



our developing world's voices

Hope!!!! Read about our Ecuador Tour inside!

our developing world 2009 Reality EcoTours of Hope

Come home energized and hopeful from the people we meet!

El Salvador/Nicaragua February 15- March 1 South Africa July 24-Aug. 8

Non-Hilton adventures for ten flexible travelers who want to see for themselves.

Focusing on people: justice, social, health and economic development

Dr. Weil says travel is good for your health! odw agrees: We promise you hope and energy!

Tour cost is tax deductible. Also donations to odw scholarship fund in some-one's name. We also organize tours for students, teachers, families and friends.

our developing world, a tax-exempt educational nonprofit Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider # CEP14397, for 20 Contact Hours RN fee \$100 University credit possible odw@magiclink.net 408-379-4431 13004 Paseo Presada, Saratoga, CA
google our developing world: We're on top as the nonprofit..

Come to our Annual International Handcraft Sale

Sat. Nov. 22 11-4 pm, Sun. Nov. 23 1-4

13004 Paseo Presada, Saratoga, corner Paseo Lado. Look for lavender door.

Unique and beautiful handweavings, wood carvings, baskets, ponchos, scarves, toys, embroideries and more from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Ecuador and stories about the artists, often disabled by landmines or agent orange.



***Invite us to do a program on these and other topics:
Ecuador, Venezuela and Bolivia, Why Should We
Care About Them?***

***Free and Fair Trade. How the Difference Makes a
Difference in Many Lives***

***When the US Sneezes the Rest of the World Gets
Pneumonia***

Ecuador, Another Sign of Hope!

In Ecuador three years in a row, we experienced the primary election, and then Correa won the presidency. This time we learned the Constituent Assembly, elected by the provinces according to population, had written a new constitution which was voted on Sunday September 30. We asked taxi drivers, hotel owners, managers, indigenous farmers, craft people, vendors, teachers, everyone: Is life better since Correa became President ? And about the Constitution: Si or No?? It won by 68% to 26%, 6% blank



(Not voting means a fine, but a blank ballot is ok)

The answers posed a class difference, not an ethnic one. The poorer felt life is better (education and health care are free) and most said “Yes!” to the new constitution. Those who said “No” were generally much more prosperous. The Catholic hierarchy was very opposed and this was reflected in the media with many ads rabidly against, untruths abounding. The CA Act to constitutionalize marriage only between a man and a woman is in the Constitution, but also civil union for same sex couples with all the rights of a married couple.



Dr. Nina Pacari, the first and only indigenous woman on the Supreme Court explained that Ecuador was a very closed, conservative society and the Constitution would open it up and help them move forward in a new direction. It also puts free education and healthcare for all in the Constitution. Can we get there?

Ecuador is made up of many indigenous groups living in the highlands and the rainforest with many different languages. The Constitution made a step backward by taking away the official language designation of Quichua and Shuar and making them only so for inter-ethnic communication.



Papa Roncon, the spiritual leader of the AfroEcuadorians who have much the same cosmo vision as the Quichua feeling that all beings including animals, plants, birds and fish are brothers and sisters. Community is vital. We didn't hear the word I, but always we. Wouldn't that make a difference!

The women conch harvesters learned from experience how devastating destroying mangroves is. (Multinationals have cut them down to build "for export" shrimp farms!) The conch are drastically fewer and smaller and some are toxic. They take the poisoned conch way up stream where the mangroves haven't been damaged and find they heal



themselves. The struggle they have to eke out a living!

Olinda Riaglo, President of the Association of Women Concheros for Mangrove Preservation, Olimbo, a project under FUNDECOL@yahoo.com They need help!

Latin America Working Together!

ALBA is the development cooperation entity that helps countries with literacy and healthcare programs now includes Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba.

Mercusur is the financial entity that's allowed Bolivia to pull out of the IMF, etc

Presidents of many countries met to cooperate against the US fomenting and supporting opposition and interference with each countries' elections. (Documented by Eva Golinger in Chavez Code using government documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act regarding Venezuela.) This caused of the ouster of US Ambassador to Bolivia and the US reprisal. We have seen and heard the adamant words of our ambassadors in El Salvador and Nicaragua taking strong stands opposing presidential candidates. For example, last Salvadoran election the US said the remittances of Salvadorans working in the US would be stopped if the FMLN candidate won. (A clearly unconstitutional act if implemented.) But it scared Salvadorans. More than 1/3 of the nation's income is such remittances and many families rely on them. Our ambassador is interfering again. We'll check it out further in February on our reality tour.

