



our developing world's voices Volume 18 No 3

Many issues! Most pressing perhaps: Ending the Wars, Ending the Human Rights abuses in Honduras, don't readmit that country into the OAS, the Salvador Emergency: Threats to Radio Victoria re the suit by Pacific Rim mining against Salvador, Nuclear Power, Ending corporate rule. Recent observations in Cuba,

Honduras

Brutality is increasing. Another journalist has been killed. That makes 12, the most in any country! The police and military have come out from behind the fences.



From here, it looks like the return to Honduras of ousted President Zelaya is being used as a tool by the US in negotiations for pressuring the OAS to readmit the country. The Constituent Assembly that would begin the process for writing a new constitution seems to be lost. This is the major call by the Resistance. The current constitution was written in 1982 by the wealthy elite, the military and US Ambassador Negroponte. It doesn't mention the many indigenous, the Afro Honduran Garifuna nor Ladinos. With those authors it's no wonder the p1

people want a new one. They want to vote for representatives for a constituent assembly to write a new one which then must be approved by the voters.

What can we do? Write to the State Department to stop insisting that the OAS re-admit Honduras and insist that NOT happen until the violence stops, the process for a new constitution starts. Write all your representatives and senators as well.

[Last issue we wrote about the death of Zenaida's sister, Ilse Velasquez, hit by a tear gas cannister made in the USA thrown at close range. Please write to your elected officials to press to have that case come before the OAS at their June 5 meeting in El Salvador. Addresses and issues on p 8](#)

20 Mayo 2011 Re. Threats related to Pacific Rim Mining who were not granted a license to mine due to pressure from locals publicized through Radio Victoria concerned about environmental dangers (already published in Honduras about gold mining there)

Hello Friends,

I just want you all to know that the situation in our community station Radio Victoria continues with problems, pressure, tension and a lot of worry.

During the last 3 days Radio Victoria workers have received another death threat on a cell phone, different forms of intimidation like luxury 4 wheel drive cars repeatedly driving around communities and asking where certain radio workers live, harassment of family members, people visiting homes of radio workers and asking for unknown people, unfounded comments like gossip, unusual noises at night outside workers' homes and strange tattooed youth wandering around close to workers' houses.

All of this has our spirits plummeting and many Radio team members suffering from a delicate state of mind.



We are taking steps to insure the security of our Radio workers and of our building which as always implies many things: resources, transporting people, cell phone cards, changes in our infrastructure among others. p 2

We feel we can no longer have confidence in, or count on, authorities here and that we must take steps ourselves.

We are trying to get Marixela and her 3 year old daughter out of the country to Ecuador where Elvis, father and husband, is on an internship. Marixela and her daughter have directly received death threats and are under an intense emotional stress.

At the same time we want to guarantee the safety of all Radio members and of our building.

WE ARE ASKING FOR 2 FORMS OF SUPPORT: www.magiclink.net/~odw

cristina starr

These are people we've known and supported since 1992.

“Movement Growing in America to Build a Real Democracy of, for and by the People” by Nancy Price in Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Peace & Freedom ties everything together. She demonstrates how Latin America has been the lab for policies which now our Republican dominated Congress is trying to foist on us: decrease government spending on people's needs, privatize everything, etc. She ends "What threatens our democracy is its step-by-step replacement with that may be called a "corporatocracy." WILPF's Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee has been working for decades to educate about the history of corporate personhood and the insidious growth of corporate constitutional rights.

Begun here in Santa Clara County by Southern Pacific in 1886, the Supreme Court in Citizens United went far beyond the case before them to give corporations massive power over election campaigns demonstrated in the 2010 election. The Koch brothers, among the wealthiest in the country and involved in almost every industry here are the bankers of the tea party, Justice Thomas, the Wisconsin governor and others who are vilifying public employees and taking away collective bargaining. Alert elected officials that you want them to vote to keep those rights, to support education, health care, collective bargaining and other rights and to protect our commons.

No more subsidies for big oil or nuclear power.

