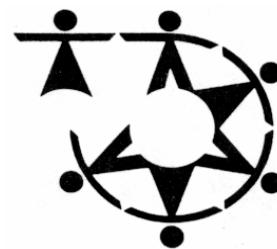


THE

# MUSTARD SEED



Denver Justice & Peace Committee

*Celebrating 26 years of peace and justice!*

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January 2006 • Volume 27 • Number 1

## Tesorito Nueva Esperanza

*By Sarah Sloane*

In Tesora Nueva Esperanza, everything eventually falls from the sky: coconuts (both ripe and green), wilted hibiscus blossoms, rubber tree leaves, faded jacaranda blooms, and dead branches broken off a tree. A boy's navy blue shirt, corn husks flying towards the pigs, a girl jumping out of the tree to catch the boy's shirt as it falls through the leaves. A large green ball, soft and reluctant as it thumps down the dirt field behind the school. Kernels of corn that two sisters throw to the chickens. And rain, thunderous, swirling rain that falls daily on the abandoned sugar plantation where the government has relocated nearly 200 Mayan families.

July is the heart of the rainy season in El Tesorito. I got used to the thunder in the afternoon, the gray wind picking up before the rain, and the aftermath of rain: a weak drizzle down the wide leaves of the banana trees, a few late raindrops dripping out of the crowns of palm trees onto the path to the clinic. One particularly rainy afternoon, after a long meeting at the clinic, I joined Susan from CAMINOS, Ila and Miluska from St. Michael's Project in Tucson, and Pedro, the local health promoter, as they walked through the community to visit two people who were sicker than many others: a woman suffering severe pain from a prolapsed uterus and a boy sitting on his family stoop, holding his deformed foot in both hands while he waited for us.

*"...at the moment I first saw that boy, I felt the sky lean in closer, its wings tangling in the trees. Everything falls from the sky in El Tesorito, but where does the sky itself fall from?"*

I already knew that there was little we could do besides record the details of individual cases and note the patterns of illness and disease. In El Tesorito, there are three new cases of malaria diagnosed each month, the first case of HIV has just been diagnosed, the whole community struggles with high rates of anemia, the book *Where There Is No Doctor* is missing, and the medicines to treat any of these cases is limited at best. It's true that later we would try to raise the funds that would provide a stipend to the health promoters, buy the medicines, and deliver those medicines to the community. But right now we were simply walking with Pedro, matching our pace to his, learning what we could of these people and this place. Sometimes just presence is enough. As the Buddhists will tell you, and if nothing else, we were present.

Or at least the others were present. While they visited the sick woman inside her house, I waited outside. I knew there was little I could do, and to call my Spanish rudimentary is to give me a compliment. Besides, I was preoccupied by the afternoon light slanting into the puddles. Despite years of imperfect Buddhist practice, I don't have a clue how to really be there, to be present. I'd rather put the toe of my sandal into the edge of a puddle and watch it ripple.

*(Continued on page 4)*

Inside This Issue	
Message from the Board .....	page 2
GSTV Program Update .....	page 3
<i>The Failure of War (Essay)</i> .....	page 5
Legislative Update .....	page 6
Awards Night .....	page 8
CAMINOS Update .....	page 9
Book/Film Reviews .....	page 10-11

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Denver Justice and Peace Committee is a volunteer organization dedicated to promoting human rights, economic justice and lasting peace in Latin America through education, solidarity projects and nonviolent activism.

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### **Contributors**

Ellie Azoff, Jessica Buckley, Alexandra Burke, Rick Clifford, Lynn Farquhar, Gabriela Flora, Richard Kruch, Harriet Mullaney & Sarah Jane Sloane.

### **Printed by P & L Printing**

Thanks to everyone who continues to help out in the office, with program development, fundraising, newsletter publication, mailings and website. We couldn't do it without you!

## ***Message From the Board***

***Jessica Buckley***

*January 9, 2006*

Six years later, I still have a very vivid image etched in my mind of a teenager named Evelyn standing on the hot, dusty roadside of San Carlos Lempa, El Salvador. Looking through the cracked, glazed open window of the old school bus as I was riding away for the last time, I saw her fighting the tears brimming over the edge of her eyelids. Over the course of my fifteen months in El Salvador, Evelyn and I had become close friends. She would braid my fine pale hair and we would dream about our futures.

