



our developing world's voices Volume 17, No. 3

***our developing world* Cuba Reality Tour 2011 Organic Spring Island Tour April 21-30, 2011 \$2700 from Cancun With options for participating in Good Friday, Easter and Passover**

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Sat. June 5 6pm potluck, 7 pm Joseph Mutti shares his many experiences after the earthquake in Haiti. Is there hope? *odw* calendar

Chief Seattle told us, "All things are connected." But in domestic and foreign policy decisions we don't seem to be connecting the dots. More p 6.

History and Foreign Policy

Thanks to Peggy and John Law of National Radio Project (that produces the weekly half hour program Making Contact) we were once privileged to share lunch with Howard Zinn and a few others. Such an important writer and historian, but such an unassuming relaxed affable but activist person whose wisdom and humor is sorely missed.

In an interview in "Rethinking Schools" in 1993 he said, of the teaching of history, " One major problem has been the intense focus on US history in isolation from the world. This is a problem that all nations have, their nationalistic focus....and it goes to absurd lengths.... We have also concentrated on the Western world, in fact on Western Europe"

How does that affect our foreign policy? US Latin America policy is repeating itself: More p 6

Honduras

Please help Barby and Vic Ulmer, Co-Directors of *our developing world* with tax deductible donations to *odw* (memoed: Honduras) to join others June 24 to accompany the Honduran people in resistance to the elections held during the coup June 28, 2009 and for a vote for a constituent assembly to write a new constitution. Just what President Zelaya was going to have, a non binding poll for a referendum, when he was kidnapped at gun point on June 28. More P 2

Honduras (continued)

Repression and human rights abuse have been widespread and grave ever since. US complicity in the coup is among the most underreported and misreported news of the year. Barby and Vic will be available in the fall to speak about the coup, and to give an update of the situation.

Honduran soldiers entered the presidential palace and arrested Zelaya, preempting the poll. Instead of bringing him to trial, they put him on a (US ?) military airplane which flew him to Costa Rica. Later that day, the Honduran Congress voted to remove Zelaya from office and appoint his constitutional successor, Speaker of Congress [Roberto Micheletti](#), in his place.

International reaction was universally negative, with widespread condemnation of the first coup d'état, in Central America in more than two decades. No foreign government recognized Micheletti as president nor did The United Nations, the Organization of American States, the United States, and the European Union. (*If we had followed US law that says when a coup takes place all aid should be stopped, US personnel sent home, and all visas revoked immediately rather than setting up negotiating sessions, the coup would have ended. odw editor's note.*) Only the US, Colombia, Peru and Costa Rica, have individually endorsed the election. The rest of the world has not. Honduras was not invited to the EU Latin America conference happening soon.

Reuters on 29 June 2009, described the situation in Honduras as a "media blackout," the military had shut down several TV stations, radio stations, and newspaper's web-sites: TV stations closed were CNN en Español, TeleSUR, and "a pro-Zelaya channel, the few television and radio stations still operating on Monday [the 29th] "made little reference to the demonstrations or international condemnation of the coup,"



Photo-Essays of Latin America by Mi-Mundo

played tropical music or soap operas and cooking shows,.(Similar to the opposition TV station in Venezuela during their coup attempt) A government health worker interviewed said the anti-Zelaya newspapers *El Heraldo* and *La Tribuna*, and "some television channels controlled by the opposition" were the only ones still broadcasting on the morning of the 29th.

The *Miami Herald*: the "crackdown on the media" began before dawn on the 28th. On 29 June, four Associated Press personnel were detained and removed from their hotel, but then released.

TeleSUR journalist Adriana Sívori, reporting the clashes between the police and protesters, was arrested by the military under threat, and had her passport seized. Her detention was confirmed by the Associated Press. As soon as the international community learned of the detention, and after the quick intervention of the Venezuelan ambassador in Honduras, the journalist and the staff who accompanied her were released. TeleSUR was the only channel broadcasting live on all developments in the political crisis Reporters Without Borders stated on 29 June, "The suspension or closure of local and international broadcast media indicates that the coup leaders want to hide what is happening."

Carlos Lauría of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said: "The de facto government clearly used the security forces to restrict the news... They clearly acted to create an information vacuum to keep people unaware of what was actually happening."

