Jennifer Harbury: An Incredible Story, an Incredible Person

By Hayden Gore, CAMINOS Intern

This year’s DJPC Annual Celebration and Global Peace Awards Night will feature activist, author and human rights lawyer Jennifer Harbury as the keynote speaker.

Jennifer Harbury met and fell in love with Efrain Bámaca Velásquez, a.k.a. Comandante Everardo, while collecting testimony from Guatemalan guerrilla fighters for her first book, Bridge of Courage. In 1991, the two reunited in Mexico City, where Everardo was preparing for peace negotiations with the Guatemalan government, and married later that year. In January 1992, Everardo returned to Guatemala to command his embattled front and subsequently disappeared in a firefight with military forces near the Ixcucúa River. For the next eight years, Jennifer led a tireless fight for the truth about her husband’s whereabouts—a fight that would not only expose the Guatemalan military’s nefarious practice of disappearing its opponents into clandestine torture prisons but also implicate the CIA in bankrolling some of Latin America’s most notorious human rights violators.

In 1995, Jennifer entered into her third hunger strike in order to force the U.S. and Guatemalan governments to clarify the circumstances surrounding her husband’s disappearance. On the 12th day of her strike, Congressman Robert Torricelli, then a member of the House Intelligence Committee, revealed to Jennifer that the U.S. government had long since known that Guatemalan Colonel Julio Alpírez ordered Everardo’s death. Additionally, he told Jennifer that Alpírez was a CIA contract employee who had received a $44,000 check from the agency just four months after Everardо’s disappearance. The revelation generated a political firestorm in Washington, causing President Clinton to order a government-wide investigation into the involvement of Guatemalan CIA contract employees in human rights abuses. As a result of the scandal, 25 CIA agents were either fired or demoted.

Jennifer also took her case against the Guatemalan government to a full trial in front of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. On November 25, 2000, the court ruled unanimously in Jennifer’s favor—holding that Guatemala should repair the damages done to her, Everardo and Everardo’s family.

(Continued on page 10)
MISSION STATEMENT

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.

DJPC Board of Directors
Eileen McCarthy-Arnolds - Secretary
Connie Curtis
Gabriela Flora
Clarissa Kreik Lee
Richard Kruch - Vice Chair
Jeremy Lee - Board Chair
Steve Piper - Treasurer
Marin Popov - Outgoing Treasurer
John Whitson

DJPC Program Director
Kara Martinez

DJPC Interns
Jenna Corbin - Advocacy
Hayden Gore - CAMINOS
Angelia Shugarts - Regis work/study
Baltazar Solano - Fundraising/ Mktg

The Mustard Seed Editors
Kara Martinez
Harriet Mullaney

Contributors
Jenna Corbin, Alexandra Durbin, Hayden Gore, Sue Kyper, Kara Martinez, Harriet Mullaney, Baltazar Solano

Printed by P & L Printing
Thanks to all our supportive members and the volunteers who continue to help work on program development, fundraising, newsletter publication, and office assistance!

Message From the Director of Program Services

Fall is typically a season for reflection. With the days growing shorter, we look in awe at the beauty of the trees outside our office preparing for their slumber. Inside however, we have not yet realized this is the season for slowing down! The office and committees are buzzing with activity. Our space is filled to the brim with interns, and our calendar marked up with the meetings, actions and endeavors of our steering committees. All this activity is testament to the fact that DJPC is an incredible volunteer community at work—a true democracy in action.

Recently we welcomed three new board members to the table: Clarissa Kreik Lee, Steve Piper and John Whitson. We also say good-bye with a heart-felt ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! to Treasurer Marin Popov who has contributed greatly through his service in such an integral board position over the past few years.

Our intern program is highly valued by local academic institutions. Over the past year, we have hosted interns from every major college and university in the metro area! The interns’ majors have ranged from peace studies to political science. Student interns gain new skills and insights into solidarity work through their service with DJPC. We are grateful for their countless contributions! They, in turn, are thrilled to work alongside our dynamic members who mentor them by sharing their experiences and leading by example. Together we learn, grow and accomplish an incredible amount of work!

