, US trade and drug-war policies impact the lives of their people. ROCLA also supports the work of frontline organizations involved in working for justice and democracy in the global south, including the Latin America Solidarity Committee (LASC), Nicanet, Committee in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador (CISPES), Network In Solidarity with the people of Guatemala (NISGUA), Rights Action and the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendshipment. We also encourage our members and others to advocate for US policies that support human rights and reverse the often oppressive history of US involvement in Latin America. Annually, ROCLA presents its international and local White Dove Awards for outstanding leadership and service in the cause of human rights in Latin America.

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THE U.S. TAKES FIRST STEPS TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CUBA

As a long-time supporter of Pastors for Peace, ROCLA is pleased to publish their statement regarding the President's actions to improve diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba and to work toward lifting the U.S. embargo of Cuba. See Urgent Action below to support the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act (S. 491) and the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act (S.299/H.R. 662). [Ed. Note]

IFCO/Pastors for Peace applauds the bold steps taken by Senators [Amy] Klobuchar, [Michael] Enzi, [Debbie] Stabenow, [Jeff] Flake, [Patrick] Leahy, and [Richard] Durbin to repeal the U.S. trade embargo that is responsible for the economic distress of millions of Cuban citizens in Cuba. As one of the leading organizations in the U.S. that has been working to bring an end to the immoral



and unjust U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, we are pleased to share information about this important legislative initiative. For more than two decades IFCO has boldly travelled to Cuba without a U.S. government license to deliver humanitarian aid to the Cuban people through our U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravans, construction brigades and educational delegations.

While our Friendshipment caravans have delivered countless tons of humanitarian aid to the Cuban people as a nonviolent direct challenge to the brutal U.S. economic blockade of

Cuba, we are under no illusions that the aid we deliver can ever meet the demands of the Cuban people. We believe that only the lifting of the U.S. blockade against Cuba can guarantee the survival and the prosperity of the Cuban people.

The Freedom to Export to Cuba Act (S. 491) aims to make economic opportunities for U.S. businesses and farmers by boosting U.S. exports and allow Cubans greater access to goods manufactured in the U.S. The bill would also eliminate the restriction of "cash in advance," which has made it impossible for Cuba to buy emergency supplies from the U.S. and [would] allow Cuba to purchase goods [such as] construction materials, medical equipment, medicine, school materials, and more, with the same access to credit as other nations. These are the kinds of goods that IFCO/Pastors for Peace, with the support of its international network of supporters, has been collecting over the past 23 years to try to
(Cuba continues page 5)

URGENT ACTION

Please support the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act (S. 299/H.R. 664) and the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act. Both bills are seen as important steps toward ending the Cuban Embargo.

S.299/H.R. 664--Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015

S. 299 would end all travel restrictions for Americans who want to visit Cuba and also would allow all travel-related banking transactions. It is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and 14 co-sponsors, including four Republicans and 10 Democrats. Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) has introduced a companion bill, H.R. 664, in the House.

S. 491--Freedom to Export to Cuba Act of 2015

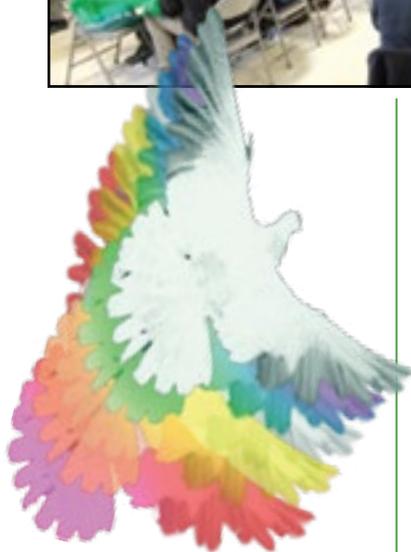
The Freedom to Export to Cuba Act aims to make economic opportunities for US businesses and farmers by boosting US exports and allow Cubans greater access to goods manufactured in the US. This is also a bipartisan bill, introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and 6 co-sponsors.

