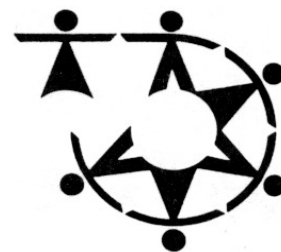


THE **MUSTARD SEED**

Denver Justice & Peace Committee
Celebrating 30 years of peace and justice!



Denver Justice and Peace Committee
901 W. 14th Avenue, Suite 7, Denver, CO 80204 • 303-623-1463
April 2009 • Volume 29 • Number 2 • A Quarterly Publication

Inside Election Day — El Salvador, 2009

By Denise Peine

Waking up at 3 a.m. was the pits. The rest of Sunday, March 15, 2009 observing the El Salvadoran presidential elections was interesting (usually), tiring (sometimes), rewarding (looking back at the experience) and wildly exciting (when the results came in!). I had many of the same feelings during Obama's election, but I didn't have to get up so early.

As a volunteer with CIS (Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad), I was a neutral observer, trained to collect information and to watch

for, and carefully document, irregularities related to the electoral process, with the aim of evaluating the process. We were not authorized to intervene in any way, or help do the job of any official. We received training on the duties of the officials involved in the voting process, what to look for as they performed their responsibilities, and the possible "irregularities" that could occur. Some of the training was a bit tedious, but



Photo by Cindel Redick
Denise Peine, Rigoberta Menchú, Harriet Mullaney

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The Future under Funes

By Harriet Mullaney

The significance of Mauricio Funes' election as president of El Salvador on March 15, 2009 cannot be overstated. His victory is not just a break—it is *the* break—with a history of exclusive rule by conquerors and oligarchs. As a result, the

stakes are high for Funes and his party, the FMLN.

Funes ran on a party platform that pledged his government would: lower the cost of living and increase purchasing power; create more and better jobs with special opportunity for youth and women; defeat crime and increase family

security; direct concentrated support to poor rural and urban families; and defend and support families in El Salvador whose primary wage earner has migrated. The platform calls for increasing the availability of and access to employment, housing, health, educa-

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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.

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Printed by P & L Printing

Thanks to all our supportive members and the volunteers who continue to work on program development, fundraising, newsletter publication, and office assistance!

Message From the DJPC Board

While the world wide economic crisis is making life more difficult for the peoples of Central and Latin America, there is some good news as you'll read in this issue of the *Mustard Seed*. In El Salvador, the FMLN candidate, Mauricio Funes, was elected president! In spite of the ARENA (which had been in power before and since the signing of the Peace Accords in 1992) party's attempts to stir up fears of communism, the influence of President Chávez of Venezuela etc., a majority of the Salvadoran people voted for Funes.

And in Peru, former president and dictator, Alberto Fujimori, was found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to 25 years in prison. In his September 2008 *Mustard Seed* article about the DJPC delegation to Peru that observed the Fujimori trial and accompanied family members of those who died in the La Cantuta massacre, Hayden Gore wrote: "When the verdict is issued in the Fujimori trial..., all DJPC members can take pride in the fact that this organization has participated in the process and made a positive contribution to the eventual outcome." Many thanks to DJPC members who acted in this campaign for justice in Peru!

It is a time of transition for the DJPC Board: Tommy Timm has joined the Board and Jeremy Lee, Chairperson, has stepped off. We needed a new chairperson, and I will now be serving in that role.

We welcome Tommy to the Board. A long-time DJPC member, Tommy has been active with the CAMINOS program since its beginnings in 1996. Tommy's interest in Latin America began in the early 1960's through his participation in a YMCA work camp in Lima, Peru; he has traveled extensively in Mexico and Guatemala, including with a DJPC delegation. His organization-building skills, developed during his 30 years plus of being on the staff of NeighborWorks America, will be a great asset to DJPC.

We so appreciate Jeremy's time on the DJPC Board and his active participation on various committees before that. He has provided outstanding leadership including serving as chairperson these past three years. Jeremy promises to "stay a member and supporter of DJPC long into the future." We'll count on that! THANK YOU, Jeremy!!

