

# Report

FALL 2021

PUBLISHED BY MARIN INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON THE AMERICAS

“The US Appears to be Destined by Providence to Plague the Americas with Misery in the Name of Freedom.” - Simón Bolívar, 1829

## Cuban Doctors and Scientists Refute Biden’s Lies



Cuba is the first Latin American country to develop its own covid vaccines.  
(Photo: [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org))

### Editor’s Note: Letter to President Biden

You recently referred to Cuba at a White House forum, saying: “I would be prepared to give significant amounts of vaccines if... an international organization would administer those vaccines and do it in a way that average citizens would have access to those vaccines.” You also called Cuba a “failed state.”

These statements surprised many, including those in the US who have first-hand exposure to Cuba’s health system. They also rankled frontline Cuban health workers risking their lives to contain the COVID epidemic in our country. They do not reflect Cuban reality, and we deplore that disinformation by malicious political players is influencing your policy decisions. As scientists, doctors, and concerned citizens, we believe it’s worth fact-checking three assumptions implicit in what you said.

Assumption one: International intervention is needed to ensure all Cubans receive vaccines. Assumption two: Cuba’s response to the pandemic has been dismal,

symptomatic of a “failed state.” Assumption three: US-supplied vaccines are the only route to guarantee COVID-19 immunization for Cuba’s 11 million people.

Let’s take these one by one: the first assumption—that intervention is needed to guarantee vaccine access for all Cubans—suggests that vaccine rollout in Cuba is inefficient and discriminatory. But the data does not support this. In fact, as both UNICEF and the World Health Organization have confirmed, childhood vaccination rates are over 99%. Immunization is part of our country’s universal public health system, free to all Cubans regardless of socioeconomic status, politics, religion, sex, or race.

The national immunization program, created in 1962, covers the whole country. Since 1999, all Cubans have been protected against 13 potentially fatal diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. Eight of these vaccines are manufactured in Cuba.

As a result of high vaccination rates, we have not had a single case of measles. In contrast, the CDC confirmed 1,282 mea-

sles cases in the United States in 2019, with only 74% of children receiving all CDC-recommended vaccines.

The Finlay Vaccine Institute in Havana developed the world’s first effective vaccine against meningitis B (meningococcal disease) in 1989. The annual incidence of meningococcal disease in Cuba dropped from 14.4/100,000 population before vaccination to less than 0.1/100,000 since 2008—eliminating the illness as a public health problem in the country.

Several factors explain the success of Cuba’s national vaccination program: people trust the easily accessible neighborhood family doctors and nurses, and the health professionals at their community polyclinics—making vaccine hesitancy very rare. In turn, the health system’s organizational capacities make vaccine rollout fast and dependable. Finally, Cuban biotechnological research and production centers are well integrated with the needs of the public health system.

Working partnerships on vaccination have been carried out with the World Health Organization and UNICEF. But none of these has ever suggested the need

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# CARIBBEAN

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*Cuba, continued from page 1*

to step in to administer vaccines in Cuba. Rather, Cuban vaccine experts have been called upon to assist in global efforts to eliminate polio, and our production facilities have been tapped by WHO to export urgently needed vaccines to the “meningitis belt” in sub-Saharan Africa.

Assumption two: Cuba’s “failed” pandemic response. It is puzzling why, with so many real COVID catastrophes in the Western Hemisphere, only Cuba has been labeled a “failed state.” Cuba has indeed seen a recent spike in cases that threatens to overwhelm the health system in parts of the country. However, its response has been more effective than many other nations that have not received this harsh criticism from the US.

All countries are now challenged with new COVID variants, such as Delta, often driving sharp increases in cases. Cuba is no exception. What makes Cuba unique is the need to manage the epidemic under a crippling financial, trade, and economic embargo enforced by the US government for the last six decades. The 243 additional restric-

tions slapped on by the Trump administration—each one of them still in place under your presidency—were intended to close the blockade’s few remaining loopholes, and thus choke off revenues to Cuba.

Assumption three: the only route to COVID immunity in Cuba is through US-supplied vaccines. This ignores the fact that more than two million Cubans, or nearly 30.2 % of the population, have already been fully vaccinated with Cuban-developed vaccines.

The Abdala vaccine received emergency use authorization from the Cuban regulatory authority on July 9, making it the first vaccine to achieve this status in Latin America. Abdala achieved 92% efficacy in Phase III clinical trials, while the Soberana Vaccine achieved 91% and is also close to emergency use authorization. At the current rate, the entire population of the island could be fully vaccinated by October or November. Difficulties in the rollout, including imports of vital vaccine ingredients, are due primarily to the financial squeeze of US sanctions.

If the US government really wanted to help Cubans, it could roll back the 243

Trump-era measures—possible with the stroke of the president’s pen. Congress could also lift sanctions altogether, as demanded each year by overwhelming votes at the UN General Assembly by the nations of the world [in 2021: 184 to 2, 3 abstaining].

During the pandemic, science reiterates that (politics aside) we are all in this together. All of us are threatened not only by disease but also by the unprecedented challenge of climate change. In this context, the health systems of all countries should support each other, not undermine one another; cooperation should be the order of the day.

President Biden, you can do much good if you move in the right direction and take into consideration what most Cubans living on the island desire. This does not include ignoring and weakening its public health system, but it does include respect for the nation’s achievements. Let us hope that the shared threats posed by the Covid pandemic will lead to more cooperation, not more confrontation. History will be the sole judge.

*Source: Resumen Latinoamericano-English 8/10/21*

## WORLD: Report on The Effects of US Sanctions

*By Rick Sterling & David Paul, TFA Board members*

Unilateral sanctions are imposed by the US on target countries for reasons best explained in this State Department memo of April 6, 1960: “The majority of Cubans support Castro.... There is no effective political opposition.... Militant opposition to Castro from without Cuba would only serve his and the communist cause. The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship. [par.] [I]t follows that every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba.... [W]hile as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, [these actions should make] the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

The US policy of sanctioning independent countries to the same purpose and effect has persisted and expanded for the past 60 years. In 1970, when Dr. Salvador Allende was elected in Chile and before he was even inaugurated, President Richard Nixon instructed the Central Intelligence Agency to “Make the [Chilean] economy scream.” In 2018, US Ambassador to Venezuela, William Brownfield, said “the best solution would be to accelerate the collapse, even if it produces suffering for months or years.”