Although Evelyn was relatively educated and had a job, her hopes were a pipe dream. She would need nothing short of a miracle to live them. As the tears streamed down my cheeks that day on that overcrowded clammy bus, I promised myself that for Evelyn, and the many others that touched my life that year, I would remain connected to Central America and work hard on the North American side for a more just, balanced world.

As I settled in Denver, I decided that part of this commitment would be membership on the board of DJPC. Although I had been involved with DJPC since I was a young child, my journey gave me a new lens to view the importance of peace and justice work. No longer were they Maria and Jose in the photographs, they were Maria and Jose who lived in a tin roof champa and worked in the fields day and night. I knew them. DJPC became my connection to what I view as the real world.

DJPC board meetings became a place of retreat for me. I won't deny that we've had many challenging moments and always an overload of work without enough hands to carry the load. Yet each time I brought my chair to the table I knew I was joining a circle of people who were called and felt pulled to be a part of something more than what the six o'clock daily news tells us. Each of us with our own stories and connections came to remind each other and to work towards a new vision of the world. As I step down from my formal position on the board, I already miss the comfort and enlightenment gained from our gentle arguments. As I will continue on in other work, I hope that you consider filling my empty chair.



## GSTV UPDATE

*By Harriet Mullaney*

Daniel Lopez, the Global Solutions to Violence (GSTV) Program Coordinator, is on a two month sabbatical in Bulgaria. He is working with influential individuals from Romania, Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria to strengthen civic education in that area of the world. The project is being sponsored by USAID and Georgetown University's Center for International Education Development. We congratulate Daniel on this assignment and look forward to all that he will be able to share with us on his return in early March.

GSTV's fall calendar was full! 48 classes on human rights, globalization, fair trade, immigration, Guatemala and Colombia were taught to 1,564 students at 11 schools. GSTV also partnered with teachers at Ralston Valley High School to include a human rights component in their World Literature curriculum.

At East High School, classes on Colombia were presented to provide background to East students who are collaborating with students in Colombia in a "sister school" program. In addition, GSTV participated in "Tolerance Day" at Peak to Peak Charter School, the International Opportunities Fair, the PeaceJam Conference, Leaders' Challenge and Human Rights Day at Cherry Creek High School. In early January, Daniel presented on the "GSTV Model" at the Hawaii International Education Conference. (Fortunately, DJPC did not have to pay his expenses!)

In 2006, we look forward to sharing these resources with more students and teachers throughout the metro area. We are excited by two new opportunities. In January, we trained the entire faculty at Bishop Machebeuf High School in the methodology of incorporating peacemaking and nonviolence concepts into their classes as part of their Lyceum Program.

In February, we will be making a presentation on globalization and trade at the 2006 United Students for Fair Trade International Convergence, which will be held in Denver.

DJPC is able to accomplish these activities through the hard efforts of our educators. We would especially like to thank Tiffani Baldwin, Robin Davey, Gabriela Flora, Daniel Lopez, Kelly McDowell, Jonathan Moller, Ermalinda Monge and Catherine Raveczyk for providing quality classes and strengthening our relationships with partner schools. Kudos also go to interns Mara Markowitz and Julia Paul for their work on program administration and fund raising.

Finally, we could not accomplish this work without the financial support of DJPC members. We would also like to thank the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, the 10:30 Catholic Community and the Wolcott Family Foundation for grants received during the fall. Thank you!

P.S. If you would like to teach, work on curriculum or program evaluation, raise funds or do other support work, we would love to have you join us in this exciting and fulfilling effort! Please give us a call.

**On behalf of the DJPC Board of Directors and Staff, we would like to thank the interns who volunteered with us this past fall:**

**Ellie Azoff** - Legislative Advocacy

**Alexandra Burke** - Events

**Mara Markowitz** - Global Solutions to Violence

**Christine Mayorga** - Assistant to Program Director

**Julia Paul** - Grants

**Nicki VanVeen** - Media and Web



Alexandra, Ellie, Kara and Nicki celebrate a job well done!