For a more just and peaceful world,

Connie Curtis

From Words to Action: Confronting Discrimination Against Women in Latin America

By Amy Bhalla

Lack of access to health services and education, limited economic and political clout, and gender-based violence are just a few of the multiple and various forms of discrimination and persecution that are faced by women throughout Latin America. For many women's rights activists and advocates, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) serves as a vivid reminder of the limitations of international laws and norms in practice. Specifically, as in the case of Latin America, government leaders and officials point to the signing and ratifying of CEDAW as proof of their commitment to end discrimination against women while rampant women's human rights violations and abuses persist throughout the region. Some of the most striking violations include femicide, restrictive reproductive health policies and practices, and limited political representation in local and national government.

In the minds of some women's rights advocates, the promise of CEDAW remains. CEDAW was introduced in 1979, and as stated by the

United Nations General Assembly, reflected the long struggle to establish legal protections for women across the globe. Unlike its predecessor, the 1967 Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW is a legal document that binds signatories to work actively to promote and protect the rights of women. Perhaps the most important aspect of CEDAW is the creation of a definition of discrimination against women in Article 1 of the Convention:

Discrimination against women shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

In clearly defining discrimination against women, states are accountable and responsible for any and all violations. Also significant is the establishment of a Committee to oversee compliance. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women also makes recom-

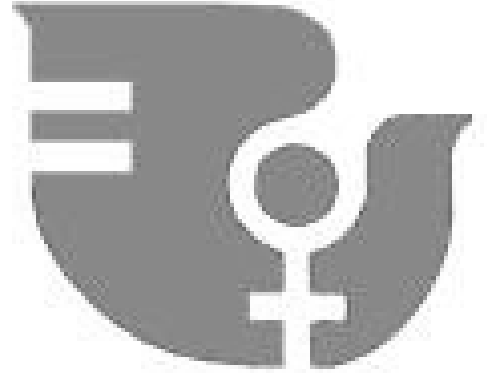


Photo Source:
www.freethoughts.org

mendations to member states regarding the status of women and violations of CEDAW. For example in January 2008, the Committee issued a report chastising continued government policies and practices that perpetuate discrimination against Bolivian women.

As noted in the accompanying chart Latin American signatories to CEDAW (see page 10), Latin American countries were quick to sign and ratify the convention. However, there remains an enormous disparity between the legal guarantees of CEDAW and the realities facing women of the region. The continued discrimination and persecution against women in Latin America, and more generally throughout the world, demands further examination of CEDAW in practice, as well as government commitments to uphold the convention. Conclusively, more must be done to raise awareness of the fundamental limitations of CEDAW in practice, as well as the reality that more must be done to engage and compel governments to protect and promote the rights of all women.

(Continued on page 10)



Photo Source: www.riniart.org

(Continued from page 1)

tion, and safety so that all Salvadorans can live dignified, productive and happy lives in El Salvador.

Funes, who will assume office on June 1st, has his work cut out for him. These are ambitious goals for a number of reasons. Funes does not bear the traditional FMLN credentials, i.e. he was not a guerrilla during the civil war. So, he has to develop trust and cooperation within his own party. He must do the same with parties of the right who together have the votes to block legislation. The FMLN holds the greatest number of seats in the Legislature but not a majority. As the party platform indicates, the problems facing El Salvador are monumental. Additionally, the country has never adequately dealt with the legacy of war. Until it comes to terms with the root causes of its social and economic ills, which went unresolved despite 12 years of combat, making meaningful progress will be a formidable task.

Despite outgoing President Saca's assurances two weeks prior to the election that public finances were stable and that "there is nothing to worry about," there is a lot to worry about. The global crisis has significantly affected El Salvador. Exports and tax revenues are down, job loss has risen over the last eight months, and remittances are projected to drop by 13% in 2009. Fitch, Inc., the financial risk rating agency, has stated that El Salvador and the new Funes government will confront a "disproportionate impact" from the global economic crisis.

In the face of all these challenges, hope lies in the fact that Mauricio Funes is an intelligent, capable leader in whom the Salvadoran people have put their trust. He did not win on FMLN votes alone and people are willing to give him a chance. He is known as a pragmatist so will lead from a position closer to center than other FMLN candidates might have. He was painted as a pawn of Cuba and Venezuela during the campaign, but his professional history and comport-



Mauricio Funes

Photo by Harriet Mullaney

ment during and after the election show that he is very much his own person. It will be an uphill struggle, but with Funes' tenacity, El Salvador does have a future. For additional information on the elections in El Salvador, please visit my blog at <http://elsalvadorelections2009.blogspot.com>.