Private money won't invest in nuclear power plants. No tax dollars, no loan guarantees, no new plants. Our State Senator Blakeslee, a conservative Republican, a former geophysicist, lives 10 miles from Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power plant. He testified before Congress on the need to force PGE to do more studies on possible dangers due to an earthquake fault three miles away from the plant. He succeeded in getting p 3

them to withdraw a relicense application (though it's years early). When it's close to home allies come in many varieties. Rather subsidize wind and solar.

Cuba Join us for a potluck and sharing about Cuba with some of those who went with us. Saturday July 16 5:30 pm

Our sixth trip since 1980 we found many changes. Music is even more everywhere! The Cuban Tour group we contracted with puts its profits into restoring or renovating historical buildings. The building codes require that the ground floors must be used for social purposes. So the Havana primary school we visited was using the first two floors. The ground floor had a lovely garden in the lobby with the classrooms on the periphery. They used the plaza for sports, rehearsals of programs they were doing. They were children of the community so the community knew the teachers and kids and were really related.

A special treat to be invited by the Camaguey Synagogue Community to come for dinner and conversation! A great evening sitting among them, learning about their lives. Absolutely no discrimination, all agreed. Synagogue President **David Pernas Levy**



greeted Joseph and the rest of the group.

One young woman, Sara, in the middle, with one of her two sons, was a family doctor.



Her husband, also a doctor, was in the Congo on a medical mission. International solidarity underlies medical training. Doctors get a bonus upon returning from a mission. We saw some apartments and homes being built for returning doctors who didn't have homes of their own. Sara chose to stay home and practice. Government workers are not well paid. Her father and mother were there also, both helping with the cooking: Soup with beans and



matzah balls, platters of whole fresh white fish, beets, green beans, tomatoes, zucchini, many fruit platters. Delicious! p5

A pre-school teacher, next to Sara, had decided to leave that career to study computers and English conversation. Her mother is in Israel and she thinks she'll be able to communicate better with those skills when she visits.

Some of the community organic gardens included developing integrated pest man-



agement. They are training some recently unemployed. But the layoff process is slow. Those given notice are offered a job an three months severance pay, a small stipend while taking training. Those with skills can become entrepreneurs paying rent to the government and keeping what ever else they earn rather than get a salary . It's very complex and in process. Organic gardens and farms we visited ranged from cooperatives to privately owned. Farmers



markets

were everywhere.

Farmers are by far the people with the highest income.

Everywhere composting, some green manuring, companion planting, drip irrigation was seen. More land is being rented or sold to farmers or those having been trained. But much more needs to be done to make Cuba food sustainable.



Mesh screens shade from sun, keep insects out, allowed more planting seasons.

Wouldn't the US have more friends if we sent master gardeners, teachers, healthcare workers around the world instead of military to our 800 bases and how many wars??

Time to urge elected officials to vote for the Boxer bill to bring our troops home from Afghanistan beginning in July and set a date for all to be home soon. Clearly our economy also needs the money spent shifted from war to peaceful human needs.

Tax deductible donations always appreciated to reach out more.

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and many others

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!

Urgent Action Honduras: ASAP before the OAS meeting in El Salvador June 5

Please put on Facebook and Twitter. Write to your congressperson and Senator Feinstein <http://feinstein.senate.public> 2022-224-3841 or 415-393-0707 Senator Boxer <http://boxer.senate.gov/en/contact.policycomments.cfm> 202-224-3553 or 415-403-0100 and Hillary Clinton and Maria Otero 2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520 1-800-879-8339 or 202-647-4000 www.state.gov President Obama 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington Dec 20503 www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Returning democratically elected President Zelaya to his country without stopping the brutal violence and human rights abuses nor beginning the process toward a new constitution is NOT enough to allow Honduras to be readmitted into the OAS.

Stop all US military aid. Our taxes shouldn't result in gross human rights abuses

Stop escalated gross violent human rights abuses. Stop bullying Latin American nations to readmit Honduras to the OAS.