

## DJPC's Position on Militarization in Latin America

DJPC's mission is premised on nonviolence and accomplished through nonviolent activism.

Because militaries and weapons are by nature inherently violent, DJPC resists any form of militarization in the region and along borders. It opposes U.S. foreign policy that includes, but is not limited to, excessive military aid or funding, joint military trainings, increased troop numbers, creation of bases and other military facilities, constructions of walls or fences, and any and all violence and rights abuses perpetrated by U.S. or foreign military, police, paramilitaries and government contractors, especially in regard to internal conflicts.

This position includes DJPC's long-standing call to investigate, denounce and permanently close the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC) and its parallel organization, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). DJPC demands the release of all documentation related to curriculum, information on students/graduates, transparency in regards to rights abuses perpetuated by SOA and ILEA students/graduates, and justice for the victims of their crimes.

DJPC recognizes the failure of militaristic strategy to protect civilian human rights and unarmed civilians and denounces egregious abuses, attacks and threats perpetrated by militaristic actors against unarmed citizens and human rights defenders. DJPC implores the U.S. State Department to certify human rights compliance before releasing military aid to foreign governments.

DJPC recognizes that past and present militarization has reaped chaos and violence throughout the region with continued repercussions for human rights, development and security. To this end, DJPC advocates foreign policies that:

- Promote human development over military aid.
- Respect international standards for human, social, economic and cultural rights.
- Respect the jurisdiction and decisions of international human rights courts/tribunals.
- Uphold, respect and enforce peace accords.
- Improve human rights and support civil society members at risk.
- Strengthen political and civil institutions and eliminate corruption and impunity.
- Support prosecution of human rights violators, including military, governmental and nongovernmental perpetrators of violence.
- Strengthen rule of law, including the courts, and support the balance of power.

DJPC works to establish equitable public policy through:

- Education: of our members, our communities, our Congressional delegation on the local and global impacts of militarization.
- Solidarity: partnering with local and national groups and international movements to advocate for these policies.
- Nonviolent Activism: calling, writing, visiting and keeping the pressure on members of our Congressional delegation to enact just foreign policies and funding priorities, and denounce violence. Participating in rallies, press conferences, public meetings, and nonviolent protests.