Just as none of the difficult issues DJPC tackles exists in isolation, neither can the solutions be resolved by one pair of hands. Our strength lies in the dozens of people who undertake their own piece. Contributing does not require encyclopedic expertise of Latin America, hours upon hours of extra time and energy, or loads of spare cash (because who has all of those anyway?!). The volunteers’ efforts are built on dedication to the work of solidarity, a desire to make a difference in Latin America through education and activism; and an open mind to both the requirements and possibilities of this organization’s mission. I applaud them—Standing ovation!—and invite you to take your place alongside such humble giants.

In Solidarity,
Kara Martinez
DJPC Annual Celebration and Global Peace Awards Night

Featuring keynote speaker,
Jennifer Harbury

Author, Lawyer, Human Rights Activist

Also honoring local activist Harriet Mullaney as the 2007 John Proctor Award Recipient

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

6:00 p.m.—Reception
7:00 p.m.—Keynote Speaker & Awards

Suggested Donations: $15 General Admission / $10 Students (w/ ID) & Seniors (+65)

For more information, visit www.denjustpeace.org or call: 303-623-1463
The 2007 DJPC John Proctor Award will be presented to

Harriet Mullaney

Harriet Mullaney will receive the John Proctor Award, given each year to a local activist for their promotion of justice for the Americas, commitment to the work of solidarity, and efforts to create a more just and peaceful future. Harriet exemplifies these qualities. With DJPC, she has worked on education with the Global Solutions to Violence and salon programs, and through her writing for the *Mustard Seed*; and contributed to legislative advocacy campaigns through calls, letters and visits. Harriet served as a DJPC board member for two years.

Harriet is also involved in the broader solidarity community, particularly through her work as an international election observer with *el Centro de Intercambio & Solidaridad* in San Salvador. She has participated in a number of study delegations to Central America and Mexico in which she pursued her special interest in the relationship between U.S. trade policies and economically-motivated migration.

Harriet currently teaches English as a Second Language at Cross Community Coalition Family Resource Center, writes letters in support of causes promoted by AFSC’s Coloradans for Immigrant Rights, and serves on the Denver Defines Integration English Language Task Force.
El Salvador—The Last Three Months

By Harriet Mullaney

It is estimated that 700 people leave El Salvador each day—forced away by the high cost of living and lack of viable employment. Those who remain in this country of 6.9 million people—and try to effect change—face terrible reprisals as evidenced by a number of recent incidents.

On July 2, 13 members of CRIPDES, the Association of Rural Communities for the Development of El Salvador, and a journalist were arrested while en route to a rally in Suchitoto. President Saca was to promote his plan to create public-private concessions and decentralize the distribution of municipal water—steps toward full privatization. Nine were charged with terrorism under the year-old anti-terrorism law, patterned on the U.S. Patriot Act and implemented after confrontations on the campus of the National University. The water workers union has continued pressure and, as a result, Saca has backed off from privatization efforts for the time being. (Three judges from the San Salvador Tribunals recently criticized the anti-terrorism law as being too arbitrary but the administration is maintaining its validity.)

September 4, eight board members of SIGEESAL, the Association of Workers in Health Care of El Salvador, were arrested at their homes or places of work. They were charged with disorderly conduct for their participation on July 6 in protests against the lack of medicines and plans for concessions and the decentralization of public health care services. SIGEESAL had only been granted association status in June and had recently merged with the national hospital workers association. On September 7, Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization became Salvadoran law, guaranteeing freedom of association, the right to organize and collective bargaining. Their defense will rely on these new laws.

In September, a year after the governmental Human Rights Defense Office and the Catholic Church’s Human Rights Commission reported on “social cleansing” groups inside the National Civilian Police (PNC), lawyers obtained sufficient evidence to prosecute two officers for the assassinations of eight people. They and four others are being investigated for participating in the murders and withholding evidence. A member of the Human Rights Defense Office has called for a thorough investigation and a purging of the PNC, beginning with the Director.