To support all three bills, go to <http://www.lawg.org/action-center/77/1426>.

The 27th Annual Rice & Beans Dinner and White Dove Awards March 20, 2015 • Gates Presbyterian Church



ROCLA welcomed nearly 100 members and guests to its 2015 Rice and Beans Dinner and White Dove Awards for a wonderful dinner prepared by chef Peg Gefell of Savory-Thyme Catering. Photo: Paola Macas Betchart.



May 1st Committee farmworker leaders, advocates with the Worker Justice Center of NY, and friends join Grania Marcus, winner of the Local White Dove Award, after the dinner. Photo: Paola Betchart



International White Dove Winner Jennifer Atlee, Nicaragua/Honduras human rights defender, accepted the award on behalf of herself and her husband, Tom Loudon. She delivered a compelling speech based on their 30-plus years of experience in Central America that indicted the U.S. government for its lengthy history of political destabilization, military intervention and human rights violations in Latin America. Photo: Rochester Indymedia. (See page 3 for excerpts from Jennifer's acceptance speech.)



José Cañas, a leader of the May 1st Farmworkers Committee, thanks ROCLA for its support of their work and talks about the hope he has for a better future. Photo: Rochester Indymedia

Greetings from Henrietta and Max Levine, ROCLA Founders

Sorry we can't be with you, but we want to congratulate Jennifer, Tom, and Grania for being honored tonight, and to thank them for the work they have been doing to keep us all connected to the struggles and the progress of the people in Latin America.

And, congratulations to all of you for supporting ROCLA so that we can KEEP ON KEEPING ON.

¡La Lucha Continua!



Daniel Larios, the father of a dairy farmworker who died in a workplace accident in New York State, spoke movingly to Rice & Beans dinner guests about his son's death and the efforts of the May 1st Farmworkers Committee to address health and safety issues on N.Y.'s dairy farms. Photo: Rochester Indymedia (See page 6, for an article updating the work of the May 1st Farmworkers Committee).



Just two of the many Silent Auction offerings that raised an amazing \$756 to help fund the work of the May 1st Farmworkers Committee. Photo: Paola Betchart.

Jennifer Atlee and Tom Loudon White Dove Acceptance Speech March 20, 2015

Excerpts from Jenny Atlee and Tom Loudon's extraordinarily moving White Dove acceptance speech are reprinted below for those who were unable to be present at the Rice & Beans Dinner. The full speech is available on the ROCLA website, <http://rocla.us>. At the dinner, ROCLA members signed over 115 letters to New York's Senators asking them to end military assistance to Honduras. [Ed. Note]

Thirty-one years ago Tom and I arrived in Nicaragua. We were witnesses to a historic process of social transformation in Nicaragua and a U.S. sponsored war aimed at destroying it. We intended to stay for six months. We never imagined that we would be here with you tonight to reflect on 30-plus years of work for human rights, peace and justice in Central America.

During the 1980's we witnessed and experienced the impact of U.S. sponsored counterinsurgency wars in Central America. At that time, U.S. policy in the region was informed by its experience in Viet Nam where the will of a poor, determined people withstood the vastly superior

military power of the United States. The lessons from Viet Nam were forged into a new military doctrine called "Low Intensity Warfare" (LIW), which guided U.S. engagement in Central America.

Low intensity refers to low exposure for U.S. troops via the use of proxy forces and other militaries on the ground. The U.S. role is focused on training, equipping, advising, intelligence and funding. This avoids the high political cost of U.S. casualties.

However, LIW entails high intensity suffering on the part of the civilian population; it becomes the enemy, the target, rather than another military force. A central tenet of this doctrine is the deliberate use of terror to shock people into compliance with U.S. policy objectives. The human rights implications for this new form of warfare were catastrophic and have still not been addressed. Dr. Derek Summerfield of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Torture Victims explains the strategy in this way,

Population is the target – through systemic violence and terror, the aim is to penetrate into homes, families and the entire social fabric of grassroots social relations. It is a science of warfare whose goal is controlling the qualitative aspects of human life to produce demoralization and paralysis. Terror is sown not just randomly but also through targeted assaults on health workers, teachers, cooperative leaders, anyone whose work symbolizes shared values and aspirations. Torture, mutilation and execution in front of family members are routine.