*(Tesorito Nuevo Esperana, Continued from page 1)*

After visiting the woman, our group lumbered down the hill towards the small boy's house. We walked through some puddles, circumvented seven or eight piglets snuffling in the bare dirt, and edged behind a huge pig tied to a wide-trunked tree. At the bottom of the hill we slipped past a homemade fence and the low-hanging trees. A young woman in the yard was weaving cloth of brilliant blue, a hoop around her dress. When she saw us, she ran to get her parents.

In a few minutes, the parents, the young woman from the yard, and a small girl were sitting on the front porch of their tiny cinder block house, and we had arranged ourselves opposite them on a couple of wood planks balanced between two stumps. All of us were looking at the small boy sitting alone on the stoop. I wasn't daydreaming anymore. I was definitely present. You will think I am exaggerating, but at the moment I first saw that boy I felt the sky lean in closer, its wings tangling in the trees. Everything falls from the sky in El Tesorito, but where does the sky itself fall from? I felt it coming down. He was about four. The boy's foot was attached to his leg at the wrong angle, hanging practically useless to the side while his shin bone stood on the ground. His expression was dignified but sad, his mouth down-turned. While we were there, he never once laughed, smiled, or spoke. Small flies gathered in the corners of his eyes, and his hands were

like frozen claws from the fatigue of walking with his hands in the holes of the short wood crutches that his father had made for him. The crutches were shaped like saws.

The other health workers were already doing their job, taking notes, adjusting a camera, and talking to the parents of the child. One of them spoke at length to the parents, and I recognized the Spanish words for "doctor's evaluation," for "hospital," and for "amputation," and I noticed the child did not flinch from anything said. But I was also watching the sky enfold us all into its net: the uneven wood fences, the pigs, the weaving and tortilla-making going on in the larger community, the men working in the corn fields. I felt the sky start to slip; it entered my bones and softened them, and I fought back tears. But the boy just sat there looking at the ground. Just then a white hen flew up from the ground, squawking and angry, her wings beating furiously as she headed for my face. I ducked my head at the last moment and she swished through my hair instead, diving over my shoulder and landing on the dirt yard behind me. And then, the sky did collapse entirely around me. It really did start to rain again. I really did start to cry, although I made sure no one saw me. But the boy did not move or speak. He continued to sit silent as a stone, sucking on a candy that a health volunteer had given to him, staring straight ahead, utterly still, the sky having already fallen down for him a long time ago.

### **Las Maices del Tesorito**

By Sarah Jane Sloane

*Las mazorscas escuchan  
al aliento del tiempo.  
Y las lluvias terarean ella misma canción  
cuando sus manos firmas  
tocan el tambor de la milpa.*

*No es importante cuántos veces  
la lluvia intenta  
ir al hogar  
ella nunca esta cerca  
al final su canción.*

*Ella siempre esta llegando  
y los cerdos y los fuegos siempre la saludan  
y los campos  
en sus significante silencios  
siempre continuan.*

The ears of corn listen  
to the breath of the weather.  
And the rains hum the same song  
when their firm hands  
drum against what has been harvested.

It isn't important how many times  
the rain intends  
to go home  
she never gets any closer  
to the end of her song.

She is always arriving  
and the pigs and the fires always greet her  
and the corn fields  
in their significant silences  
always continue.

# The Failure of War

Richard Kruch, DJPC Board Chair



In a deepening consideration of the structural issues of our time, the human tendency toward extreme violence and war, in my view, eclipses all others. I find that there is a very important distinction that needs to be made when attempting to grasp what is at the heart of this issue.

In the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 100,000 million people died as a direct result of military conflicts around the world. Indirect “collateral damage,” the murder of the innocent and destruction of civilian lives, is many times that number. Today the ominous prospects of nuclear, biological and chemical warfare are again overshadowing the compelling social and environmental challenges of the day. All “national security priorities” have become secondary to military positioning in the struggle to guarantee access to resources, especially oil.