On September 20, Salvador Sánchez Roque, a freelance radio journalist, was murdered outside his home near San Salvador. He had received a death threat, just days before. Police placed the blame on gang members. However, with the murders of two other journalists in a little over a year and the arrest of another in July, the murders and harassment are seen as an attack on the free press.

Also on September 20, the U.S. Embassy denied a visa to Maria de los Angeles Pleitez Carcamo, who had been invited by CISPES for a speaking tour. Pleitez provided the required documentation, letters of support from some U.S. Congressional members, and proof of employment in El Salvador. The letter of rejection cited lack of “economic and social ties” to El Salvador. The interviewing officer closed her interview saying, “This is a very delicate situation...you cannot travel because we need to protect U.S. security.” Appeal attempts were rejected.
Peru Free Trade Agreement

After about 18 months on the drawing board, Congress is expected to vote on the Peru Free Trade Agreement (Peru FTA) sometime in October. Negotiated under Fast Track, the Peru FTA is a solidified agreement and does not need to account for proposed provisions by U.S. representatives or the Peruvian Congress. Riding on this executive privilege afforded by "fast track," the unjust agreement can be passed by a simple majority vote. No amendments can be made to the legislation. (For further information about "fast track", see Doug Stephens’ article in the May 2006 Mustard Seed.)

It has been noted that 1.3 million farmers who have been displaced from their farms in Mexico since NAFTA passed in 1994. Likewise, Peru FTA threatens some estimated 700,000 - 900,000 farmers who will be unable to compete with U.S. subsidy prices. Furthermore, opening Peru to agri-business and pharmaceutical corporations makes vulnerable indigenous populations whose wisdom of natural health and medicines would be exploited for corporate profits. Likewise, provisions to the agreement, such as those set forth by Speaker Pelosi and Representative Rangel to make available generic medicines to the Peruvian people, lack means of enforcement, limiting foreseeable improvements in public health for people in need of basic life-saving drugs.

Continuing the contentious practices of NAFTA and CAFTA, under Peru FTA corporations would have a right to sue governments if environmental protections could be seen to cause profit reduction. This is a direct assault on any attempt to protect the Andes mountain region and Amazon basin, one of the most bio-diverse regions in the world.

DJPC, along with other human rights and environmental protection agencies, stand in solidarity against the signing of Peru FTA that, in the tradition of CAFTA and NAFTA, threatens the dignity and livelihood of Peruvian trade partners.

Please, contact your Representative and Senators and ask them to OPPOSE the unfair Peru Free Trade Agreement!

CAFTA for Costa Rica?

Costa Rica is the only country party to the U.S.-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) that has not yet ratified the agreement. However, the preliminary results from an October 7, 2007 public referendum indicates it will pass. Major protests and demonstrations have erupted in Costa Rica, including one that brought 100,000 people into the streets of the capital, manifesting doubt as to the supposed benefits of CAFTA for Costa Ricans and anger at the government's handling of the issue.

Nobel Peace Laureate and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has used a strategy of misinformation, fear-based propaganda and threats to try and promote ratification. A leaked memo indicated threats that funds would only be available to municipalities whose majorities voted “yes” on ratification. This is a troubling signal of government corruption. Interference by the U.S. Ambassador, as well as a media campaign funded by the transnational pharmaceutical corporation, COMEX, have furthered pressure on Costa Ricans.

DJPC and other opponents note that CAFTA, like NAFTA and the proposed Peru FTA, only serves the interests of corporations and limits economic growth and sustainability by and for the majority of citizens in these trade partner countries. Furthermore, research shows that the implementation of “free” trade agreements frequently results in increased internal displacement and economically-motivated migration to the U.S.
DJPC Actions taken since June 2007

- Followed up with Colorado Representatives in regards to H.R. 1707, which called for the suspension of operations at the SOA/WHINSEC in order to investigate the history of human rights abuses and failed policies of the institution. Representatives DeGette and Udall and Salazar voted in favor of the amendment whereas Representatives Perlmutter, Musgrave, Tancredo and Lamborn failed to vote in favor of this crucial legislation. It is important to note that this was the closest vote in history and was defeated by a margin of only six votes.