A disturbing legacy of this period was the deliberate creation and training of special forces and death squads that specialized in terror in each country. This policy reached its most egregious and criminal expression in Guatemala,

where acts of genocide were committed against the indigenous population.

By 1990, U.S. sponsored counterinsurgency wars had resulted in hundreds of thousands of dead, mutilated, tortured, forcibly disappeared human beings throughout Central America. It left populations that had been deliberately terrorized and suffered from trauma; individual, collective, historical and intergenerational trauma . . .

In 2005, Manuel Zelaya was elected President of Honduras . . . The Zelaya government began to make small but significant changes in response to legitimate demands on the part of the Honduran people. Minimum wage was increased. Agricultural credit was made more accessible for small farmers. Advances were made in emblematic human rights cases from the dirty war of the 1980's. The Honduran Congress voted to enter into ALBA, a regional block for economic cooperation.

In addition to these measures, social movements in Honduras were calling for a Constituent Assembly; a process to address aspects of the Constitution that impeded social justice . . .

On June 28th, 2009 . . . the Honduran military raided the home of President Zelaya, took him to the Palmerola military base in his pajamas where he was put on a plane and flown to Costa Rica. The Honduran military seized the country . . . the coup marked . . . a return to the deadly past of rule by brute force. Governments throughout Latin America rallied to reverse the coup and restore democratic order. Honduras was expelled from the OAS [Organization of American States].

At the time of the coup . . . Tom, along with Jesuit priest, Father Joe Mulligan, were among the first to respond to the request for international presence, along with Father Roy Bourgeois and Lisa Sullivan of SOA Watch. In Honduras, they witnessed a spontaneous, massive, sustained, peaceful outpouring of opposition to the coup. Throughout the country people poured into the streets, demanding restoration of democratic order and the return of the elected President . . .

Protests continued and repression increased. Throughout Honduras, on walls, flags, T-shirts, hats . . . appeared these words: "Nos tienen miedo porque no les

(Continued on page 6)



Jenny Atlee and Tom Loudon's Honduras Accompaniment Project (PROAH) has provided accompaniment to COPINH, a coalition of indigenous and Honduran popular organizations, in response to the criminalization and assassinations of its leadership.

WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA AGAINST U.S. STATEMENT AND SANCTIONS

By Emile Schepers
April 15, 2015

The massive international outpouring of petition signatures and other public acts in response to, and rejection of, U.S. President Barack Obama's executive declaration of an emergency on March 9, in which the situation in Venezuela was characterized as an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to U.S. interests and foreign policy, and which was accompanied by economic sanctions against seven Venezuelan officials, has reached unprecedented proportions.

On Friday, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced that more than 10 million people in his country, whose total population is 30 million, had signed the main petition. Up to three million people signed in other countries.

At the Summit of the Americas in Panama City, Panama, organized by the venerable Organization of American States (OAS) over the weekend, speaker after speaker rose to denounce the Obama statement and demand its retraction. Previously, most of the national governments in the Western Hemisphere, including major U.S. allies, had expressed themselves similarly, as had China, Russia and many poorer countries around the world. Regional organizations including the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of our America (ALBA), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which includes all Western Hemisphere states except the United States and Canada, voted to condemn the March 9 statement and call for its retraction.

Although many speakers also praised President Obama's opening to Cuba and the celebrated handshake at the summit between Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro, the controversy about the statement of Venezuela as a threat undercut what could have ended on a very upbeat note for the United States. From 1962 on, the United States had kept Cuba out of the OAS and prevented it from attending previous Summits of the Americas, but in 2012, the Latin American states, including key



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro holds a box with signatures from supporters who signed a petition asking the U.S. to end sanctions against Venezuela during a ceremony at the monument for the 500-plus victims of the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama in Panama City, April 10, 2015. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

U.S. ally Colombia, had flatly stated that if Cuba continued to be excluded, there would be no more summits.