As you read this, the United States, for its part, is conducting “low intensity” military operations in dozens of countries around the world. The world’s only super-power currently dominates the development, manufacture, deployment and trade of the weapons of war, including weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. spends roughly as much on its military machine and “intelligence” apparatus as do all other nations combined.

*War as a means of dispute resolution and diplomatic leverage has become so dangerous that it is no longer functional.*

There is, however, good news as well. The will of the people still has potency here in this country. It is in the power of the United States, hence its people, to change these dark scenarios for the future. War as a means of dispute resolution and diplomatic leverage has become so dangerous that it is no longer functional. War has failed to advance any element of global security or planetary quality of life, not to mention “peace on earth.” War is a failure.

A paradigm shift is required about what constitutes strength and what is foolishness in this regard. Most of us realize on a gut level that war is obsolete. It is incumbent on the people of the United States to break the trance of denial and dominance and to begin to restructure the way we see, the way we think and the way we “do business.” It is war itself that is the terror that haunts us all. It is what must be stopped.



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Stand up for what you believe in. Join DJPC and make a donation towards peace and justice. Now you can donate online. Just visit our website at [www.denjustpeace.org](http://www.denjustpeace.org) and click on the "Donate Now" button to make a credit card donation via a secure payment form!

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Ellie Azoff, Legislative Intern (Fall)

### IMMIGRATION

On December 15, 2005, the House of Representatives passed the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (H.R. 4437). The bill was subsequently introduced in the Senate on December 17, 2005. If the Senate passes the House version of the bill, there will be devastating consequences for immigrants in the United States. The bill will criminalize 11 million undocumented workers for being on U.S. soil. Family members, employers and religious institutions that are in contact with undocumented workers would also be subject to criminal penalties under the broad provisions of smuggling, harboring, and transporting. There is non-partisan agreement on the need for comprehensive immigration reform. However, H.R. 4437 does not provide a just and workable solution to the situation of so many people migrating to the U.S. Please contact Senator Ken Salazar and Senator Wayne Allard today to demand reasonable and fair immigration reform.

Representative Tom Tancredo has been pushing to eliminate “birthright citizenship” granted to anyone born on U.S. soil. His campaign is a direct challenge to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution, which states that, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States.” Tancredo tried to attach an amendment to this effect onto H.R. 4437 but it was defeated. Please contact Representative Tom Tancredo at 202-225-7882 and let him know that you disapprove and disagree with his efforts to end birthright citizenship.

### GUATEMALA

On November 4, 2005, the 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill was passed by Congress. The International Military Education Training (IMET) appropriation for Guatemala was initially included in it. DJPC campaigned against IMET because the Guatemalan military has not made sufficient reforms to merit support from the United States.

The military has not been held accountable for past human rights abuses and is still carrying out abuses against the Guatemalan people. We are pleased to announce that IMET funding was eliminated from the Appropriations Bill as passed. We would like to thank those DJPC members who wrote to their legislators and convinced them that the IMET ban should be maintained.

Currently, DJPC is working to persuade Congress and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, to extend Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Guatemalans without U.S. citizenship currently in this country. As the result of Hurricane Stan, which hit Guatemala on October 4, 2005, entire communities were buried and declared mass graves, vital infrastructure and crops were destroyed, and thousands were displaced. By granting Guatemalans TPS, those living here will be able to send much needed funds back to their relatives.

Please urge Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff to grant TPS to Guatemalans in the U.S. by contacting him at 202-282-8495.



## Legislative Update continued...

### *Plan Colombia*

Funding for Plan Colombia was included in the final Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill passed by Congress. This is disappointing because the language of the bill did not include provisions for strong human rights enforcement. The original Senate version proposed putting a cap on military and police assistance to Colombia and setting a minimum bar on funding for development programs, but the House rejected this. In the end, 80% of U.S. aid to Colombia will go to military and police forces—the same forces that have been cited for tremendous human rights abuses against the civilians of Colombia.

