

## Converge on Fort Benning: Nov. 21-24, 2008

**What:** Rally and nonviolent direct action to close the SOA

**When:** November 21-24, 2008

**Where:** Ft. Benning, Georgia

**Why:** The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation/WHINSEC (formerly the School of the Americas (SOA), is an army combat school that trains Latin American soldiers and officers. SOA graduates have committed atrocities including massacres of entire communities, assassinations, rapes, torture and "disappearances" in almost all of the countries of Latin America. Through the efforts of SOA Watch, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Bolivia no longer send troops to the SOA/WHINSEC. Nevertheless, SOA/WHINSEC continues to train soldiers from a number of countries including Colombia, Peru, El Salvador and Chile. The U.S. House of Representatives approved (220-189) the McGovern-Sestak-Bishop (GA) amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2009. The amendment forces the public release of names, rank, country of origin, courses and dates of attendance of WHINSEC's graduates and instructors to the public. The Senate will vote soon.

**Who:** Students from various high schools, university students and concerned adults.

**How:** The St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA) has arranged for buses and lodging for St. Louis community members who would like to travel to Ft. Benning, GA for the annual nonviolent vigil and demonstration. Friday November 21: **Buses will leave** by 6:00pm (gather at 4:30 for BBQ meal and ending service) from the World Community Center (WCC) parking lot (438 N. Skinker – east side of street half way between FPParkway and Delmar), and will arrive back at the WCC between **1-2am on Monday, November 24**. We will stay at the La Quinta Inn, Columbus, GA 31906 (emergency only phone: 706-568-1740) on Saturday night, 4 to a room (king rooms available to some couples at extra cost).

**For more information about the SOA, visit SOA Watch web site at [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)**

**For information about the Ignatian Teach-In: [www.ignatiansolidarity.net](http://www.ignatiansolidarity.net)**

**Cost:** \$135 per person for adults (\$125 for students). (bus costs are MUCH higher this year)

**Deadline:** The seats on the bus and rooms in the hotel are on a first come, first served basis, so the sooner the better. **Registration deadline: October 10; ALL Money/release forms due: November 1.**

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- I/we would like to travel to Ft. Benning, GA with IFCLA to help close the SOA.
  - Enclosed is my check (make check payable to IFCLA) for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
  - **(Schools/large groups please send ONE check per school/group)** All participants need to fill out registration and release forms. For more info/to ask for scholarship aid: call IFCLA 314-721-2977 or email ifcla@ifcla.net.
  - **Enclosed is my donation for scholarships for those who cannot afford to go \$\_\_\_\_\_**

(please print legibly) **send to IFCLA/438 N. Skinker/St. Louis, MO 63130**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/School: \_\_\_\_\_

- This is my first time to go to the SOA                      Preference for BBQ: none    meat    veggie
- I have gone \_\_\_\_\_ times