The Summit did not issue the customary final document due to the opposition of the United States and Canada to some clauses in the draft. However, the parallel "Summit of the Peoples," which included the participation of workers, small farmers, women, youth, indigenous and Afro-descendants, gay-lesbian people and others, did approve a final statement in which the March 9 "threat" statement was criticized and its retraction demanded.

President Obama responded by explaining that the United States does not actually see Venezuela as a threat. The language about an "emergency" and "threat" was in fact boiler-plate language taken from the federal statute book, which it was necessary to employ in order to justify the sanctions. As can be imagined, neither the Venezuelans nor others saw this as adequate, especially since U.S. officials had earlier stated that the present set of sanctions are just a "beginning," and are still calling for a complete retraction of the statement.

President Maduro has asked that people in and beyond Venezuela keep on circulating petitions and statements until April 30.

We in the United States have an opportunity join in with all of these millions worldwide who say "no" to interference with Venezuelan national sovereignty! ■

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URGENT ACTION

Tell President Obama Venezuela is not an "extraordinary threat!"

School of the Americas (SOA) Watch asks Americans to join millions of people from across the Americas in calling on President Obama to repeal his March 9, 2015 Executive Order declaring Venezuela to be an extraordinary threat to the national security of the United States. Venezuela represents no threat to the United States and Obama's unilateral action has been widely condemned throughout Latin America, even by U.S. allies. The 33 countries of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) called on Obama to reverse the executive order and initiate a dialogue with Venezuela based on non-intervention and respect. CELAC re-affirmed their country's commitment to Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. Millions of people in Venezuela and Latin America have signed petitions calling on Obama to repeal the executive order, which were presented at the April 2015 Summit of the Americas in Panama. **To add your name, see: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/727/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=17590**

POINT OF VIEW

SANCTIONS AND SOLIDARITY: A COMMENTARY ON RECENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA

By Clifton Ross

Clifton Ross is co-editor with Marcy Rein of "Until the Rulers Obey: Voices from Latin American Social Movements." (PM Press, 2014). These essays bring together voices from the movements behind the wave of change that swept Latin America at the turn of the 21st century, movements that have galvanized long-silenced—or silent—sectors of society: indigenous people, campesinos, students, the LGBT community, the unemployed, and all those left out of the promised utopia of a globalized economy. He has been critical of both U.S. policy and repression and some of the actions of the leftist governments that have replaced the previous U.S. supported undemocratic regimes. [Ed. Note]

In the third week of December 2014, several events culminated in what might have been a turning point in U.S.-Latin American relations. The series of events began on Monday when the Socialist International made a unanimous call to the Bolivarian [Venezuelan] government of Nicolas Maduro to release opposition leader Leopoldo López. López, the founder of the opposition party, Voluntad Popular (Popular Will) [which has been characterized as everything from "center-left," to "far right"—Ed.], was arrested in the midst of the student disturbances in February 2014, and is currently being held in military custody at the Ramo Verde prison on charges that he incited the protests.

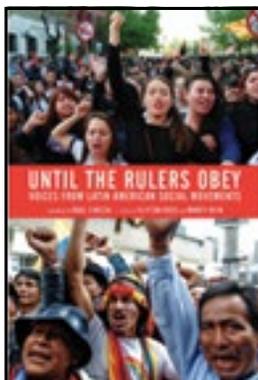
When or if he is finally tried on the charges, he faces a judicial system in which, according to the 2004 Annual Report of the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, over 80% of the judges are "provisional" and the majority, lacking even law degrees, are political appointees. Amnesty International has called the charges "a politically motivated attempt to silence dissent," and Human Rights Watch Americas Director José Miguel Vivanco concurs. He says the government has not

yet offered "any credible evidence" of wrongdoing on the part of López. "In a country where the judiciary is an appendix of the executive, and it is doing its best to undermine López's ability to defend himself before the courts, the political nature of the case against him is becoming clearer as time goes by." Judge Susana Barreiros has dismissed 64 of 65 witnesses the defense called, and admitted all 108 for the prosecution.