- DJPC, along with other organizations, participated in a nonviolent protest of the University of Denver’s award to Newmont Mining. The coalition members included Colorado American Indian Movement, the Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center, Global Response, the Stop Newmont Coalition and the University of Colorado’s Indigenous Support Network. Nearly 100 people came together to hold an alternative award ceremony honoring deserving humanitarian leaders for their tireless efforts on behalf of community rights, environmental protection and economic justice. The People's International Bridge Builder’s Award Recipients are: Father Marco Arana and the courageous people of Cajamarca, Peru; Carrie Dann and the exemplary struggle of the Western Shoshone Defense Project; Nur Hidayati and the unwavering actions of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment; Daniel Owusu-Korantenga and the vision of WACAM, Ghana; and Stephanie Roth and the determination of the people of Rosia Montana, Romania.

- DJPC sent a letter protesting the Newmont award to Chancellor Robert Coombe, GSIS Dean Tom Farer, and Madeline Albright.

- Responded to an urgent action call demanding justice for José Emanuel “Pepe” Méndez Dardón, 28-year old son of human rights activist, Amílcar Méndez, who was murdered in Guatemala City after submitting an urgent communiqué to the Robert Kennedy Memorial Human Rights Center.

- Thanked Senator Salazar and Representatives DeGette, Lamborn, Musgrave, Perlmutter, Salazar, Tancredo and Udall for their help in reforming the redistribution of aid under Plan Colombia.

- Thanked Senator Salazar and Representative Udall for supporting House amendment 995 which attempted to cut funding to SOA/WHINSEC. Unfortunately, this amendment failed. However, H.R. 1707 (noted above), which was introduced on March 27, 2007, continues to bring the attention of the Senate and Congress to the critical issue of SOA/WHINSEC.

- Urged Senator Salazar and Representative Udall to sign a Dear Colleague letter on behalf of the recent (July 2007) imprisonment of thirteen Salvadoran citizens, including leaders of the Association for the Development of Rural Communities (CRIPDES) and a journalist covering recent events in El Salvador. (See related article on page 5.)

---

Do you want to take action on behalf of human rights, economic justice and lasting peace for Latin America?

DJPC's Advocacy & Nonviolent Activism Committee welcomes your participation!
Join like-minded activists in developing strategies and activities to counteract injustices against the people of Latin America.

Please call the DJPC office at 303-623-1463 or e-mail djpc@denjustpeace.org for more information.
DJPC circulates frequent ACTION ALERTS requesting a letter or phone call on an issue. THANK YOU!
Caminos Update -
CAMINOS Brings Guatemalan Genocide Survivors to Denver
By Hayden Gore, CAMINOS Intern

From October 12-17, 2007, CAMINOS hosted a delegation of Guatemalan genocide survivors from the Communities of Populations in Resistance of the Sierra (CPR-Sierra), Mayan indigenous people internally displaced by military repression during the 36-year Guatemalan civil war. Our guests, Nazaria Tum Sanic, Pedro Bernal Raymundo, and Baltazar Solano Canay, fled the Guatemalan military’s genocidal ‘scorched earth’ campaigns of the early 1980s and sought refuge in the remote forest of the Cuchumatanes Mountains. There they endured constant military bombardments and lived off the land for 12 years. Incredibly, no one knew of their existence except for the military that hunted them. In the early 1990s, the CPR broke through the encircling military cordon and announced their presence to the world. In response to their call for physical protection and recognition of their status as a civilian population, human rights accompaniers from programs such as CAMINOS lived in their communities in order to dissuade possible military incursions.