Honduran abuses rampant after coup -rights groups

Mon Oct 12, 2009 8:33pm EDT By Frank Jack Daniel TEGUCIGALPA, Oct 12 (Reuters) - Suspicious deaths. Beatings.



<http://www.mimundo-photoessays.org>

Random police shootings. Life under the de facto government of Honduras (and even after the unconstitutional election) at times feels uncannily like Latin America's dark past of military rule. They link at least 10 deaths to de facto rule under Roberto Micheletti, who was named president after the June 28 coup. The government admits three people have died in protests. Repression of protests against the coup increased after Zelaya slipped back into the country on Sept 21, took refuge in the Brazilian embassy and called his backers onto the streets.

The curfew has been lifted in Honduras, but Micheletti has put in place an emergency decree allowing the army and police to break up protests. And they do so with gusto, firing gas at almost any small demonstration.

Tegucigalpa police chief Leandro Osorio denied abuses and said left-leaning rights groups are biased in favor of Zelaya. "They will say there are lots of injured people in the hospital, but that's not true," he told Reuters.

RIGHTS GROUP TEAR GASED

But Bertha Oliva of human rights group Cofadeh says, "in some ways things are worse now (than in the '80's). Before, they hid the dead. Now they do it in public, challenging every principle of human rights," The Washington-based Inter-American Commission on Human Rights president Luz Patricia Mejia told Reuters.

"The human rights situation in Honduras has worsened substantially in the sense that the controls and repression of protests have risen exponentially," including threats by text message.

Dana Frank is Professor of History and Director of the Center for Labor Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, author of many books and carried by many papers and journals. For the past five years she has been researching the history of the AFL-CIO's Cold War intervention in the Honduran labor movement. Since the June 28 coup, she has spoken widely in the media, in the U.S. and beyond, on the situation in Honduras.

"As the Honduran election approaches this Sunday, let's be clear about the conditions under which it is taking place. Human rights abuses are rampant, freedom of speech is under attack, and the election process is in the hands of the very people who perpetrated the coup. Clearly, no

free and fair election is possible under the repressive thumb of the military coup that has been in place for five months.

While the 23 nations of the Rio Group from Latin America and the Caribbean have condemned the election and announced they will not recognize its outcome, the Obama administration still insists it will recognize the results -- once again isolating the United States from those who are upholding democracy in the hemisphere.

President Obama should join the rest of the world and immediately declare the elections fraudulent and demand the immediate restoration of President Manuel Zelaya, the withdrawal of the Honduran military, and a delay of the election until three months after Zelaya has been full reinstated. (Unfortunately, that didn't happen. ed)

Imagine a "free and fair election" under the conditions in Honduras today (and imagine if this were taking place in the United States):

- *The same Honduran military, which perpetrated the June 28 coup forcing President Manuel Zelaya out of the country, and which has brutally occupied the country for five months, physically controls the ballots, the ballot boxes, the computers that tabulate the results, and the dissemination of the outcome.*
- *The legitimate President of the country is being held captive in the Brazilian Embassy under draconian circumstances, and has denounced the elections as fraudulent.*
- *The leading opposition candidate, the independent Carlos H. Reyes--who has a real chance of winning a free and fair election--has withdrawn his name from the ballot in protest. Throughout the country, hundreds of candidates for congress and municipal office, including those from the mainstream parties, have announced they are withdrawing from the election. They include the mayor of San Pedro Sula, the nation's second largest city.*
- *All three trade union federations, the leading human rights organization, women's groups, organizations of indigenous and African-descent peoples, the gay and lesbian movement, and the campesino movement--united in the National Front Against the Coup d'Etat--have denounced the election as fraudulent.*
- *The coup government has made it illegal to advocate not voting.*
- *Peaceful demonstrations are routinely teargassed. As the Committee of Families of the Disappeared (COFADEH) has documented, dozens of people have been killed, over 600 beaten, and over 3,500 illegally detained, including lawyers who have shown up to secure the release of detainees. Opponents of the coup continue to be threatened, illegally arrested, and beaten in their homes.*
- *The military has recently instructed all mayors in the country to compile a list of persons in their jurisdiction who oppose the coup.*
- *The two presidential candidates remaining in the election from the traditional parties of the oligarchy, Elvin Santos from the right wing of the Liberal Party, and Porfirio Lobo Sosa from the National Party, both initially supported the coup.*

No free and fair election can take place under these circumstances. By persuading coup leader Roberto Micheletti to briefly step aside in the week before the election, the U.S. State Department tried to whitewash the election at the last minute. But that doesn't change the fact that the Honduran military and the oligarchs, who perpetrated the coup and who have dictated the nation's politics for decades, are still brutally repressing the people of Honduras. The vast majority of Hondurans aren't fooled. They know the difference between a fraudulent cover for the continuation of the coup regime, and a truly free and fair election under the rule of law. So does the

European Union, the Organization of American States, and the Rio Group. They understand well the dangerous precedent the Honduran coup represents.