Plan Colombia, however, does include a few provisions that are positive for the people of Colombia. For instance, there is now a stricter policy towards paramilitary demobilization, meaning that members of paramilitary forces will be held accountable for their crimes and will be required to renounce violence. It is hoped that the stricter policy will eliminate impunity. It is important to mention, however, that Congress plans to take the \$20 million allocated for this program out of the already limited development program funds targeted for Colombia. Please refer to the

a list of contact information for your legislators appearing below and express your disappointment that Plan Colombia was passed through Congress.



**Are you receiving our emails with  
Events Announcements, Action Alerts  
and Central America Updates?  
If you would like to be on our e-list,  
send your email address to  
[djpc@denjustpeace.org](mailto:djpc@denjustpeace.org)**

### Legislative Contacts for Colorado

**Rep. Diana DeGette, 1st District**  
303-844-4988; 202-225-4431  
**Rep. Mark Udall, 2nd District**  
303-650-7820; 202-225-2161  
**Rep. John Salazar, 3rd District**  
970-245-7107; 202-225-4761  
**Rep. Marilyn Musgrave,  
4th District**  
970-663-3536; 202-225-4676

**Rep. Joel Hefley, 5th District**  
719-520-0055; 202-225-4422  
**Rep. Tom Tancredo, 6th District**  
720-283-9772; 202-225-7882  
**Rep. Bob Beauprez, 7th District**  
303-940-5821; 202-225-2645  
**Sen. Wayne Allard**  
303-220-7414; 202-224-5941  
**Sen. Ken Salazar**  
303-455-7600; 202-224-5852



# Update on DJPC's 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Night and Silent Auction

By Alexandra Burke, Events Intern

On October 22, 2005, DJPC celebrated its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Night and Silent Auction! It was an evening to honor our award recipients as well as the many accomplishments of our volunteers and staff over the past year. The venue was the beautiful First Mennonite Church of Denver. Pepe Cornejo and his family set the mood for the night with an inspiring instrumental and vocal ensemble that included "Todo Cambia" and other Latin American melodies.



Pepe Cornejo and family entertain.

Afro-Colombian peace and justice activist Luis Gilberto Murillo-Urrita was awarded the *Global Justice and Peace Award*. His keynote address centered on his experiences in the political field in Colombia as former Governor of the state of Chocó and on overcoming the trauma of being kidnapped and forced into exile. His words illuminated the heart-wrenching poverty and incredible hardships the people of Colombia live with on a daily basis. Luis explained the complexity of the situation and the many factors that contribute to escalated violence in the region, including U.S. funding of increased militarization in Colombia, the involvement of multi-national corporate actors, and continued human rights abuses by military and paramilitary forces. He continues to

speak in favor of peace, reconciliation, full democracy, and social inclusion, because, as he reminded us, once the truth is spoken, it cannot be ignored by those who hear it.

Pat Buckley, who has been a long-time dedicated member of DJPC, was awarded with the *John Proctor Member of the Year Award*. Pat's devotions to service have sent him to Central America several times to volunteer and he lives his life here in accordance to the values of peace and justice. Pat dedicated his award to the people of Latin America who survive the toil and live their lives under the violence and hardship of poverty. He reminded us that they are the real heroes and that we exist in solidarity with those who continue the struggle and in memory of those who have lost their lives to it.



Gabriella Flora presents *Global Justice and Peace Award* to Luis Gilberto Murillo-Urrita.

The reception following the ceremony provided an opportunity for the members of DJPC to socialize, enjoy a wonderful array of food, and bid on silent auction items.

A big heart-felt thank you to our many generous donors, those who provided the silent auction items and the food, and the volunteers who helped make the evening a huge success!



Pat Buckley, John Proctor Award Winner!



MC Gabriela Flora, Director of Program Services Kara Martinez and DJPC Board Chair Richard Kruch smile for the camera!



## **PROMESA Program Serves as Life Preserver to Guatemalans in Tesorito** *By Rick Clifford*

CAMINOS has entered its 2<sup>nd</sup> year as the sponsors of PROMESA, the locally-run and locally-staffed health promoter program in Tesorito, formerly a CPR community that CAMINOS accompanied after the 1996 Peace Accords were signed. In the wake of devastating floods that hit the Guatemalan highlands and southern coast in early October, the PROMESA program has provided a measure of relief to Tesorito residents adversely impacted by the disaster.