There are now over 35 countries under some form of US sanctions. The recent change in the US administration has not made a difference. In the past three months, the US has imposed more sanctions against Nicaragua, Syria, Cuba and Iran.

Because of the importance of this issue, a coalition of social justice and human rights organizations called “Sanctions Kill” has conducted an independent review. TFA Board members Rick Sterling and David

Paul are principals in the research, writing and publication of the report.

The report is based on a poll of citizens in Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, fact-finding on the ground in Syria, official reports and independent research.

Key findings in the report include: many thousands of civilians have died as a direct or indirect consequence of US sanctions; humanitarian exemptions, intended to allow food and medicines, have not worked; sanctions are spurring countries to sell US securities and seek alternatives to the US dominated financial system; sanctions harm US businesses which would benefit from trade with targeted countries; 71% of world nations believe that US sanctions violate international law and the UN Charter.

*For a Copy of the Report, send your email address to: [Info@sanctionskill.org](mailto:Info@sanctionskill.org)*



## CENTRAL AMERICA

# HONDURAS: Land, Water, and Food Sovereignty

By Karl Kramer, TFA Board member

*Editor's note: From July 2 through 12, TFA Board member Karl Kramer participated in a delegation to Honduras with SHARE (Salvadoran Humanitarian Aid, Research and Education Foundation). SHARE was invited by the Sisters of Notre Dame, Father Ishmael "Padre Melo" Coto, director of Radio Progreso, and the Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC).*

Our delegation was hosted by Radio Progreso and ERIC, a research and community social service organization that provides lawyers and sociologists to investigate cases of government human rights violations. ERIC also manages the radio station and social media, provides political education to youth, and gives agroecology lessons.

Radio Progreso and ERIC are involved in the case of eight environmental and community activists whom Honduran authorities have imprisoned for trying to defend the Guapinol and San Pedro Rivers from contamination and destruction by illegal mining interests within a nearby National Park. Mining effluents wash down the Guapinol River, the town's water source. As a result, in 2018 a judge found the water unusable.

We visited the Guapinol prisoners in Centro Penal Olanchito, in the province of Yoro. They've been in detention for two years without trial. Seven of the men came out into a courtyard wearing wearing white T-shirts, with four in shorts. They were watched over by two guards with long guns, while another repeatedly photographed our delegation. Among the Guapinol Water Defenders are a teacher and assistant town mayor, members of the community water board, a mechanic, the town barber, and several leaders of the local Catholic parish.

The Guapinol prisoners told us they are doing this because "Everyone needs water.... We are defending all of us even though we suffer. The right to all of this is above economic interests."

The fight began in 2012 when the Honduran Congress passed a decree against mining in the national park. But the gov-



Members of the Guapinol community at the river (Photo: Karl Kramer)

ernment granted mining exploration concessions, concealing them from the affected communities.

The campesino communities along the San Pedro and Guapinol rivers held numerous subsequent actions, including an encampment that lasted 80 days, until government security forces lobbed 134 tear gas canisters at them to forcibly remove them, and then occupied the entire region in October, 2018. The Honduran Army established a military complex along the river—protecting the company's iron ore processing plant, and it remains there to this day.

The wife of one of the prisoners told us that when her three daughters hear the military, they hide under their bed. She said that patrols of six to eight troops with machine guns go slowly down their street to see who is inside the homes. While women are bathing in the river, the soldiers get off trucks and "pretend" that they are going to shoot them.

The Honduran government has not responded to complaints of environmental damage, and has barred community members from entering the mining area.

Community members asked us for help in researching the mining company's relationship to corporations in the United States. Since the US Embassy distributes

**Task Force on the Americas Report** is published quarterly by the Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas. Editorial Committee: Carissa Brands, Theresa Cameranesi, Carol Moeller Costa, Alice Loaiza, Dale Sorensen, Roger Stoll.

funds, they also want the US Embassy to clarify with the Honduran government how the mining concession and permits were granted, since mining in a national park is illegal. Guapinol community members have called for the US Embassy to investigate the deaths of more than one hundred environmental and community activists in the region. They also requested that people in the United States stop the military and economic support which sustains the Honduran government (see box).

### Take Action

**Call your US senators and ask them to co-sponsor legislation (SB 388, Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act) to suspend security aid and sanction President Hernandez. Call your Rep in the House and ask them to cosponsor the companion bill (HR 2716), as well as the Berta Caceres Human Rights Bill (HR 1574). And go to Amnesty International USA to take action for the Guapinol Water Defenders (amnestyusa.org, see Honduras: UA 133.20). Also, ask your Senators to tell the US embassy in Honduras to press for the release of the eight Guapinol Water Defenders.**

## Guapinol Defenders Win Prestigious Award

In October 2019, the Guapinol Water Defenders, known formally as El Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa, won the prestigious Moffitt-Letelier International Human Rights Award given by the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington DC, for their work on the frontlines of environmental justice. There was hope the award would draw attention to the plight of the Honduran environmentalists, but the Guapinol leaders remain in maximum security, without trial.

Source: *Institute for Policy Studies (ips-dc.org, 10/7/19)*

# HAITI: In the Wake of Jovenel Moïse's Assassination

By Robert Roth, Haiti Action committee

*Edited for length with permission of the author*

Today in Haiti the violent rule of Jovenel Moïse has come to a violent end. Moïse himself had said he had “about a million enemies,” and that was undoubtedly true. In his effort to exercise full dictatorial control, he not only sparked a powerful grassroots uprising, but angered factions within Haiti's elite. It may take quite a while to decipher the internecine battles within ruling circles that led to his demise. In the midst of all the confusion and sensationalism surrounding what happened, we need to analyze the fundamental issues at stake in Haiti.

As we do this, it is important to identify and reject the racist tropes that have always dominated mainstream media discussion of Haiti. From the time of its revolution against the brutal French slave system, and its historic victory against that system, Haiti has been derided and demonized. In the wake of Moïse's assassination, we have been subjected to the usual racial code words: “dysfunction,” “chaos,” “gang warfare,” “failed state.” All of this hides the guiding hand of the United States and other imperial powers in creating the conditions that have brought about this disastrous period for Haitians. And it studiously ignores the steadfast fight for democracy, education, health care and dignity embodied by Haiti's unshakeable popular movement.

