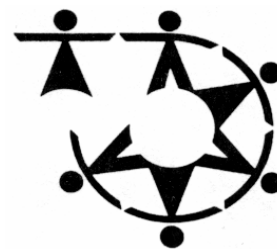


THE

MUSTARD SEED



Denver Justice & Peace Committee

Celebrating 27 years of peace and justice!

901 W. 14th Avenue, Suite 7, Denver, CO 80204 • 303-623-1463 • www.denjustpeace.org
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Focus on Latin America: *Where Our News is Printed.*

By Kara Martinez & Harriet Mullaney

The summer of 2006 proved eventful for Latin America but, with overwhelming global events taking center stage, the region was rarely mentioned in mainstream media. This summer we saw coverage of an ailing Castro and the tumultuous presidential elections in México, which led to on-going unrest. Meanwhile, a number of important stories failed to make headlines but were none the less significant and impacting. Listed below are a few of the news events worthy of our attention, and please see pages 8 & 9 for a feature article on Guatemala.

Amid major protest in the signing countries, the **Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA)** went into effect in El Salvador on March 1st shortly before their municipal and legislative elections, in Honduras and Nicaragua on May 1st, and in Guatemala on July 1st. In the Dominican Republic, it was scheduled to go into effect on July 1st but outrage against U.S. demands for compliance on issues outside the original treaty have indefinitely delayed implementation. Costa Rica's legislature has not yet approved the agreement. In Guatemala, two campesino organizations carried out protests that eventually led to the occupation of five government-owned estates on June 29th by hundreds of families.



According to Aparicio Perez, leader of the Campesino Unity Committee (CUC), "We reject the plundering of lands that community members suffered at the hands of the military governments during the [1960-1996] armed conflict, and today we are demanding that the lands be returned."

In May, the U.S. Congress condemned Mexican and Guatemalan authorities for their failure to take adequate measures to find and prosecute the perpetrators of the brutal murders against women in **México and Guatemala**. The Juarez Resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 90), which passed by unanimous consent, expressed sympathy for the families of more than 400 women and girls brutally murdered in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City since 1993, and condemned the faulty and fruitless investigations of these murders. The Resolution suggested a number of ways the U.S. government might cooperate with Mexican authorities to halt the violence. A Congressional letter signed by 117 House members including Rep. Mark Udall from Colorado put pressure on the Guatemalan government to investigate thoroughly the 2,000 cases of torture, rape and murder against women over the past six

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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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**Thanks to everyone who
continues to help work on
program development,
fundraising, newsletter
publication, mailings, the
website, etc.**

We couldn't do it without you!

Message From the Board

Rick Clifford

A powerful series of events led to my accepting a two-year position on the DJPC Board. The precipitating event was my brother Jim's 94-day hunger strike/fast undertaken in 1995 in response to the U.S. government's confiscation of his group's donated computers bound for Cuba's rural clinics. Pastors for Peace (PfP) Director Lucius Walker headed up the "Fast for Life" and, with the help of Senator Charles Rangel and thousands of U.S. citizens, they forced the government to reverse its immoral decision and allow the computers to be sent to Cuba.

Then in the fall of 1996, DJPC honored Reverend Walker and PfP by bestowing on them the Global Peacemaker of the Year Award. After Walker's energizing keynote speech, I had a brief conversation with then DJPC Director Jeff Borg who saw me looking at a T-shirt emblazoned with "Build for Peace" on the front. He encouraged me to take part in this highly successful community-building fundraiser. I guess it takes a T-shirt to get some of us politically activated.

Now fast forward to May of 2004...I'm sitting in Bob and Louise Carlsten's living room chatting about everything from my recent stay in Guatemala where I'd worked as a human rights accompanier to their latest acquisition of a pesky poodle from the Humane Society. Once Board Chair, Richard Kruch, appeared, the conversation quickly and tactfully moved towards more weighty DJPC matters. Before I knew what hit me, Bob and Kruch had me convinced that I should join the Board.

Well, I agreed to serve a two-year term and now, it's time to pass the torch. But before I do, I want to encourage DJPC members, old and new, to become more actively involved with this organization—not because it's your duty to humankind and not because it will do wonders for your karmic bank account or immortal soul, but rather because you will feel GREAT and have FUN! You will make friends with some of the highest-minded, authentic, genuinely caring individuals in the Denver Metro Area, and I daresay the entire state of Colorado!

If you're as lucky as I, you'll get to organize a very successful Guatemalan textile fair with Tommy and Denise. Maybe you'll have the pleasure of putting together a *magnifico* benefit concert with Andy and folks from KGNU. Depending on your talents and interests, you might be able to balance the organization's expenses with Marin's help; paint and clean an apartment for a homeless family with Catherine's, Pat's, or Jane's assistance; strategically set up and price garage sale items at Sarah's house; or ingest some of Jim's or Jeremy's gourmet meals at a DJPC retreat after which Connie and Eileen might regale you with stories of direct actions from the 1970s and '80s.

(Continued on page 3)

In Remembrance of Art Warner

By Richard Kruch

Art Warner died peacefully, August 8th, surrounded by family, friends and his devoted wife, Natalie at the age of 82.