Chevron

Have you heard/seen the Chevron ads on Energy, how they're working on that problem to help us! They're still NOT doing anything to clean up the toxic mess in Ecuador where their Texaco used obsolete technology and polluted vast areas, damaging and killing people, livestock, air and water. The suit against them was sent by the court in New York back to Ecuador which Chevron agreed to thinking Noboa would be president and would throw it out of court! It's been going on 13 years and people have gotten no help. La Selva Verde is handling the suit. Amazon Watch is a local solidarity group.



Sierra Club <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200709/bio.asp>

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL BIOFUEL FUTURE, cars and trucks are powered by wood chips, prairie grass, wheat straw, fast-food grease, garbage, and even algae--whichever material is most plentiful locally and least damaging environmentally. With cars getting 40 miles a gallon or better, greenhouse-gas emissions plummet. The biofuel revolution sparks an economic boom by keeping U.S. dollars at home instead of sending them to Middle Eastern sheikhs.

Interfaith Peace-Builders & US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Report Four: Voices of Dissent and Coping with Kassams Tel Aviv and Sderot

Alternative Israeli Voices Tel Aviv: Sunday, August 3, 2008

After leaving Nazareth we drove to Jaffa where we had lunch (delicious, abundant and vegetarian!) in a little dive with Tal Dor. She is a first generation Israeli, born here, who is now pursuing a Master's degree in France. She works with human rights organizations here in Israel trying to further the cause of human and equal rights for Palestinians, both in the Occupied Territories and in Israel proper. Her story was very moving. Born to parents who immigrated here from South Africa, she grew up a Zionist Jew in Israel, fully supportive of Israel and the narrative that goes with the settlers of Israel.

When she was 20 she visited South Africa for the first time and began to question the version of history that she had learned growing up in Israeli schools. Her recitation of her journey was spellbinding as we learned how she began to probe, to ask questions, to critique the version of history that had been told to her. As she learned more she became an activist working for Palestinian rights because she loves Israel and wants it to be the kind of democracy it says it wants to be. She was very eloquent, well spoken, courageous and engaging. It was fascinating to hear from her how and why many Israelis manage to grow up here really clueless about some of the less admirable pieces of their history and blind to the issues of discrimination against Palestinians.

Once again I saw parallels to the United States. How many white suburban Americans grow up clueless about the conditions in which African Americans in the cit-

ies live their lives or of how Mexican immigrants have to survive in a country that wants their labor but won't make it possible for them to provide it legally? This trip is as informative about United States culture as it is about Israel, because I am seeing in Israel many of the same blindnesses and obsessions and misguided ideologies as are part of our American culture.“

Water Is a Human Right, or is it? Sign the petition: www.article31.org

[Article 31: Everyone has the right to clean and accessible water, adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family, and no one shall be deprived of such access or quality of water due to individual economic circumstances.](#)

Global Family,

In 1948, the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were ratified by all the nations of the world. These 30 articles guaranteed a broad sweep of human rights across many human endeavors, from Life to Liberty to Freedom of Thought.

Now, sixty years later, recognizing that over a billion people across the planet lack access to clean and potable water and that millions die each year as a result, it is imperative to add one more article to this historic declaration, the Right to Water.

We, the undersigned, respectfully call upon the United Nations to add a 31st article to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, establishing access to clean and potable water as a fundamental human right. We believe the world will be a better place when the Right To Water is acknowledged by all nations as a fundamental human right, and that this addition to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights represents a major step toward the goal of water for all.

Please join us. Water is a right, not a privilege.

Friends Committee on National Legislation A Quaker Public Interest
Lobby**E-News: Successes in September** September 30, 2008

Read this newsletter online at: <http://action.fcni.org/r/20302/80137/>.

In the fall of 2008, Congress approved a U.S.-India nuclear deal and failed to advance Indian health care funding or provide help for the many workers who have lost their jobs in the recent economic downturn. Yet even in this election year, we at FCNL can mark several significant successes.