Today's crisis in Haiti has its roots in the 2004 US-orchestrated coup against the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Fanmi Lavalas Political Organization. The Lavalas movement emerged in the struggle to rid Haiti of the US-backed Duvalier dictatorships in the 1980's, and brought Aristide into office in 1991 and then again in 2001. Under Lavalas administrations, more schools were built than in Haiti's entire history, funding was dramatically increased for public health and literacy projects, the minimum wage was doubled, and the brutal Haitian Armed Forces was abolished. This was all laid waste when the US orga-



“STOP MASSACRES IN HAITI” Rally in San Francisco

(Photo: Scott Braley)

nized the coup against Aristide and then helped impose a UN military occupation.

Instead of the steps towards inclusion, economic and social reform under Aristide, which he characterized as moving “from misery to poverty with dignity,” for the last 17 years Haitians have had to deal with a series of reactionary regimes that have looted the state treasury, increased food insecurity and poverty, and organized terror campaigns against the opposition.

Moïse was a US-backed tyrant, ruling by decree, handpicked by his predecessor, Michel Martelly of the right-wing PHTK party, whose own election in 2010 had been orchestrated by then-US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. In 2015, Moïse's sham election as president was denounced as an “electoral coup” by the grassroots movement. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians took to the streets for over two months, forcing the election results to be annulled. The follow-up election was just as illegitimate—characterized by fraud, voter suppression, and intimidation.

From day one, Moïse's regime was a testament to corruption and terror. A prime example is the Petrocaribe scandal, where over \$3 billion disappeared, pocketed by government officials from the sale of oil provided by Venezuela at well below the market rate. “Where is the Petrocaribe money?” was the slogan as a full-scale uprising demanded Moïse's resignation.

As his government teetered, Moïse turned to full-scale terror, weaponizing gangs to attack opposition neighborhoods. The most horrific example was in Lasalin in November 2018, where hundreds were killed, women were gang raped, and people's homes were burned to the ground, forcing a mass exodus out of the commu-

nity. Operating with impunity, paramilitary forces tied to Moïse's government, including the so-called G-9 led by ex-police officer Jimmy “Barbecue” Cherizier, unleashed a wave of violence throughout the poorest communities of Port-au-Prince, making life in the country unlivable.

The Biden Administration's backing allowed Moïse to retain power, and now it insists that new presidential elections should be held quickly under the aegis of the current Haitian government. This rush to a new set of phony elections is designed to keep elite control of Haiti, and is opposed by the popular movement, which is demanding instead a transitional government of public safety (Sali Piblik), constructed by broad sectors of Haitian society, which could then establish a basis for free and fair elections.

In 2019, as popular mobilizations against the Moïse regime surged, Fanmi Lavalas Political Organization stated: “It is paramount that we stand in solidarity with the people's protests demanding a new form of state.... This system has run its course. It cannot be patched up. It must be changed.”

In solidarity with Haiti, we must demand:

1. Cut off all US aid for the Haitian police once and for all.
2. Stop the Biden Administration's support for the PHTK regime.
3. End US support for sham elections in Haiti.
4. Support the right of the Haitian people to form, through their own popular movement, their own transition government free from US interference. No more US/UN military intervention in Haiti.

Source: *Haiti Action Committee 7/19/21*



### AMERICAS: Death of the Lima Group

By Nino Pagliccia, Venezuelan-Canadian writer and activist based in Vancouver

One of the most despicable foreign policy decisions made by the government of Canada must have been co-opting a small number of Latin American countries to turn against their regional neighbor Venezuela. The plotters called themselves the Lima Group after a meeting that took place in Lima, Peru. That was much more than a casual coming together of like-minded right wing governments. That was an intentional ganging up of eleven Latin American governments with a Canadian boss to commit an act of betrayal against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, betrayal to a shared cultural and historical background. Canada took on the leadership role in this deceiving scheme. To be specific, this happened during the government of Justin Trudeau with Chrystia Freeland as Minister of Global Affairs.

Exactly four years later, after approximately thirty ineffective bureaucratic joint

declarations and several countries withdrawing, the so-called Lima Group is on the verge of being declared defunct. It is quite fitting that one of the last withdrawals from the group comes precisely from Lima. Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Héctor Béjar could not have said it any better: “The Lima Group must be the most disastrous thing we have done in international politics in the history of Peru.” But Peruvians also made an outstanding contribution to our region last April by electing leftist Pedro Castillo as president contributing to the rebirth of the Latin American anti-imperialist left.

The so-called Lima Group issued its last joint statement in early 2021 to announce that they “do not recognize the legitimacy or legality of the National Assembly [of Venezuela] installed on January 5, 2021. This illegitimate National Assembly is the product of the fraudulent elections of December 6, 2020, organized by the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro.” Do they offer any proof of the “fraudulent elections”? Of course not.

They have also delegitimized the dozens of international observers present at the Venezuelan elections.

The listed signatory countries of this statement were: “Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela.” Of course Peru is now out. If you wonder how Venezuela is named on this list, the explanation is that they made up a parallel “Venezuela” with an unelected “president” Juan Guaidó. This is a fictitious, nonexistent entity that has no recognition by the United Nations. The UN recognizes the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as a state member of the world organization and the representatives appointed by the government of President Nicolás Maduro...

Continue reading at: *“The Death of the ‘Lima Group’ and Rebirth of the Latin American Anti-imperialist Left,” Resumen Latinoamericano-English 8/13/21*

### PERU: Servants Now Rule

By Ollantay Itzamná, journalist

On June 6 the Peruvian electorate, by means of an unprecedented uprising at the polls, defeated the entire oligarchic platoon, and elected as the President of the bicentennial nothing less than a peasant, a “foreigner” for the viceroyalty of Lima.

This political defeat hurt and hurts the “owners” of the Creole Republic, who immediately wanted to “redomesticate” the unsubmissive President by means of a failed “economic war” and “heating up the streets,” arguing that the Cabinet of Ministers was a danger for the “democracy and development” of the country. And so, they undertook and are undertaking a media war against the Government and its Cabinet under the sentence: “either they resubordinate or we expel them from power.”

In Peru, as in the rest of the bicentennial creole republics, peasants and indigenous people are born to be servants of the mestizo families in the main cities of the country, and laborers in the haciendas. This is a constitutive and organizing premise of the basic essence of the Peruvian Republic.