STUFFED AND STARVED by Raj Patel

Reviewed by Lynn Farquhar

When Raj Patel's *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System* first came out, I devoured it (no pun intended) as his research and analysis really goes for the jugular in exposing the inconvenient truths of the global food system.

Patel's is one of the few books to look seriously at the historical vio-

lence inherent in the current dominant food system, from the CIA-backed invasion of Guatemala to secure the business interests of the United Fruit Company in 1954 to the tragic suicides among farmers, such as Lee Kyung-hae, a South Korean farmer/activist who lost his farm after markets opened to foreign trade and who stabbed himself in the heart during anti-WTO demonstrations in Cancun a few

years ago.

In his chapter titled, "You Have Become Mexican," Patel writes about the chants that arose in Mexico after Kyung-hae's suicide, "*Todos somos Lee*" and "*Lee, hermano, te has hecho Mexicano*."

Lee's becoming Mexican in the eyes of campesinos points to a shared kind of rural experience, a way of living, a way of dying. His struggles with free

(Continued on page 5)

Advocacy and Nonviolent Activism Update

By Amanda Miralrío

The Advocacy Committee has been busy working to close the SOA/WHINSEC. School of the Americas Watch declared February 17th a National Day of Action to close the SOA. The Advocacy Committee and DJPC members participated by visiting the offices of Senators Udall and Bennett and Representatives Perlmutter and Polis. Each participating group reported a positive experience and hopes that the visits will lead to good relations with those offices. Since the visits, DJPC has signed petitions asking Nicaragua to stop sending troops to the SOA and reminding Costa Rica to honor its promise to stop sending troops to the SOA.

Representative McGovern plans to introduce legislation to close the SOA/WHINSEC during the last week of April, so the Advocacy Committee is planning more legis-



Photo Source: www.serve.com

lative visits to remaining Colorado Representatives. If you are interested in attending these visits, please email

legislative@denjustpeace.org.

Additional actions the Advocacy Committee has taken since January include:

- Sent over 50 postcards signed by DJPC members to be delivered to President Obama's office advo-

cating just policy toward Colombia. This was part of the April 20th National Day of Action on Colombia in solidarity with the violently displaced citizens of Colombia.

- Sent a letter to the entire Colorado delegation asking that they support U.S. neutrality in the March 2009 Salvadoran presidential election.
- Signed a petition against terminating aid to Nicaragua in the form of the Millennium Challenge Account.

Signed a petition to end anti-drug chemical spraying in the Amazon to prevent harm to the environment and humans in Colombia

The Advocacy Committee appreciates the support of all DJPC members in taking action on the issues of concern to the people of Latin America. Please contact the office if you would like to become more involved in this work.

(Continued from page 4)



Photo Source:

www.stuffedandstarved.org

trade, his lack of freedom under the market and his despair after bankruptcy were so familiar to the campesinos in Mexico that he might as well have been Mexican. As the home of NAFTA - the North American Free Trade Agreement - Mexico has been a

pioneer in experiments with free trade, and food in particular. Understanding how Mexico became a laboratory for certain kinds of trade experiments, and society's subsequent actions and reactions, gives us a model for understanding why farmers in vastly different countries - South Korea, Mexico, India and even the United States - find much in common in each other's lives, and deaths.

There are no simple or easy answers to the questions around food sovereignty, protecting the diversity of seed or of human creativity or in coming up with alternatives to a monocultural behemoth. Raj Patel encourages his readers throughout the book to move beyond our learned helplessness and passivity when it comes to working toward healthier local food alternatives.

Various alternatives exist even in an urban area like Denver. We can develop our gardening skills—whether it's converting our front lawns into permaculture 'food forests' or just cultivating a few kitchen herbs on our windowsills. There are numerous Farmer's Markets we can patronize in the summertime. Year-round, we can ask our local supermarkets to carry more locally-grown foods. We can, and should, pay attention to food news and voice our concerns when policy is being set that endangers or protects our food (and environment) and the farmers who grow it. We can also purchase 'shares' in 'Community Supported Agriculture' (CSA) farms to receive locally-grown vegetables, fruits, eggs and

(Continued on page 7)

New IT Committee On a Roll

By Peter Taylor

By now you've probably heard a rumor that DJPC formed its very own IT committee. Well, it's no rumor. The committee is divided into two subcommittees, dedicated to the creation of a new website—the content group and the design group. The all-volunteer IT team members are: Peter Taylor (Chair), Jerry Stookey, Tom DeJohn, Jordan Schulz, Patricia Davis, Steve Piper, Hayden Gore, Peggy Muldoon, Angela Shugarts, Amanda Miralrio, Bill Zimmerling and our newly selected IT intern, Reza Jadbabaei. The core committee meets monthly and the subcommittees more frequently, as there is much



to be done to get the new website up.