Spring 2010 --for full issue click www.magiclink.net/~odw odw@magiclink.net

President Obama should (have) refuse(d) to recognize the results of the election and bring an end to the embarrassing isolation of the United States from the rest of the world."

ESTORIL, Portugal — Leaders from Latin America, Spain and Portugal called the coup "unacceptable," Central America's first in 20 years. Of all the nations at the Iberoamerican summit only Colombia, Peru and Costa Rica endorsed the election as did the US.

All Things Are Connected: US/Latin America/South Africa and World Policies/Climate Change/Domestic Implosion/the struggle for peaceful solutions.

US treatment of the Honduran coup is reminiscent of US Latin American policy supporting coups in Chile, Haiti, Venezuela, and Bolivia. When will we study the people's history and learn from it as Howard Zinn suggested?

And are we repeating history again with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan/Pakistan. When you have a hammer everything looks like a nail. So when you have a strong military/industrial complex, to quote Pres. Eisenhower, everything looks like it needs a military solution. Can we begin to look at the world through a different lens. Especially now with the financial crisis and the climate crisis.

- With more than half of the US GDP going to war there is little money to keep the country from imploding: education cuts mean fewer students can become the educated people we need. What will they do???
- Steven Hill talks about alternatives in Europe where 12% of the GDP and 60% of the population are involved with cooperatives. United Steelworkers announced an alliance with the Spanish Mondragon coops, the Cleveland model of worker-owned coops in distressed communities gives hope. See The Nation May 10, 2010 for more.



- Real steps toward a better environment are put on hold and desperation measures to try to meet our oil addiction are taken: 27 off shore oil licenses passed without EPA approval (except one) since the BP disaster!!!!
- Saving the corporations that caused the financial meltdown rather than making sure it can never happen again. Paul Volker calls for reinstatement of Glass-Steagall.



IT'S A SORT OF FRENCH REVOLUTION IN REVERSE: SOCIALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY USEFUL THINGS LIKE MOUNTAIN TOPS ARE DECAPITATED, WHILE MOUNTAINS OF DEBT AND PREDATORY GAINS ARE ALLOWED TO PILE UP UNMOVESTED

- The more wars we fight (for oil?) the worse the environment gets and the more oil is used and the conditions of poverty increase worldwide.
- People in Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, South Africa are protesting mining that pollutes the water and air and sickens the children. How can we learn to live without what comes with such negative side effects? We took these signs home from the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle. They still have meaning today.



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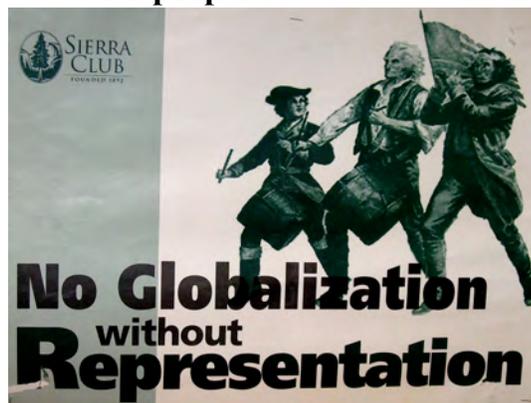
We have to look at the big picture.

- Poor countries are often in debt for what dictators chose to build or that they pocketed the money. The country has paid more in interest than the principal ever was and were forced not to spend government funds on education or health care in order to pay the interest first.

- The Senate can take a real step forward by strengthening and ratifying the START treaty to ban nuclear weapons

If ever there was a time for us to stand up and be counted, write/call elected officials, write letters to the editor, join the many vigils that have been going on since 9/11....

Let's just do it! Polls show that the people don't think the wars are worth it.



Agreed!