Success: Iran Blockade Legislation Fizzles

In June, House leaders reportedly pledged to "fast track" legislation that urged the president to initiate an international blockade on Iran, prevent Iranian diplomats from traveling, and possibly provoke a war. FCNL spent the next 4 months intensely lobbying against the bill, H. Con. Res. 362, and helped convince 5 representatives to remove their names from the legislation, a rare step. Despite gaining cosponsorship from more than half the House, the bill is now unlikely to pass the House this year. .

Success: No Permanent U.S. Military Bases in Iraq

For the third year in a row, Congress approved the FCNL-initiated proposal to ban the U.S. government from establishing permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq. The measure was included in the 2009 military authorization bill, which both the House and Senate have passed and President Bush is expected to sign. While FCNL opposes authorizing and spending more money for war, Congress included specific provisions that we support in the military authorization bill.

Congress Bans Cluster Bomb Exports

A one-year moratorium on cluster bomb exports was set to expire on September 30, 2008. In the waning hours of the 110th Congress, members included an extension of the ban on the export of most types of cluster bombs in a bill that will keep the government running through March 2009. While this extension is short term, it provides another clear victory for FCNL's campaign to ban cluster bombs. Congress still needs to approve legislation that would ban U.S. forces from using these weapons in civilian-populated areas.

Success: Congress Says No to New Nuclear Weapons

Success: Congress Invests in Peace

Success: Congress Boosts Money for Poor, Students

Iran: FCNL Participates in Dialogue with President Ahmadinejad

Three FCNL staff members joined representatives of other U.S. peace and religious organizations last week in meetings with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in New York. They met with the Iranian president to underscore the possibility of direct negotiations between the United States and Iran, not because FCNL agrees with him but precisely because people and nations |



War Is Not the Answer Photo of the Week: Washington, DC

CODEPINK

A Fox News reporter recently said, "George Bush will eventually go back to Texas, but CODEPINK is here to stay." It's time to listen to the voice of peace movement; we were right about the invasion and we represent the majority of the American people. We will continue to stand up for our nation and a more just and sustainable future, no matter who ends up in the White House next year.

CODEPINK Platform for Peace and Security

- Withdraw all U.S. troops and military contractors from Iraq.
- Redirect war funding and excess Pentagon spending toward needs at home, including healthcare, education and rebuilding New Orleans.
- Move from unilateralism and pre-emptive strikes to international cooperation and diplomacy. Start with Iran.
- Seek dialogue with warring parties and increased development assistance to end the fighting and poverty in Afghanistan.
- Respect international law and the sovereignty of other nations, including Pakistan.
- Promote global disarmament, including the disarming of US nuclear stockpiles.
- Promote an equitable peace plan between Israel and Palestine that would leave the Palestinians with a viable state.
- Fight terrorism through police and intelligence efforts and by addressing root causes.
- End torture, respect human rights, and restore habeas corpus. Close Guantanamo.
- Respect the rule of law, uphold the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- Hold officials accountable for their abuses of power, using such remedies as impeachment.
- Protect personal freedom by rejecting warrantless spying, stifling of dissent, and other affronts to individual liberty.
- Provide universal healthcare through a single-payer, not-for-profit system.
- Replace "free trade" agreements with fair trade deals with other countries that protect workers' rights and the environment.
- Implement humane and comprehensive immigration reform that affirms the dignity and integrity of immigrant families.
- Address global warming and oil dependence by raising auto fuel economy, imposing mandatory caps on carbon pollution and investing in public transportation, energy conservation technologies and alternative energy development.
- Protect women's reproductive freedom, including the right-to-choose.
- Ensure equality for lesbians gays and transgender people, including in marriage and military service.
- Implement Clean Money public financing of elections, plus free TV/radio time for candidates.
- Mandate paper ballots and rigorous audits of elections.
- Break up media conglomerates, diversify broadcasting, expand minority and nonprofit ownership of our airwaves, and provide high-speed community Internet for all.

<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=JI6ojMSu2rvQMAAtBmSgh15wf1bY%2FqW5Q>

We could live with that!! Couldn't you?