Goals for the committee include: complete construction of the new website (end of May), install two new computers and monitors in the DJPC office (end of April), and select an IT intern (completed). The committee has also made the decision to install "open source" (i.e., "free") software on the new computers, rather than spend money on name brand programs. In addition, we will re-organize the office furniture to accommodate the new equipment.

To this end, we're looking for the donation of some good office cabinets. Member Tom DeJohn has donated and set up a computer to use as a server for saving all our files, and has created a file backup system. He has also donated 3 UPS battery backup systems. Thank you, Tom!

The most exciting element for the committee is the task of creating the new website. Construction has begun using an open source program called "Joomla." Jordan Schulz has taken the lead with the Joomla work, while Hayden Gore

has contributed to the blogging elements of the new site. An advantage of using Joomla, since it is an online program, is that it can be used from anywhere, on any computer. This is important, given how content will be added in the future. Authors of articles will log into the program online, upload their own content and become responsible for maintaining their specific pages at the site. Individuals will have unique passwords to log into the sections for which they are responsible.

Ideally, there will be content editors for these sections, who will approve material before posting. The new system should take some of the burden off of interns and help to keep our content fresh. Imagine delegates on trips to Latin America being able to log on while traveling and add comments to their internal blogs.

The newest items would show up on the home page automatically. Other features will include an interactive calendar, social network links (My Space, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), bookmarking RSS feeds, embedded YouTube videos and more!

VICTORIA!!!

On April 7, the Special Tribunal of the Supreme Court of Peru found ex-president and former dictator of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

This is exciting news for the people of Peru and for all the world! It is also a great victory for all the members of the Denver Justice & Peace Committee who have worked in solidarity with our friends in Peru on this case! We are privileged to know Gisela Ortiz Perea who has tirelessly pursued this result for 17 years on behalf of her brother and the others killed in the La Cantuta University massacre. This work is a testament to justice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PERU AND TO DJPC!

(Continued from page 1)

very comprehensive, and we had a ten page check list to fill out the day of the voting.

The voting, of course, was strictly manual. Each voting table, manned with two officials from the two major parties, had a box of materials: lists with pictures of each voters' national identification card, paper ballots with logos of the two participating parties (ARENA and FMLN), various stamps, and indelible ink to mark fingers so people couldn't vote twice (or more). Everything was super organized—right down to the toilet paper to clean de-greased fingers!

Our group of seven CIS observers was stationed at a large school in Antiguo Cuscatlán, a wealthy suburb of San Salvador. We arrived before 5 a.m. to watch the party members responsible for each voting table (think "precinct") pick up their material, organize it, cast their own votes, and get ready for the 7 a.m. public opening. We each picked a specific table to watch during the opening, closing and vote count. When we weren't watching our "own" table, we circulated among the 64 tables at the school.

All in all, it was a pretty quiet, relaxed, well organized day in Antiguo Cuscatlán. To prove my neu-

trality, I accepted coffee from both parties. The sun was shining (after surprise early morning sprinkles) and the weather wasn't too hot. Voters snacked and milled around after casting their votes. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts helped the older voters. Almost every voter wore his or her party T-shirt, hat or ribbon. Since this is a wealthy area, I wasn't surprised to see mostly ARENA logos. Voters brought many well groomed, purebred dogs wearing ARENA T-shirts. I guess the mangy street dogs, without the outfits, were FMLNistas.

Some ARENA slogans included: *Yo voto por mi libertad* (I vote for freedom), *Yo no entrego El Salvador* (I won't hand over El Salvador), *Dios, Union Libertad* (God, Country, Liberty), *Una vida con valores* (Life with values). Sound familiar?

FMLN slogans were all about *cambio* (change) and *esperanza* (hope). That's when I felt right at home, thinking of our recent election.

We knew that Mauricio Funes, the FMLN candidate, would vote at our center. When he arrived, he was surrounded by enthusiastic supporters as he walked to the classroom, voted with his wife and left. I thought the whole event

seemed pretty tame until one of our group, who was in that classroom, told us it was a mob scene inside! She was pushed around, a cardboard voting booth was crushed and windows were broken. No one suffered injuries, thankfully.

