

Converge on Fort Benning: Nov. 20-22, 2009

What: Rally and nonviolent direct action to close the SOA

When: November 20-22, 2009

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. Two Colombian SOA graduates, have been accused of crimes involving narcotics and collaborating with criminal paramilitary groups. The June 28, 2009 coup d’etat in Honduras was led by SOA graduate Romeo Vasquez

The U.S. House of Representatives approved (224 to 190) the McGovern-Sestak-Bishop-Lewis amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2010. 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 bill is in Conference Committee as we begin organizing. The bill to close the school (HR2567) was introduced with 42 co-sponsors. IT IS TIME TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL!

Another reason to attend this year is the 20th anniversary of the assassinations of the 6 Jesuits and two women at the UCA (University of Central America) in El Salvador on Nov. 16, 1989. These killings were carried out by SOA graduates and marked the turning point to end of the civil war.

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.

Details: There will be **TWO** departure dates: Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20:

Buses will leave both days by 6:00pm 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 22.**

Friday/Saturday night hotel: Days Inn North 3452 Macon Rd, Columbus, GA 31907 (706-561-4400)

Saturday night only: La Quinta Inn, Columbus, GA 31906 (706-568-1740)

Accommodations: 4 to a room (2 to a room and king rooms available at extra cost).

For more information about the SOA, visit SOA Watch web site at www.soaw.org

For information about the Ignatian Teach-In: <http://www.ignatiansolidarity.net>

Costs: \$200 per person for adults (\$180 for students) for two nights 4/room; \$230-2/room

\$170 per person for adults (\$150 for students) 4/room; \$180-2/room

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 15; ALL Money/release forms/rooming list due: November 2.**

- For more info/to ask for scholarship aid: call IFCLA [314-721-2977](tel:314-721-2977) or email ifcla@ifcla.net.
- IFCLA has speakers and films to help you prepare for your participation in the vigil.

We expect that Roy Bourgeois will be here in September...Look for a notice at www.ifcla.net

- 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 \$_____.
- _____ Two nights _____ 4/room _____ 2/room
- _____ One night _____ 4/room _____ 2/room
- **Schools/large groups please send ONE check per school/group) All participants need to fill out registration and release forms. Schools should send rooming lists by Nov. 2**
- **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: _____

Traveling with (for non-school people): _____

This is my first time to go to the SOA I have gone _____ times

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