President Pedro Castillo  
(Photo: yourbasin.com)

And it is not only an economic issue, but also an anthropological identity of what is officially Peru. In Peru, in order to be formally admitted as a Peruvian citizen, the native, or peasant, is obliged to renounce and deny his language, culture and identity, and assimilate as a mestizo. If he is a mestizo, all the better, although in fact he will never be admitted as a full citizen. Pedro Castillo has folklorically risen to be the President with a hat, but in fact they look at him as their servant cholo.

So far this month, especially in the Congress of the Republic, and in the corporate media, in spite of the protocol efforts, rac-

ism and contempt on the part of congressmen and businessmen towards President Pedro Castillo and Premier Guido Bellido is evident. They are extremely uncomfortable that those who were born to be their gardener or their chauffeur are now the President and Premier of their Republic!

In fact, at this very moment, congressmen, businessmen, public officials, etc., have in their homes, as domestic employees, the sisters, aunts, nieces, country women, etc., of Pedro Castillo and Guido Bellido, cleaning their toilets or preparing their food, or taking care of their pets. The uncles, brothers, nieces, nephews, relatives of Bellido and Castillo were and are their gardeners, day laborers and chauffeurs. In the bicentennial Peruvian Creole Republic, the provincial, Quechua- or Aymara- speaking, was born and is condemned to the submerged labor niches, in silence! And if they complain, they are reprimanded as insolent Indians...

Continue reading at: *“Those Who Were Born to be Servants Now Rule the Bicentennial Country,” Resumen Latinoamericano-English 8/30/21*

# NICARAGUA: Stopping US Subversion of Elections

By Rita Jill Clark-Gollub, of Friends of Latin America in Maryland and Assistant Editor/Translator at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs

Editor's note: About 600 words have been omitted for space.

Nicaragua is a country under attack. Since the 2018 coup attempt, documents have come to light indicating that the leaders of the violence were receiving tens of millions of dollars from such CIA front groups as USAID and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) through programs to “promote democracy” and “facilitate transition”—code words for regime change. Additionally, as revealed in August 2020, there is an ongoing US-AID coup plot called Responsive Assistance in Nicaragua (RAIN) which seeks to ensure that this year’s election results in a government to the liking of the US. The document even admits that the FSLN (Sandinista Party) is likely to win in a fair election, in which case a “sudden, unanticipated transition” may be necessary. Finally, there is a very active effort in the US Congress to impose additional and far-reaching sanctions on Nicaragua: the RENACER Act. Its “targeted sanctions” take blunt aim at virtually half the population—including all government officials and members of the FSLN party and their family members. This would be an unprecedented escalation of unilateral coercive measures that could potentially plunge this financially stable nation into the economic hardship currently being experienced by Cuba, Venezuela, and Iran.

The various branches of the Nicaraguan government have responded. First, some important laws have been passed by the legislature in the past few months. The Foreign Agents Law (modeled on an 83-year-old US law) requires nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to give an accounting of any foreign funding they receive. This information needs to correspond to the NGO’s financial statements. Another recently enacted law is the Law to Defend the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty, and Self-Deter-



“NICARAGUA WANTS PEACE: Down with the Roadblocks”

(Photo: coha.org)

mination for Peace. The law says, among other things, that those who fund or lead a coup d’état or who facilitate or encourage economic or other sanctions against the Nicaraguan State or its citizens may be charged with treason and prevented from holding public office. The Ministry of Justice is in charge of prosecutions under these and other laws.

While polls show that if the opposition can unite around a single candidate, it could potentially garner up to 21% of the vote, such unity has remained elusive; meanwhile, the FSLN has consistently polled upwards of 60%. This makes it hard to swallow reports in the corporate media of the government eliminating opposition parties to ensure an FSLN victory. One such story is that of the Party for Democratic Restoration (PRD) which recently lost its legal recognition. But this was not done at the initiative of the government; rather, board members of the PRD itself asked the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) to annul its status because they accused the evangelical pastor leading the organization of ignoring the party’s own statutes and forming an alliance without its members’ agreement.

Another favorite theme of Nicaragua’s detractors is that the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), the fourth branch of gov-

ernment that oversees elections, is biased in favor of the FSLN. A new CSE was elected in May that includes one-third members from outside the governing party despite the FSLN having a supermajority in the National Assembly. This CSE is also one of the most diverse electoral bodies in the region, including several indigenous and Afro-descended persons, and a female majority. But Washington is still upset with its composition since none of its favorite politicians were elected by the National Assembly.

Last week the Director of the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation (FVBCH), Cristiana Chamorro, was charged with money laundering and placed under house arrest after she refused to account for the millions of dollars she received from USAID and other US government agencies and foundations in recent years. The day before, US journalist Ben Norton published an extensive exposé of how her Foundation has been used to channel millions to an assortment of opposition NGOs and media outlets favorable to US regime change plans. One of the most scandalous revelations in this article is how the vast network of Nicaraguan opposition media outlets has been

*Nicaragua, continued on page 7*



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# CENTRAL AMERICA

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*Nicaragua, continued from page 6*

cultivated and nurtured by USAID and the NED. Anyone who has been watching Nicaragua knows that these supposedly “independent” media in Nicaragua have been the main source of Nicaragua news reported here in the United States. In other words, in my country most people get information about Nicaragua from the CIA!

The sums of money that Nicaraguan journalist William Grigsby, Ben Norton, and others have revealed are astronomical for a poor country of 6.5 million people. In fact, the USAID website indicates that since 2015 it has spent US\$160,586,742 on Nicaraguan NGOs. It amounts to US\$24.70 per person in Nicaragua. If a hostile foreign power wanted to do this to the United States, it would have to spend US\$8.2 billions to cover the US population of 331 million. A comparison of the wealth of the two countries makes the figure even more outrageous. Nicaragua’s GDP is around US\$12 billion, while the GDP of the US is around \$21 trillion—that makes the US economy more than 1,750 times larger than Nicaragua’s. We can multiply US\$160,586,742 by that figure to see that for the US economy this would be like a hostile infusion of US\$281 BILLION.