Finally at 5 p.m., the school gates were closed and the counting began! The ballot box was opened, and each vote was counted and given to either the ARENA or FMLN representative. At my table, only one vote was disputed but was quickly resolved. Although my center was an ARENA stronghold, the FMLN won by seven votes at my table! But, there was no gloating or disrespect among the party members. In fact, the whole day had been marked with goodwill and cooperation within my group, despite their party differences. The paperwork was completed and delivered to the authorities by about 6 p.m.

I expected the day to run later, but, remarkably, I was home by 8 p.m. Shortly thereafter, it was almost certain the FMLN candidate, Mauricio Funes had won. It had been, for the most part, a free and fair election and an historic win for the leftist party, giving hope for political, economic and social change to many Salvadorans.

(Continued from page 5)

honey.

Here are just a few local CSAs to consider:

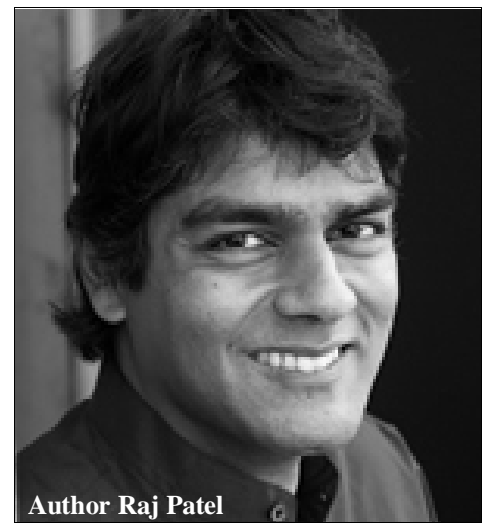
- Grant Family Farms – Contact Josh at josh@grantfarms.com or 970-568-7654
- Delaney Farm - Contact Heather at heather@dug.org or 720-404-0615
- Cure Organic Farm - Contact Anne and Paul Cure at cureorganicfarm@yahoo.com or 303-666-6397

As Patel says in his conclusion to *Stuffed and Starved*,

A commitment to food sovereignty demands we ask about the

food system, about seed and the context in which it was grown - was it genetically modified, who owned the land, how are workers treated? We can ask about the resources that made its production possible - where did it come from, how did it get here, how much water was needed to grow it, how much fossil fuel was used in its growing and transport?

Initially, asking such questions may seem beyond our comfort zones, but once we ask and begin to answer them, we will naturally be drawn to healthier food habits and to true solidarity. Good luck and *buen provecho!*



Author Raj Patel

Photo Source:

www.stuffedandstarved.org



CAMINOS

CAMINOS is a program of the Denver Justice & Peace Committee (DJPC) that sponsors and supports human rights accompaniers in Guatemala



Ruby Wara-Goss: Realities of Guatemala

***CAMINOS* accompanier, Ruby Wara-Goss' friends and family letters offer a unique insight into the experience of accompaniment and the realities of the current political situation in Guatemala. Due to space limitations in the print version of the Mustard Seed, we are able to print only excerpts of her most recent letter. Please visit www.denjustpeace.org to read this and other letters in full. It will be worth it—we promise!**

By Ruby Wara-Goss

21 April 2009

Dear friends and family,

What is it like day-to-day for a genocide case accompanier? Allow me to paint the picture for you... You wake up before dawn to the calls of roosters, birds, the grinding of a corn mill and the soft pattering of rain, getting out of bed long enough to walk down the small hill to the latrine. You are woken again to the sounds of kids heading off to school, peering through the board cracks that make up your walls, wondering why you are still in bed at 7 in the morning. You officially pull back the hot pink mosquito canopy out from under the foam mattress pad, slip on your flip flops and groggily fumble down the hill to the latrine.