Two days after the Socialist International's announcement, President Obama had one of his own. He proclaimed the release of the three remaining of the "Cuban 5" prisoners, unjustly held for years in a Florida prison on espionage charges. He said he would begin a process of normalizing relations with Cuba, although ending the embargo would require authorization from Congress. President Raul Castro announced the exchange of prisoners and the shift in relations simultaneously in Havana and he thanked Pope Francis for his efforts in the process.

The very next day Obama signed the Menendez-Rubio Act "to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of the human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela." The sanctions include seizing bank accounts and other property and denying visas to officials guilty of human rights violations in repressing the demonstrations in Venezuela. López's case was among those mentioned.

Anti-imperialist and solidarity activists should rightly point out the hypocrisy of the U.S. for fifty years of attacks on Cuba as a "human rights violator" when it maintains excellent relations with repres-



sive regimes like Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and other human rights violators in distant lands. There's also the prison in Guantanamo, Cuba, where over a hundred men have been held without trial – and tortured – for nearly 15 years, not to mention prisoners of conscience like Leonard Peltier and others on the mainland. The hypocrisy of condemning Venezuela for human rights violations and sanctioning its officials in this context is also evident, and should be pointed out and condemned.

But the real question we have to ask ourselves is, will we join in the hypocrisy? We who have condemned the imprisonment of Cubans on trumped up charges of espionage, will we condone a similar process undertaken by the Venezuelan government toward Leopoldo López and the many more still being held for demonstrating against the government in Venezuela? Will we take a stand for democracy, justice and fairness for all, everywhere? Or do we have the same self-interested motives as the people we protest?

These epochal shifts and realignments call on activists to move beyond old binaries, to think more critically about everything and return to basics, supporting human rights, democracy and freedom. Everywhere. ■

(Cuba continued from page 1)
bring some relief to the people of Cuba.

We at IFCO know, despite the President's announcement and these laudable steps taken by members of Congress, our work is not done. We believe that in addition to ending the blockade and the travel ban, Cuba deserves to be taken off the list of countries that sponsor terrorism; the U.S.-occupied Guantanamo Naval Base should be returned to Cuba; the wet foot/dry foot policy that encourages illegal and dangerous migration from Cuba to the United States should be repealed; and finally, the U.S. government should stop funding USAID projects aimed at undermining the Cuban government.

Those of us who have been working for years to express love and solidarity with the people of Cuba can rightfully take credit for the U.S. government's current change in attitude toward Cuba, but it is a mistake to think our work is over. It is critical at this important time that we stay the course. ■

MAY 1ST FARMWORKERS COMMITTEE RECEIVES SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS

ROCLA raised an amazing \$756 at the Rice & Beans Dinner Silent Auction to support the Comité Primero de Mayo de Trabajadores Agrícolas (May 1st Farmworkers Committee). Here is an update on their work. [Ed. Note]

The May 1st Farmworkers Committee came together last year to fight for better working conditions on New York State's dairy farms, where there has been a spike in injuries and accidents. During 2014, the workers successfully fought to increase OSHA's surprise inspections and hold dairy farms accountable, but much still needs to be done. OSHA does not have jurisdiction on farms with 10 or fewer workers, leading to an appalling lack of standards on the majority of N.Y.'s farms in one of the most hazardous industries.

In August 2014, 25-year-old Daniel Larios was killed in a workplace accident at Roots Brothers farm in Albion N.Y. Recently, his father made a heroic journey to New York to investigate the accident and raise awareness about his son's tragic death, including speaking at the Rice & Beans dinner. Unfortunately, Roots Brothers has made no effort to reach out to the family, and are refusing to pay the meager \$7,000 OSHA fine. (See <http://www.orchestrasub.com/news2015/Father-of-Mexican-worker-killed-in-farm-accident-attends-vigil-in-Albion.htm>)

Since its founding as a democratic worker-led movement, the May 1st Farmworkers Committee has been engaged in building a base of worker-leaders to address issues of workplace injustice, and has conducted some 80 interviews with farmworkers to form worker-led focus groups to develop strategies for addressing workplace violations.