A sad corollary to this is that Nicaragua is not receiving aid funds from the US that it would like to receive and that might actually help people. The country was blocked from receiving COVID relief funds from multilateral organizations until the end of 2020; after Nicaragua took the first and hardest blows from hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020, it received only a fraction of the aid the US sent to Honduras and Guatemala, and Nicaragua is excluded from the COVID-19 vaccine assistance that the US recently decided to provide to other countries.

Cristiana Chamorro’s own statement about the propriety of her funds is rather bizarre: “The US State Department rejected the charges of money laundering against the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation based on audits they conducted that did not find evidence of money laundering or diversion of funds.” Not only does she expect the fox to guard the

henhouse, she has forgotten which country she lives in. The charges against her also include depositing Foundation money into her personal bank account.

Chamorro and her supporters are calling this a political prosecution. Although at the very end of May and as the seriousness of the charges against her became apparent, Ms. Chamorro announced her intent to seek the opposition alliance’s nomination for president, she was never a viable candidate, was barely visible in the polls, and was never a model of “independent journalism.” Most importantly, not prosecuting her because she claims to be a candidate would be against Nicaraguan law. As Italian journalist Fabrizio Casari says, “[T]o think that the judiciary should stop the process just because she is a self-appointed candidate would be politicization of justice.”

The aforementioned Law to Defend the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty, and Self-Determination for Peace is being applied in some high-profile cases. Arturo Cruz, a businessman who had also thrown his hat into the ring for the opposition coalition’s nomination, was apprehended on June 5 upon arrival at the airport from the United States with a large sum of undeclared foreign currency. The prosecutor’s office indicates that there is strong evidence that he was in the United States calling for and collaborating in efforts to impose sanctions on Nicaragua, and that he was paid for this. Some wonder whether he brought in a briefcase full of cash because he wanted to be arrested, knowing that it would play well in the mainstream press. And on June 8 Felix Maradiaga was charged with violating that same law and also arrested. Maradiaga, a Harvard-educated Aspen Fellow who is a long-time recipient of NED funds through his own NGO, became notorious during the 2018 coup attempt as one of the masterminds of the violence. He benefited from the amnesty granted by the government in 2019 to all those involved in crimes related to the 2018 violence, and since then he has been traveling to the US and international organizations, openly advocating for sanctions to be imposed on his country. Given the animosity he has

created for himself among average Nicaraguans, it is astounding that he could call himself a presidential candidate. As we go to press, another person was arrested on June 8 and charged under this law. Juan Chamorro García had also been publicly calling for sanctions against his country to help facilitate the overthrow of the government. He has received millions of dollars from Washington, primarily through his NGO FUNIDES, some of it channeled through his cousin Cristiana at the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation.

Yes, the new laws to protect the country from foreign interference are being enforced, and there are likely to be more arrests. People are being prosecuted based on evidence, regardless of name recognition and social status.

Commentators have noticed another aspect of US hypocrisy, which is that it complains when legal action is taken against its allies in Latin American politics, but turns a blind eye when clearly contrived legal maneuvers are taken against its enemies. This happened when Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva was prevented from running for election in Brazil and Rafael Correa was forced into exile from Ecuador, to name just two examples of “lawfare” waged against leftist politicians with US support.

Source: *Alliance for Global Justice*  
6/10/21

## Read More

*“Nicaragua - Letter to a former Swedish solidarity brigadista,” by Jorge Capelán (Tortilla con Sal 7/7/21), refuting recent demonizations of Nicaragua’s government.*

*“US Targets Nicaraguan Presidential Election: Former Solidarity Activists Echo ....” by Roger Harris, (Counterpunch 7/16/21)*

*“The CIA Attempts Coups in Nicaragua with Tax Dollars Through US Agencies...:USAID...Carries Out Coups,” by Nan McCurdy (Tortilla con Sal 6/16/21)*

## NORTH AMERICA

### MEXICO: Taking on the US Arms Industry

By Theresa Cameranesi, TFA Board member

Mexico has filed a lawsuit against arms manufacturers Smith & Wesson, Colt, and others, arguing that they design guns with drug cartels in mind. The Mexican government is seeking those responsible for the wave of violence in the country for the past 17 years, and has focused its attention on the US arms industry, both manufacturers and sellers. “They know very well that these weapons are among those favored by the drug cartels,” alleges the lawsuit presented by Mexican authorities in a Massachusetts court on August 4th. An estimated 340,000 US-made firearms appear annually as evidence in Mexican prosecutions of violent crime.

The lawsuit names 11 arms manufacturers, stressing six in particular as profiting the most from the cartel arms trade: Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Century Arms, Colt, Glock, and Ruger. The suit also claims that from weapon design to marketing, manufacturers have the cartel criminals foremost in mind, seeking to meet their preferences for assault rifles like the AK-47 or the AR-15: “[Manufacturers] choose to continue to supply the criminal arms market in Mexico because they profit from it.”

The lawsuit shines a light on an industry that knowingly directs its products into the country’s illegal arms trade. One example is a .38 caliber Colt pistol embossed with the name and image of Emiliano Zapata and the phrase attributed to the Mexican revolutionary leader: “It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees.”

According to Mexican authorities, gun companies know that 10% of their distributors deal 90% of the arms illegally imported into the country. The suit alleges the cartels make front purchases through US citizens, who acquire dozens of military-grade weapons but aren’t subject to any investigation. Many of these transactions take place at gun shows in the US, with weapon models designed to meet cartel requirements by being convertible for automatic fire or personalized with gold or silver grips.

The US arms industry has spoken against the lawsuit, claiming its sales comply with

US law and that “the Mexican government is responsible for the rampant crime and corruption within its borders.”

Source: “*El Pais* 8/5/21



Colt Aztec Jaguar Azul 1911 38  
(Photo: [birninghampistol.com](http://birninghampistol.com))

### Mexico and Vaccine Diplomacy

The COVID-19 pandemic that has brutally impacted Latin America gave CELAC, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, a new mission. Mexico used the pro tempore presidency of CELAC to lead the demand for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and medical supplies. During the first half of 2021, President Joe Biden’s administration continued the “America First” policy that his predecessor had started around vaccines, preventing the export of millions of Pfizer doses to Latin America. Mexico had to import vaccines from the European Union and was forced to diversify its vaccine portfolio, incorporating Chinese and Russian doses.