Our guests spoke at the University of Denver and Metro State University on the history of the CPR-Sierra and the struggle for survival during the conflict. On October 14, CAMINOS hosted a dinner to honor and officially welcome them to Denver.

**Nazaria Tum Sanic**—CPR-Sierra international spokesperson and administrator. Nazaria is responsible for project development and accountability. She has also been instrumental in defining and implementing women’s projects within the CPR-Sierra, including a recent project addressing the effects of the armed conflict on CPR women.

**Pedro Bernal Raymundo**—Public health worker and leader of the five-person *Equipo de Salud* (Health Team). As a public health promoter, Pedro is responsible for the health of the CPR-Sierra’s 22 rural communities. In Guatemala, he has studied and worked alongside a team from Doctors Without Borders and has been trained by the Ministry of Education as a rural pharmacy assistant.

**Baltazar Solano Canay**—Vice President of the CPR-Sierra’s General Council. Baltazar has served as an elected leader within the CPR-Sierra since the 1980s, with more than 15 years in central leadership positions. He also represented the CPR-Sierra in negotiations for land settlements mandated by the 1996 Peace Accords. As an elected official, both during and after the war, he is uniquely suited to talk about indigenous democratic structures and the struggle to sustain cultural identity in a changing Guatemala.

---

**Don't miss out on any DJPC events!**  
Sign up for our e-mail listserv with DJPC and Community Events Announcements and important Latin America Action Alerts!  

To sign up, send an e-mail to:  
djpc@denjustpeace.org  
Subject: Sign me up for the listserv!  

Or check our website frequently for DJPC Event updates.

---

**Support DJPC**  
Donate Online!  
Stand up for what you believe in. Join DJPC and make a donation for peace and justice in Latin America.  

Just visit our website at www.denjustpeace.org to make a secure credit card donation.
On September 9, Guatemalans voted for president, vice president, 158 congressional representatives, and 332 municipal council members. Because no presidential candidate gained more than 50% of the vote, the top two contenders—Álvaro Colóm (28%) and Otto Pérez Molina (24%)—will compete in a run-off election on November 4.

Colóm represents the National Unity of Hope (UNE), a party with various business, social, and suspected mafia interests. Colóm has run textile businesses, worked for the government on returning refugees from Mexico, and trained as a Maya spiritual guide. The party bills itself as a progressive option; however, characterizations have run the gamut from “social-democrat” to “centrist” to “right-wing.” In 2003, Colóm described UNE as center-right. Critics see Colóm as hard to pin down, willing to make almost any alliance, and too weak to stand up to the illicit parallel powers that manipulate the State.

Pérez Molina, a former general and 1987 graduate of the School of the Americas, is the presidential aspirant for the Patriot Party (PP). According to an article by Allan Nairn in “The Nation,” he appeared on the CIA payroll while head of G-2 military intelligence in the 1990s. Pérez Molina has been accused of involvement in human rights abuses, including the killings of Bishop Juan José Gerardi and Jennifer Harbury’s husband, Efraín “Everardo” Bámaca. Some analysts even blame Pérez Molina for orchestrating recent waves of violence in a bid to win support for his security-focused campaign message.

The PP platform emphasizes a tough stance on crime and poverty. The PP reportedly holds strong links to the mafia and enjoys financial backing from many elites. Curiously, of the 14 presidential candidates, George W. Bush met only with Pérez Molina during his March 2007 visit to Guatemala.

Neither Colóm nor Pérez seems capable of challenging the rampant impunity or dismantling the networks of organized crime and drug trafficking that control politics. Neither represents a departure from the mentality of free trade and mega-development. And neither plans to alienate the U.S. government, transnational corporations, or local elites by undertaking land reform or empowering local communities to manage their own natural resources.
The court’s decision fulfilled her goal of having the Guatemalan military tried and held responsible for the crimes committed against her husband. Much to her surprise, the Guatemalan government which had vociferously denied responsibility for Bámaca’s death and frustrated any attempts to investigate the case, complied with the court’s order. In November 2002, the Guatemalan government paid Everardo’s family for the damages caused as a result of his death.