You return to your room to make yourself presentable, inspecting your cloths and shoes for insects and scorpions—before putting them on. Your accompaniment partner has begun

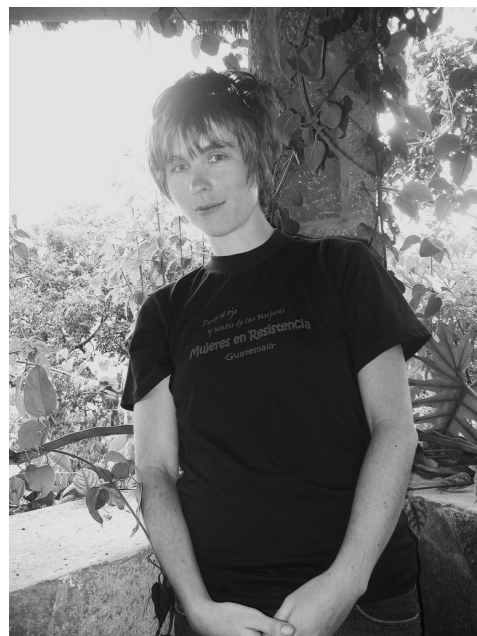
brewing coffee at your neighbor's kitchen while you clean up the tamale corn husks that the dogs dragged over your freshly machete-cut grass. You fetch water with large two gallon water jugs from a nearby *pila*, a cubic-meter basin of captured rainwater and nighttime condensation to wash up before peeling your breakfast of ripe mangos.

After morning chores, you and your partner throw off your big, rubber boots and slip on flip-flops. You and your partner decide to take the slippery but shade-covered jungle trek to Doña Petronila's, who will be feeding you today. You are greeted by her deaf daughter and plump turkeys. She warmly invites you to the table where you join a few of her other kids and grandkids. You inquire about their *milpa*, or corn field, and various community projects. The kids wait patiently to ask you questions. One begins making pony tails with your short hair while another translates her deaf sister's curiosity of your partner's lip piercing. Doña Petronila feeds you fresh beans, rice and corn tortillas from their *milpa*, standing next to the stove the entire time. In Quiche, she greets her husband, Don Humberto, who just returned from *tapiscando*, or corn harvesting, his *milpa*. You proceed chatting about the *milpa* and animal pasture, gradually switching gears to the recent news of the court ordered de-classification of military archives, in which the Association of Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) and the Center for Legal Action in Human Rights (CALDH) have been legally battling for years, as Don Humberto is part of the AJR. You express gratitude for their

openness and hospitality, and make your way to Don Josue's, another one of the several genocide case witnesses you visit in community.

See full text online to learn about the remainder of the day as well as the days spent in the Capital taking care of accompanier business.

Now, for the long awaited genocide case updates, the whole reason why I am down here... As some of you may recall, the first time that Guatemalan genocide survivors gave eyewitness accounts of the massacres they experienced was in Spain. They were able to do so thanks to "universal jurisdiction," the legal concept that upholds the right to prosecute crimes against humanity regardless of where they



Ruby Wara-Goss



Ruby Wara-Goss

took place. This past year, through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, U.S. agencies released a collection of 80 records, ranging from State Department de-stabilization records to CIA operation files of combating trade unions, illuminating information about Guatemalan state-sponsored abuses committed during Guatemala's civil conflict.

However, the evidence has not been sufficient in highlighting the important and necessary link in the chain that ties the defendants to the abuses carried out by the Guatemalan military. The Spanish Court, like the Guatemalan judicial process, needs Guatemalan military documentation in order to proceed. Yet, this evidence has arrived only from anonymous sources, leaked to nongovernmental organizations like CALDH, the human rights group representing the AJR victims in the domestic suit. The defendants have repeatedly claimed that military files cannot be released as they contain "state secrets." These would allegedly endanger national security despite the Guatemalan Supreme Court rejection of this claim, stating their release, 25 years after the creation of these documents the information, does not present any risk to Guatemala's security or

to the integrity of the nation. What is required now is the Guatemalan state to oblige the military to de-classify all official war records to Spain and the Guatemalan judicial process. (See <http://freedominfo.org/news/20090224.htm>)

In February, after several years in which CALDH, AJR and the Guatemalan Public Ministry have pressured the Guatemalan Supreme Court to force the Ministry of Defense to hand over key documents to move the genocide cases forward, the Supreme Court ordered the Guatemalan Ministry of Defense to hand over four specific military operations which implicate former officials, many of whom still hold powerful positions in Guatemala, to crimes of torture, forced disappearances and genocide. They had two weeks to carry out this breakthrough ruling. On the last day of the two week court order, the Minister of Defense tried to deliver only two of the four plans, one of them only an eight-page fragment. The judge refused to accept the partial delivery. Both the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation and Congresswoman Otilia Lux have publicly expressed their suspicions that General Otto Pérez Molina—2007 presidential candidate for the Patriot Party and cur-

rently being tried for genocide in the International Criminal Court by Spain—played a role in suppressing the documents.