In partnership with Argentina and Carlos Slim’s Foundation, Mexico has since packaged doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine and soon began donating hundreds of thousands of doses to Paraguay, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize and Jamaica. It also began donating medical supplies, food and ventilators to Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: [americasquarterly.org](http://americasquarterly.org) 8/4/21

### AMLO Wants OAS Replaced

In a speech honoring the birthday of anti-colonial revolutionary leader Simón Bolívar, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador called for Latin America to leave the US-controlled Organization of American States (OAS) and make a new, “truly autonomous organization, not a lackey of anyone.... [S]omething similar to the European Union, but based on our history, our reality and our identities,” said López Obrador at the summit of foreign affairs ministers of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Mexico City.

The Mexican president, who has been critical of Uruguayan Luis Almagro’s management of the OAS, said that the body that should replace it must be “truly autonomous.” Bolivian President Luis Arce was quick to support the new initiative, as was Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela. “The OAS has been dead for a long time and they have not realized it,” said Maduro.

Source: [orinocotribune.com](http://orinocotribune.com) 7/26/21

### Indigenous Take Over Bottling Plant

For four months the members of Pueblos Unidos de la Región Cholulteca y de los Volcanes, in Puebla state, have managed to blockade and shut down the Bonafont plant in the town of Cuanala. Bonafont is a bottled water brand owned by Danone, a Paris-based food corporation. Pueblos Unidos held workshops, forums, and cultural events at the blockade site. In August, on Emiliano Zapata’s birthday, they entered and took over the water-bottling plant. They shut down one of the pumps in the plant, which was used to extract water from the nearby Iztaccíhuatl volcanic springs. Since 1996 Bonafont had been extracting 1.4 million liters of water a day, leaving locals with minimal water supply.

There are 16,000 water purification and bottling plants in Mexico. Danone, Coca-Cola and Pepsico are profiting from the natural resource, with 82% of the market nationally.

Source: *Green Left Weekly* 8/10/21



## LATIN AMERICA

### Bicentennial Congress Unites Anti-Imperialists

By David Paul, TFA Board member, who attended the Bicentennial

Over 200 years ago, forces led by Simón Bolívar defeated the Spanish army at the Battle of Carabobo in the attempt to unify the peoples of the continent and win independence from the Spanish colonial empire. In June, 2021, over 600 representatives of political parties, social movements and trade unions, and activists from over 60 countries, including many from Africa, met in Caracas, Venezuela for the Bicentennial Congress of the Peoples of the World to commemorate that battle, with the goal of developing common strategies in the face of the current struggle for independence from the US Empire. Adán Chávez, brother of former president Hugo Chávez, began the conference by saying, “For us Carabobo is today, it is permanent. It drives us to continue struggling for

true and authentic liberation of our peoples, integrating our America and the different peoples of the world in the building of that new world.”

Evo Morales, former president of Bolivia, spoke of the crucial need for unity of countries and progressive forces in this struggle to defend the sovereignty of all nations.

The conference included workshops organized by sectors focusing on Education, Ecology, Housing, Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities, women, youth, sexual diversity, workers, and media.

A final declaration of the conference emphasized the need to coordinate efforts and take the initiative in the resistance to the continued aggression and attempts at global domination by the US and its allies. It included, among others, a call for eliminating Covid 19 patents; ending economic blockades and unilateral coercive measures; con-

fronting US militarism in Latin America and the Caribbean; and an end to neo-colonial efforts against the sovereign nations of Africa. It was also decided to establish a political-ideological training system, a center for strategic thought, and an International University of Communication to coordinate the different media efforts of political parties, social movements and popular organizations in the crucial battle of ideas.

After the recent resurgence of progressive victories in Bolivia, Peru, and the continued resistance by Venezuela, Cuba, and other nations, the US seems to be doubling down on its efforts to suppress these forces. This conference sent a clear message of the right of people to self determination and was an important step in expanding the bonds of friendship and common work necessary to defend this right against the increasing US policy of aggression.

### NICARAGUA & HONDURAS: November Elections

By Carol Moeller Costa, TFA Board

Both Honduras and Nicaragua will hold presidential elections in November 2021. They are economically and militarily tiny countries yet for different reasons the US government has a strong interest in them. They both have incumbent presidents who will either run again or, in the case of Honduras, probably be replaced by a successor committed to the present government.

The two countries represent completely different economic models. Honduras is pursuing an extreme neoliberal development model based on the extraction of natural resources at whatever cost to local communities, a minimal role for the public sector and very unequal income distribution. Nicaragua has a mixed economy with policies focused on the public sector and social investment, anti-poverty initiatives, and promotion of small enterprise and food sovereignty, which have cut extreme poverty by more than half since 2007.

In Honduras, the military coup in 2009, which deposed the progressive Manuel Zelaya, has led to a succession of neoliberal governments and flawed elections culminating in 2017 with Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH) as president. Opposition has



“BIDEN LET US IN.” At the US border, there are no Nicaraguans.  
(Photo: Guillermo Arias/AFP)

been suppressed by increasingly militarized police forces which have not prevented gang violence but have fostered it. Migrants are literally running for their lives. There are continual assassinations and disappearances of community activists. Corruption is rife. Honduras, a narcostate, is failing not just the poor but the majority of Hondurans. Massive destruction caused by two hurricanes increased the poverty level to 70% in 2020 and provoked a fresh peak of coronavirus infections in 2021.

JOH’s purely cosmetic electoral reform has been overlooked by the US State Department, suggesting that the US will again back his National Party. If a successor to JOH governs in the same mold, corruption,

poverty and violence will continue, causing more migration.

Few Nicaraguans head north towards the US border and Nicaragua is more successful than its neighbors in controlling the drug trade and gangs. Nicaragua has a much lower incidence of COVID 19 than Honduras. Aid was quickly sent to the regions most affected by the November hurricanes.

In Nicaragua nevertheless the US supports groups in opposition to the incumbent Daniel Ortega. These groups have yet to put forward anything but vague intentions to “promote democracy.” Several have befriended right wing US politicians or were prominent figures in Nicaragua’s former neoliberal governments under which poverty deepened and corruption ran rampant.

US policy is exactly contrary to any presumed purpose of slowing migration. It supports the very forces that drive Hondurans to migrate and that would produce a Honduran society in Nicaragua if they were to come to power.