**To learn more about Jennifer Harbury, please read her impressionable works:**

- *Bridge of Courage: Life Stories of the Guatemalan Compañeros and Compañeras*
- *Searching for Everardo: A Story of Love, War, and the CIA in Guatemala*
- *Truth, Torture and the American Way: The History and Consequences of U.S. Involvement in Torture*

---

**Truth, Torture and the American Way**

Jennifer Harbury documents the use of torture by the U.S. government, especially the CIA and other intelligence forces; details the development of extraordinary torture techniques, such as stress and duress, the water pit, and water boarding; and describes how they were used in conjunction with death squad techniques, starting in Vietnam with Operation Phoenix.

A number of the torture techniques developed in Vietnam were later used in countries in South and Central America, by American intelligence forces. Not only did the U.S. government train human rights violators at the School of the Americas, but very often used them as CIA assets and liaisons.

Jennifer Harbury documents more than twenty of these cases and concludes, “We weren’t just ‘professionalizing’ military dictatorships in Guatemala and Latin America as they carried out massive repression, waves of terror, counter-insurgency programs and even genocides.” Some of the worst of these techniques and some of those who developed them are now employed in the Middle East.

---

**The Global Peace Index**

The Global Peace Index ranks 121 countries according to their peacefulness. An Australian businessman, Steve Killelea was hired by the Economist Intelligence Unit in London to rank countries against 24 criteria which measure both the internal and the external peace of a country. The Global Peace Index (GPI) was introduced on May 30, 2007. The ranking will be published yearly with the intention of sparking competition among countries to become more peaceful and thereby improve their rankings.

According to the GPI, Norway is the most peaceful country, followed by New Zealand and Denmark. The U.S. ranks 96, just before Iran. More detailed information about the GPI (including rankings) is available at:

[www.visionofhumanity.com](http://www.visionofhumanity.com)
On September 21, the Chilean Supreme Court decided in favor of extraditing former Peruvian President/Dictator Alberto Fujimori to face trial on human rights charges in Peru. One of the two main cases for which he faces charges is directly related to the La Cantuta massacre in which nine university students and a university professor were 'disappeared' on July 18, 1992, by the notorious Grupo Colina death squad. Fujimori faces charges for directing the Grupo Colina death squad and co-authoring the La Cantuta massacre along with the former head of the national Intelligence Services, Vladimiro Montesinos.

Gisela Ortiz Perea has committed her life to the unwavering struggle against impunity so that justice will be done in the case of her brother, Enrique Ortiz Perea, who was disappeared and murdered in July 1992 during the La Cantuta massacre.

"Justice without Borders" is an Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) film produced by the highly-acclaimed and award-winning Skylight Pictures. This film explores the current landscape of international justice through the stories of survivors and the legal cases they are pursuing in Peru, Chile, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Hague, Guatemala and Spain.
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 become a member and keep receiving The Mustard Seed and/or support our work, please return the slip below.

Name: ___________________________________
Address: __________________________________
_________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________

__ I would like to become a member or to renew my membership and to continue to receive The Mustard Seed for $30 per year.
__ I would like to include a special donation of _____ to help with the work of DJPC and its CAMINOS and PROMESA programs.
__ I would like to receive the following via email:
    __ Events Announcements & Action Alerts
Email: ___________________________________

For tax deductible contributions, please make checks out to "DJPC Education Fund." You can also donate online via our website! Click on the "Donate Now!" button.

Denver Justice and Peace Committee
901 W. 14th Ave., Suite 7
Denver, CO 80204

Address Service Requested

Saturday, November 3, 2007
DJPC Annual Awards Night

Featuring keynote speaker,
Jennifer Harbury,
Author of “Through a Glass Darkly:
The U.S. Holocaust in
Central America”

Tickets:
$15 General admission
$10 Students (w/ ID) & Seniors (65+)

For more information,
visit www.denjustpeace.org
or call: 303-623-1463