At this point, Ruby's letter details the machinations that ensued and offers online resources providing additional information on each of the four military operations.

Well, I hope you all have a better picture of what the past several months have looked like, putting some of your questions to rest. Despite the personal challenges, social and moral frustrations, and political criticisms I have had in the work of accompaniment, the integrity by which the Guatemala Accompaniment Project (G.A.P.) carries out solidarity with Guatemalan grassroots struggles for justice, human rights, environment protection and dignity, have made the hardships worthwhile. And so, I inform you all that I have decided to extend my commitment to G.A.P. for three months. If it was not for the support many of you have given me in one way or another, I honestly do not know if I could do what I am doing down here until August.

Gracias, Ruby

"vital as it is, do not confuse charity with justice" — Cornel West



Caminantes Gather for Annual Retreat

By Denise Peine



Photo By Patricia Davis

In this photo: Front row (left-right): Connie Curtis, Katy Troyer, Michelle Doherty, Rick Clifford, Susan Cotton
Back row (left-right): Jane Covode, Denise Peine, Jerry Stookey, Margie Thompson, Brad Lawton, Tommy Timm

Ten members of the CAMINOS steering committee, DJPC Program Director Jerry Stookey and Board Chair Connie Curtis met for an all-day retreat Saturday, April 4 to review 2008 performance and plan activities for 2009. At last year's retreat, CAMINOS divided into four work teams—Accompaniment, Promesa, Outreach and Advocacy, and Administration. Each team reported on their accomplishments and agreed to keep the same structure and personnel in 2009.

When Tommy Timm introduced a "visioning" session, aimed at reinforcing DJPC's/CAMINOS' mission to "advocate for lasting peace and justice in Latin America," the energy really started to flow! The group quickly came up with thirty ideas that would build on our current work, such as reaching out to local Guatemalans, using social media such as Facebook and YouTube, increasing community outreach and coordinating with other NGOs. New projects always require more manpower, so any readers interested becoming involved with CAMINOS, please contact the DJPC office.

DJPC Office: 303-623-1463 or djpc@denjustpeace.org

(Continued from page 2)

Latin American Signatories to CEDAW

Latin American Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification, Accession, or Succession
Argentina	July 17, 1980	July 15, 1985
Belize	March 7, 1990	May 16, 1990
Bolivia	May 30, 1980	June 8, 1990
Brazil	March 31, 1981	February 1, 1984
Chile	July 17, 1980	December 7, 1989
Colombia	July 17, 1980	January 19, 1982
Costa Rica	July 17, 1980	April 4, 1986
Ecuador	July 17, 1980	November 9, 1981
El Salvador	November 14, 1980	August 19, 1981
Guatemala	June 8, 1981	August 12, 1982
Honduras	June 11, 1980	March 3, 1983
Mexico	July 17, 1980	March 23, 1981
Nicaragua	July 17, 1980	October 27, 1981
Panama	June 26, 1980	October 29, 1981
Paraguay	NA	April 6, 1987
Peru	July 23, 1981	September 13, 1982
Uruguay	March 30, 1981	October 9, 1981
Venezuela	July 17, 1980	May 2, 1983

United Nations Treaty Collection. Chapter IV Human Rights. 8. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979). <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&lang=en>



DJPC's 2009 Salon Discussion Series presents

Constructing Legitimacy Amid Impunity and Violence:

Restoring the rule of law in post-conflict Guatemala



featuring:

Devin Finn

Devin is a Master's student at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, specializing in post-conflict peacebuilding, human rights and international security. As an intern at the United Nations Department of Political Affairs in New York during fall 2008, Devin worked primarily on the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), assisting the Commission's work through political analysis, communications work and web design.

Thursday, May 21st
7:00-9:00pm

Denver Justice and Peace Committee
Courthouse Square Apartments
Community Room
901 W. 14th Avenue, Denver

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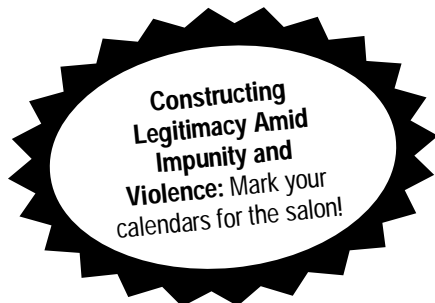
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