Source: “The US Stake in Nicaragua and Honduras’s 2021 Elections,” by John Perry (Orinoco Tribune 6/10/21)

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## IN BRIEF/ACTIONS

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### Bitcoin Forced on El Salvador

President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador declared in English and in a speech to audiences at the June 2021 Bitcoin gathering in Miami, that the cryptocurrency Bitcoin would officially become legal tender in El Salvador, making it the first such country. (The US dollar is the country's other legal tender.) The Bitcoin law was fast-tracked by a parliament controlled by Bukele's party after only three hours discussion.

Bukele thinks Bitcoin will promote tourism to El Salvador's beautiful beaches and surf scene, with luxury hotels and tourist restaurants. The new law is an obvious appeal to the international public. But many Salvadorans see it as a distraction from domestic problems, including the "internal coup" Bukele effected one month earlier removing five judges and the public prosecutor, and expelling the international body investigating corruption cases against the current government.

The Bitcoin law has been criticized on several grounds: Bitcoin can't be a reserve asset because its exchange rate is often ten times as volatile as that of other major currencies; it allows people to dodge capital controls, weakening government economic policy control; it can accelerate money laundering and increase El Salvador's draw as a tax haven for wealthy foreign investors. And less than half of the population has Internet access to use Bitcoin.

70% of Salvadorans oppose the Bitcoin law, and 82% don't want to use Bitcoin for their remittances, which account for one fifth of the country's economy. Protestors against the Bitcoin law demand that instead of introducing Bitcoin the government address social problems such as poverty, lack of housing, inequality and the epidemic of disappeared women.

Bitcoin's rocky rollout has not increased the new law's popularity. After an initial investment of \$28 million for 550 coins, the volatile Crypto market dipped on Bitcoin's first day in El Salvador, costing the government \$3 million. One Salvadoran economist noted the \$200 million dollar loan the country needed to put Bitcoin into circulation "could power a public hospital for a year."

Source: *cepr.net* 6/25/21, *aljazeera.com* 7/16/21, *eltecote.org* 7/30/21, *businessinsider.com* 9/9/21

### US Can Extradite Saab

On June 12, 2020, Venezuelan special envoy Alex Saab was arrested in Cape Verde on US charges of "money laundering," which here means violating illegal US unilateral coercive measures (aka "sanctions"). Saab's "crime" was trying to buy for Venezuela, food, medicine and medical equipment from Iran. Saab has been in custody in Cape Verde for over a year and has been denied medical treatment for his cancer. The Economic Organization of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice had ordered his release and compensation, but Cape Verde ignored the order. On September 7, the Cape Verde Constitutional court ruled the US may now extradite Saab. The United Nations Human Rights Committee has called for his release, as has an international solidarity movement including the governments of Iran, China, Russia, and, of course, Venezuela. **Over 15,000 have signed a petition to the US and Cape Verde to free him. To sign, go to <https://afgj.org/free-alex-saab>.**

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano-English*, 8/26/21, 9/8/21

### Earthquake Strikes Haiti Again

On August 14th, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit southern Haiti, killing 2,200 people and wounding 12,000, with more than 300 people missing and hundreds of thousands without shelter. The earthquake severely damaged the cities of Les Cayes and Jérémie. Shortly after, Tropical Storm Grace hit Haiti.

We all remember the 2010 7.0 magnitude quake that killed 300,000 and left two million homeless. At that time Haiti Emergency Relief (HERF) funded mobile health clinics, women's groups and community organizers who brought relief to thousands of families. When Hurricane Matthew devastated the southern peninsula in 2016, HERF was again there, funding relief efforts.

Please consider donating to HERF, a longtime partner and ally of the Task Force on the Americas. Every dollar goes directly to grassroots community organizations in Haiti, which provide support for families

and communities affected by the earthquake. **To donate: [www.haitiemergencyrelief.org/support-our-work](http://www.haitiemergencyrelief.org/support-our-work). Or mail your tax-deductible donation by check to: HERF/East Bay Sanctuary Covenant/P O BOX 4670/Berkeley, CA 94704.**

Source: *Haiti Action Committee*

### US Blocks Asylum, Expulsions Continue

Under an August 24th US Supreme Court decision "the Biden administration will be forced to restart a Trump-era border policy that trapped tens of thousands of people seeking asylum in dangerous conditions in Mexico while they awaited their court dates. The Remain in Mexico Policy, also known as Migrant Protection Protocols ("MPP"), created a humanitarian disaster at the border and has been the subject of ACLU lawsuits since it was first instituted in 2019."

"Under the policy, people fleeing persecution in their home countries have been forced to wait in dangerous cities in Mexico while their cases were processed, which could take months or even years.... [P]eople who were sent to Mexico have consistently been subjected to horrific crimes and exploitation.... Human Rights First documented over 1,500 publicly reported cases of 'murder, rape, torture, kidnapping, and other violent assaults against asylum seekers and migrants forced to return to Mexico by the Trump Administration under [MPP].'"

Nevertheless, according to the ACLU, the Biden administration can and should "re-terminate [MPP] with a fuller explanation, in a manner that addresses the purported procedural defect."

In other migration news, the Biden administration has chosen to continue the Trump administration policy giving US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) authority "to expel migrants and asylum seekers for public health reasons," meaning that the general threat of COVID-19 has become an excuse for denying an asylum seeker even the right to present a claim.

Source: *aclu.org* 8/27/21, *ACLU Magazine Fall 2021*



## IN BRIEF/ACTIONS

### Chile's Constitutional Convention

Chile has begun to write a new Constitution to replace that of the 1973-1981 military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet.

On July 4, the 155 representatives of the Chilean Constitutional Convention, elected in May, chose Mapuche Linguistics Professor Elisa Loncón, PhD, as President and Frente Amplio member Jaime Bassa, PhD in Law, as Vice President to lead the process. The Convention also adopted provisional rules of procedure and created three committees: 1. Rules on Procedure; 2. Ethics and Budget; 3. Internal Administration. These committees were given a month to propose rules to the Plenary on each of these issues. The Convention is expected to take up to a year to write a Constitution that will then be put to a national referendum for approval.

The movement to draft a new constitution was the result of a political crisis with social unrest peaking in October 2019, including student protests over the exorbitant cost of education, and also indigenous Mapuche protests over centuries of repression. The Pinochet era's constitution is blamed for the social inequalities that sparked the deadly protests.