The heavy rains associated with Hurricane Stan began on October 4, 2005, and continued to fall non-stop over the next five days. According to the Guatemalan agency, Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), Tesorito was one of 683 communities adversely affected by the flooding. Although Tesorito was not as badly damaged as communities such as Panabaj, Panjachel, Solola, or San Marcos, hundreds of families in Tesorito have lost their crops and found their homes damaged by the storm. *Plataforma Agraria*, a coalition of *campesino*, indigenous, religious, and human rights groups reported that towns like Union Victoria, El Triunfo, and Tesorito began to see their humanitarian aid redistributed to larger towns according to the political interests of the parties in power.

The damage inflicted by Stan was enormous yet for the most part received little attention by the U.S. media. CONRED calculates that 1.5 million Guatemalans have been directly affected and another 2 million have been indirectly affected by Stan. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has warned, "parts of Guatemala are facing a starvation time bomb in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan." Trevor Rowe of the WFP said, "Even before Stan arrived, Guatemala had chronic child malnutrition of 50%, with 80% in some areas."

The monies required to fund PROMESA have been raised through benefit concerts and outreach to local churches. One in particular, St. Andrews Episcopal, graciously donated the seed money needed to fund PROMESA during the first year of operations.

More recently, CAMINOS members participated in DJPC's yearly Build for Peace work-a-thon. Several members of CAMINOS raised approximately \$4,000 on October 15<sup>th</sup>, cleaning and repainting one of the units of Family Homestead, a Denver non-profit organization that provides temporary emergency housing for families who would otherwise be homeless. Build for Peace donations benefit DJPC work.

CAMINOS' commitment to accompanying the Guatemalan witnesses of genocide continues in 2006, while the genocide case against former dictators Efraín Ríos Montt and Romeo Lucas García remains bogged down in the Guatemalan judicial system. The Guatemalan judicial authorities are not yet capable of dispensing justice. Some judges, lawyers and witnesses have been murdered; others have received threats to their lives.

The case has also triggered controversies within the Spanish judiciary. On March 27, 2000, Judge Guillermo Ruiz Polanco declared himself competent to open the case against the Guatemalan dictators. However, on December 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year, the highest Spanish Criminal Court ruled that the proceedings had to be stopped, one reason being that "the Guatemalan judiciary investigated the case, which means that the Spanish courts are incompetent."

In March 2003, the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation filed an appeal against this decision. On February 23, 2003, the Appeals Court allowed the appeal at least partially with 8 vs 7 votes. In effect, it denied the Spanish courts the competence to judge the genocide inflicted upon the Guatemalan Maya, but it authorized them to deal with the murder of Spanish citizens in Guatemala.

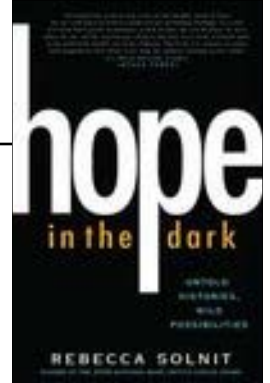
According to the majority of the judges, "the Spanish judiciary is competent to investigate the circumstances that lead to the attack on the embassy and to examine the murder of Spanish priests by the Guatemalan army." Furthermore, the Spanish judiciary "condemns the crimes perpetrated against the Guatemalan Maya", but declares itself incompetent to judge them.

On September 26, 2005, the Spanish Constitutional Court rejected this view. It asserted that according to international law, the fact that the victims are of Spanish nationality is not required to pass judgment. According to the Court, the existence (or non-existence) of national interests must remain secondary in view of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

*If you would like to learn more or get involved with CAMINOS, please contact the DJPC office.*

## "Hope in the Dark: Untold Stories, Wild Possibilities"

*Written by Rebecca Solnit  
Published by Nation Books  
Reviewed by Lynn Farquhar*



It was the title on the spine that made me pick up "Hope in the Dark" in a local independent bookstore last December. The frenzied shop-till-you-drop vibe in a nearby mall I'd just come from with bumper-to-bumper traffic composed almost entirely of SUVs competing for a parking space so that they could fill shopping baskets full of cheap goods made in China was not exactly hope-inducing. Nor was the news I'd been commiserating about with a friend... Tookie Williams' execution, the suicidal pace of oil consumption, melting glaciers and a litany of political outrages from mere greed to horrific violence.