Recently, a group of workers and allies went to Demko dairy farm north of Syracuse to demand the payment of wages owed to workers. This kind of concerted action engages everyday workers in demanding their rights and defending those



of their co-workers. In contrast, the N.Y. Farm Bureau recently announced that it will fight any minimum wage increases in the agriculture industry, further exacerbating the unequal status of farmworkers.

The workers' next action takes place on May 1st, International Workers Day, in Lowville, N.Y. They will march to Marks Farm to protest the farm manager's recent severe beating of a worker in front of ten of the worker's colleagues and respond with a peaceful show of solidarity with the workers on the farm. For more information about this and other actions in support of N.Y.S. farmworkers, contact Carly Fox at the Worker Justice Center of Rochester cfox@wjcnj.org. ■

(Atlee/Loudon continued from page 3)
tenemos miedo. – They are afraid of us because we are not afraid of them.” . . .

Since the 2009 coup, Honduras has been hyper-militarized. The United States has stepped up security assistance to strengthen an ever increasing list of state security forces: police, military, Tigres, Cobras, special border units and task forces, Military Police, etc. [but] Honduras experiences a mounting and unabated security and human rights crisis.

National and international human rights organizations, including PROAH (The Honduras Accompaniment Project) have consistently documented patterns of political violence and human rights violations targeting human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, peasants, social movement leaders, indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations and communities, communities protecting natural resources.

Since 2012, Honduras has consistently ranked as the most deadly country in the

world outside of active war zones. San Pedro Sula is the most deadly city in the world. The World Health Organization has declared that Honduras has a homicide epidemic. Since 2012, the homicide rate in Honduras has run, on average, at about 90 homicides per 100,000 people – that is about 1 murder per hour. To put this in perspective, the homicide rate in . . . the United States [is] 4.7, Canada - 1.6.

The United States and Honduran governments state that this level of killing is due to “common crime” requiring more funding for state security forces, despite undisputed acknowledgement of systemic corruption, abuse, criminality, linkages to gangs, drug trafficking and organized crime on the part of Honduran state security forces.

Two Truth Commissions in Honduras established in the aftermath of the coup determined that the coup d'état carried out by the military was illegal, that police and military are responsible for the majority of reported human rights abuses, that they engage in targeted political violence [and] excessive use of force. [The Commissions] expressed concern regarding the resurgence of death squads within state security forces and the practice of forced disappearance, torture and summary execution.

In 2014, Casa Alianza, an organization that advocates for the rights of children, raised concerns about social cleansing programs and documented the murders of an average of 90 children per month in what they consider to be extra-judicial killings . . .

[T]he United States has backed Honduras with steady increases in military assistance, installation of new bases and programs . . . Militarization is justified as necessary for fighting a war on drugs and crime. Yet, drug flows are not reduced, violence levels continue to climb, the human rights crisis mounts and the United States is partnered with state security forces that are permeated by organized crime and corruption.

[We] are witnessing a new cycle of violence, terror and trauma. We are witnessing a new war. The United States has not learned the lessons of the past. Many of you here tonight have also worked for human rights and social justice in the Americas for thirty-plus years. You carry the historic memory of this region and its people. Your voice is needed by U.S. policymakers today. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

The ROCLA newsletter begins a new series updating our members about what some past International White Dove Award winners are engaged in now. Here are updates about Roy Bourgeois, ROCLA's 2009 White Dove winner, and the Global Justice Ecology Project, the 2012 winner.



Photo: SOA Watch

Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of the Americas (SOA) Watch, will be speaking on "Peace, Justice, Equality and Conscience in Latin America" on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 7 PM, at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York.