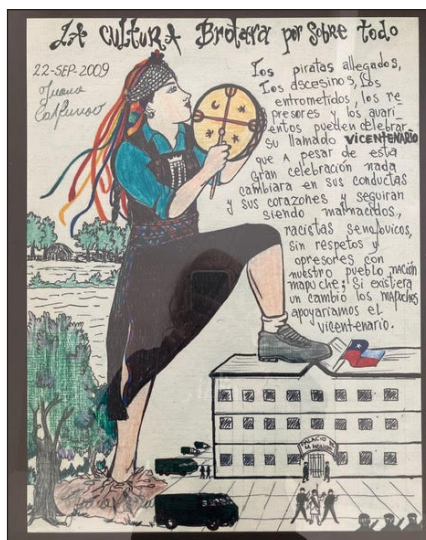
The May election for delegates to the constitutional assembly had some surprising results: 40 percent of the votes went to independent candidates, not affiliated with any particular party. Of the 155 delegates, 77 are women, and 17 are indigenous delegates representing their ethnic groups.

Convention President Professor Elisa Loncón wore traditional indigenous clothes as she gave her first speech to the Convention, addressing indigenous groups in her native Mapuche language.

Source: *Int'l J. Const. L. Blog* 7/15/21

### Cuba Receives Solidarity

Despite COVID-19 and the losses suffered by Cuba from the embargo and the drop in tourism and other trade, the US has refused to lift the embargo or any of the new sanctions imposed under the Biden and Trump administrations. In defiance of the US-led embargo, the governments of



*"Our culture will survive above all." Lonko Juana Califunao, Mapuche chief, exerts power on the Chilean government. (Artwork: Juana Califunao, from prison)*

Mexico, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Russia, China and Iran have given solidarity and material support. For example, Mexico is sending cargo ships, tankers and planes with medical supplies (including 800,000 syringes), 674 tons of beans and 100,000 barrels of diesel fuel. President Manuel López Obrador further urged that Cuba be declared a World Heritage site, as an "example of resistance." Russia also sent a cargo plane with over 44 tons of humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies, China sent ventilators, solar panels and medical equipment, and Iran and Cuba are jointly mass-producing Cuba's COVID-19 vaccine Soberana 2 (aka Pas-teurcovac).

Source: *Sputnik International* 8/13/21, *Mexico News Daily* 7/29/21, *RT* 7/29/21, *MOnline* 8/21/21, *Associates Times* 8/26/21

### Possible Coup in Brazil

On September 7th, President Jair Bolsonaro staged demonstrations to delegitimize the Supreme Court and Congress, seen by many as presaging a military coup. Polls show former president Ignacio "Lula" da Silva of the Workers Party would eas-

ily win the 2022 elections. Demonstrations against the government were held in over 160 cities in Brazil, while indigenous groups are calling on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate Bolsonaro for genocide and ecocide.

Source: *telesurenglish.net* Sept. (6, 7, 8, 10) 2021

### Illegal Detentions in El Salvador

On July 22, Salvadoran police illegally detained five former government officials from the leftist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) party. The charge is "embezzlement and money laundering." But experts say there is no evidence for these crimes, which are based on the legal receipt of honoraria during the previous Mauricio Funes administration (2009-2014).

The detainees were FMLN cabinet members in the Funes administration, including Dr. Violeta Menjívar, former Minister of Health, Erlinda Handal, former Vice-Minister of Science and Technology (and daughter of FMLN founder Schafik Handal), Calixto Mejía, former Vice Minister of Labor, Hugo Flores, former Vice-Minister of Agriculture, and Carlos Cáceres, former Treasury Minister. Other accused FMLN officials have had international arrest warrants issued for them since they are currently not in the country, including former President Salvador Sánchez Cerén, former Minister of Public Works, Gerson Martínez, and former Minister of Public Security, Manuel Melgar.

The detentions appear to be a political prosecution and an attempt to distract from the well documented corruption of the Bukele administration, the Bitcoin Law, the effort to privatize water, cuts to education programs, and increased militarization of public security.

Human rights organizations in El Salvador are calling on Salvadoran authorities to drop the charges. **Readers are urged to take action to support the effort, by going to [cispes.org/](https://cispes.org/) political prisoners.**

Source: *cispes.org* 8/6/21

# Remembering Faye Hinze (1926-2021)

In 1985 Faye Hinze was among the group of faith-based and other human rights activists, appalled by the US-sponsored dirty wars in Central America, who came together under what is now the Task Force on the Americas. She served on the TFA board until her death on August 9, 2021, at the age of 95. She and her activist husband Lou, who predeceased her, were high school teachers and leaders in the Marin County, California peace movement. They were active in the Marin Sane/Freeze for many years.

Faye was born into a large and loving extended family in Endicott, New York on June 5, 1926, and married Lou Hinze in 1952. She would often visit her family home en route to Italy, where she traveled frequently.

For over twenty-five years Faye taught English in the San Rafael Unified School District. After retirement she put her skills to good use with the Task Force by editing the quarterly newsletter. She participated in all TFA events. She was faithfully

writing thank you cards to donors up to the covid shutdown.

Faye and Lou were known for their large circle of friends and colleagues, for whom they hosted frequent dinner parties. While Lou did most of the cooking, Faye was the gracious hostess and baker of cakes. Faye's loving son Spiros often attended their dinners, and she looked forward to meeting him every Friday for lunch in North Beach.

She believed in the strength and power of women and championed and encouraged her several "adopted" daughters and granddaughters. One of them was the daughter of Steve and Francoise Bingham. Faye loved music, art, theater, books, and especially film. There was never a new movie she hadn't already seen.

In recent years and up until the pandemic, the Task Force met at the Hinze home, known as the Peace House, which was literally open to the community 24/7. Faye joined many of the Task Force's delegations to Latin America and the Caribbean, including El Salvador, Cuba, Brazil, Colom-



*Faye in solidarity with a campesino at the Asunoa community in resistance.*  
(Photo: Roger D. Harris)

bia, and Honduras. In her 80's, realizing that she hadn't been to Peru's Machu Pichu, she organized a trip there with friends!

Faye was known by all who knew her for her kindness and generosity, her strength, and her dedication to peace and justice. She will be deeply missed.

**Faye Hinze ¡PRESENTE!**

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