It makes sense that those simple words, "Hope in the Dark", might beckon at that moment. I'm glad they did. I was ready for hope in any guise, but it was an especially heartening surprise to find it in this slim little volume, chock full of inspiring historical tidbits and well articulated passages such as:

"We are winning," said the graffiti in Seattle, not "We have won." It's a way of telling in which you can feel successful without feeling smug, in which you can feel challenged without feeling defeated. Most victories will be temporary, or incomplete, or compromised in some way, and we might as well celebrate them as well as the stunning victories that come from time to time. Without stopping.

or this one:

Perfection is a stick with which to beat the possible. Perfectionists can find fault with anything, and no one has higher standards in this regard than radicals.

or especially:

To hope is to gamble. It's to bet on the future, on your desires, on the possibility that an open heart and uncertainty is better than gloom and safety. To hope is dangerous, and yet it is the opposite of fear, for to live is to risk.

So I'm writing to tell you about this book because it gives me hope that in this coming year that each of us can keep on plugging away, knowing we'll have more successes (even if they may not manifest instantly or clearly or with finality before our eyes), more challenges, and take more risks with our open hearts, betting on our hopes to bring about a sea change over time. We certainly have many good examples to follow.

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## RIGHTS ON THE LINE

Film review by Gabriela Flora



“Rights on the Line” offers a provocative look at the growing role of armed vigilante groups and their attempts to play on anti-immigration scapegoating. Filmed by legal observers and human rights activists at the U.S.-Mexico border, this new video has just been produced by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), in partnership with the American Civil Liberties Union and WITNESS, a group using video activism to defend human rights.

The growth of vigilante activity at the United States' southern border – and beyond – is the latest development sparked by the growing militarization of the border, as well as the criminalization of undocumented immigrants.

Marked increases in the presence of the Border Patrol and other law-enforcement agencies have now spilled over into the formation of paramilitary groups such as the "Minuteman Project," whose activities in the Arizona desert are documented in “Rights on the Line.”\*



Developed as a tool for community education and human rights advocacy, “Rights on the Line” explores



the true nature of the vigilante movement, contrasting their media-savvy public message with the reality of their night-time raids against border crossers and threatening posture toward border communities. This 25-minute video includes interviews with border residents, border crossers, human rights activists, and members of the Minuteman Project themselves.

For more information on this film, check out:

[www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)

[www.afsc.org/immigrants-rights/rightsontheline](http://www.afsc.org/immigrants-rights/rightsontheline)

*\*Colorado has an active Minutemen chapter and three of our state legislators traveled, armed, to the border in October 2005 to participate in vigilante night-time patrols.*



Copies in English and Spanish can be ordered from AFSC at:

<http://www.afscstore.org/store/index.php?cPath=79>

Or you can borrow the film by contacting Gabriela Flora at [gflora@afsc.org](mailto:gflora@afsc.org) or 303-623-3464.

# Welcome to DJPC!

For those of you receiving this newsletter for the first time, we welcome your help in working for justice and peace! If you would like to keep receiving *The Mustard Seed* and/or support our work, please return the slip below.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to continue to receive *The Mustard Seed* for \$25 per year.

I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help with the work of DJPC and its CAMINOS and GSTV programs.

I would like to receive the following via email:  
 Events Announcements  Action Alerts  
 Central America Updates

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For tax deductible contributions, please make checks out to "DJPC Education Fund."

**DJPC is looking for an  
experienced, reliable  
and enthusiastic  
ASSISTANT  
to help the Board Treasurer  
This is a volunteer position to  
serve 8 - 10 hours a month  
(No meetings required!).**

For more information or to  
inquire, please contact Marin  
at [marinp@aol.com](mailto:marinp@aol.com)

## Denver Justice and Peace Committee

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