He is known throughout the Western Hemisphere for his eloquent, impassioned, and tireless activism for human rights. He served as a Catholic priest in Bolivia for 5 years until he was expelled for standing with the poor in their struggle for human rights. SOA Watch has grown into a movement of thousands to shut down the U.S. school where the military perpetrators of genocide, repression and torture in Latin America were trained to conduct low-intensity warfare campaigns against democratic movements. In response, the name of the school has been changed, but its actions continue.

Since then, Roy has cumulatively spent 4 years in jail for his nonviolent protests against the SOA and has produced an Academy-award winning documentary about the SOA, "School of Assassins." In 2010, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. More recently, he led a delegation to El Salvador in March 2015 to honor Archbishop Oscar Romero on the anniversary of his death. He continues to fight for justice and human rights within the Catholic Church for women seeking ordination, and for LGBT equality, and to stand with social movements in Latin America.



The Global Justice Ecology Project (GJEP) opened the ¡Buen Vivir! Gallery in Buffalo, NY, in 2014, which is currently hosting a new photography exhibit "Struggles for Justice: Forests, Land and Human Rights - Late 80s to Late 90s." You are invited to join them for a reception on June 19, 2015, from 6-8 PM, at 148 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo.

The ¡Buen Vivir! Gallery in the international headquarters of Global Justice Ecology Project is located at 148 Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo's Allentown District. ¡Buen Vivir! means a life in harmony with humans, community and the Earth.

The "Struggles for Justice" exhibit features photographic examples of the many campaigns and issues that Orin Langelle, director of Langelle Photography and GJEP Board Chair, was fortunate to be involved in and document in the late 1980s and 1990s. The photographs were shot with 35 mm Nikon cameras using film and mostly depict struggles in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico against logging, free trade agreements like NAFTA and the FTAA, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies, U.S. military support in Latin America, and the struggles of First Nations for sovereignty. Orin notes about the exhibit, "Many of the people portrayed in these photos put their personal safety at risk in the struggle for justice." The images are extraordinary—see them before the June 19 closing! ■

HAVE YOUR CHECKS BEEN CASHED?

Please let ROCLA know if you have noticed that any of your contributions during the past year were not deposited. We are making this request out of an abundance of caution, since both ROCLA's Treasurer and Metro Justice's (our fiscal sponsor) staff changed during this time and we want to be sure that no contributions have been overlooked. Notify Kathy Goforth at kathy.goforth@rochester.rr.com with any concerns. Thank you! ■



JOIN US FOR ROCLA'S JUNE PROGRAM!

**Wednesday, June 3, 7 pm
Annette Ramos, "Telling the Latino Story."**

Annette Ramos is a Latina storyteller, teacher and director of the Latino Theatre Company of Rochester, which describes itself as a "Theatre about Latinos and written by Latinos about the Latino experience for everyone to enjoy, no matter where you come from." She will discuss her mission to tell the story of Latinos in America and involve them in telling their own stories.

The program will be held at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh St., Rochester.

The church is handicapped accessible and looped for the hearing impaired. The program is free and open to the public. ■

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To sign up for the ROCLA e-mail list and receive announcements of our programs and other special information, please visit this link: <http://stopha.com/rocla>. You can enter your name and e-mail there to subscribe or unsubscribe. Stay informed about ROCLA programs, upcoming events and urgent actions! ■

HELP KEEP ROCLA'S WEBSITE CURRENT!

ROCLA has a lively website (see: <http://rocla.us/>) where webmaster Jim Bearden posts current information about Latin America on an ongoing basis, as well as announcements of programs and other news. If you have information, articles or action opportunities about Latin America that you believe may be of interest to ROCLA members, please email the link or content to Jim at: jeb.bearden@gmail.com. ■

REMINDER!

You can now opt to receive your ROCLA newsletter electronically (and in color!) by email. The members that have chosen this option receive their newsletter sooner than the print version, ROCLA saves the cost of postage and paper, and the environment benefits. If you would like to switch to email delivery, please let Marilyn Kaiser know: rjkaiser3@gmail.com. ■