As a physician specializing in public health and pediatrics, Art began his career in 1955 doing alternative service with his young family on the Navajo reservation, in compliance with his status as a conscientious objector to war. He worked in public health in Durango and then in Denver, where he helped establish neighborhood health centers. In July 1973, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Art and his family traveled to Chile to assist the Allende government in establishing health clinics. After the coup, the Warner's shifted their work to setting up soup kitchens, caring for dissidents, and helping people flee the country until their own return home in 1975.

Art worked on many projects and campaigns with AFSC and others on several issues: the Vietnam War; the Rocky Flats nuclear trigger plant; nuclear disarmament; civil rights; and the Central American wars. He was known for standing in silent vigil to protest this country's war policies. In 1992, Art traveled on the first Pastor's for Peace caravan carrying medical supplies to Cuba.

In the early 1980s, Art traveled to several Central American countries to investigate abuses by the Nestle Corporation in promoting the use of their infant formula. The Nestle boycott was the founding project of the Denver Justice & Peace Committee. It was no small irony that DJPC was the last Board of Directors on which Art served, stepping down in 2000. Art and Natalie received DJPC's John Proctor Award for outstanding community service in 1999.

With a deep sadness for his absence but with great appreciation for his life long example of activism and service, we say goodbye to Art Warner.



A recent photo of Art & his daughter Joy Warner at Buffalo Creek.

(Message from the Board - Continued from page 2)

For those of you who know the value of putting in hours at the DJPC office, you'll no doubt meet up with the Amazing Kara, DJPC's master of all ceremonies, along with interns Christine, Nicki, Julia, and Alexandra, just to name a few. The success of the organization starts with the office and the quality work that is accomplished by Kara, DJPC volunteers, and our interns.

And finally, if you ever get inspired to write something for *The Mustard Seed*, you just might get some invaluable editorial assistance from Harriet. So on that note, I bid you all a fond farewell.

Rick Clifford

P.S. – FYI...I'll be "retiring" to the Fundraising and Marketing Committee where I will work to persuade you to come to a **wine tasting benefit on Thursday, November 9th** at the Lumber Baron Inn at 37th & Bryant. (Metro area members, see insert.) Raise a glass, raise your knowledge of Chilean wines, and help us *raise some money* to improve human rights and health care in Latin America.

**Are you receiving our emails with
Events Announcements, Action
Alerts and/or Central America
Updates?**

**If you would like to be on our
e-list, send your email address to
djpc@denjustpeace.org**

SALON SERIES TO BEGIN THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 28TH

By Jane Covode

DJPC is offering the first in a series of salons to discuss issues of critical importance to realizing our mission of promoting human rights, economic justice and lasting peace in Latin America. This year marks the 10th anniversary of DJPC's CAMINOS human rights accompaniment project in Guatemala. CAMINOS is now supporting its 10th accompanier to witnesses from Xix and Ilom in the genocide trials of those responsible for the massacres of thousands of Maya indigenous people in the 1980s.

Our first Salon will be facilitated by Fran Sterling of Facing History and Ourselves, and will address *Transitional Justice* and the framework it provides afflicted societies to move beyond their histories of violence and genocide. Our conversation will explore what history teaches us about genocide in the past and today, and how societies can recover and move forward, transitioning to justice.

We invite you to join us in what promises to be an informative, interactive and stimulating discussion among people who are concerned about peace and justice in the world today. In addition to the discussion, reading suggestions will be available, and information about groups with whom we might collaborate in order to act upon our interests and concerns.

DJPC looks forward to continuing these discussions over the coming year. Two related events are the October 14th Annual Awards Night featuring Thomas Melville, peace activist and author of *Through a Glass Darkly: The U.S. Holocaust in Central America*, and a delegation to Guatemala from February 1-10, 2007 in observance of CAMINOS' 10th anniversary of accompaniment with the Mayan people.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

A DJPC SALON EVENING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Denver Justice & Peace Committee Office

901 West 14th Avenue, Suite 7, Denver

A light supper will be provided.

Come to our first Salon evening and explore the framework *Transitional Justice* affords societies in moving forward from a history of violence and genocide to a future of justice.

The evening will include:

- ♦ Discussion of *Transitional Justice* facilitated by Fran Sterling of Facing History and Ourselves
- ♦ Time to discuss strategies and think of ways to apply this approach
- ♦ Opportunity to learn what others are doing and identify collaborative partners
- ♦ Good food, good company and good conversation!!!

Please call DJPC at 303-623-1463 to RSVP

DJPC's Role in the Immigration Debate

By Harriet Mullaney

As we were outlining this issue of *The Mustard Seed*, Gabriela Flora, DJPC board member and Project Voice Coordinator for the AFSC, suggested that we reprint my Letter to the Editor (see box). DJPC has struggled to determine its role in the immigration debate. Such great work is already being done by the American Friends Service Committee, its Coloradans for Immigrant Rights program, and Rights for All People, to name just a few organizations. Where can or should DJPC fit in?

I believe that our role can be found in the questions asked in the letter. It is the mission of DJPC to seek human rights, economic justice and lasting peace for Latin America. If these things were in place for the citizens of all Latin American countries, the economic impetus to emigrate would diminish substantially. We accomplish our mission through:

- ♦ **Education** – We can educate ourselves, our neighbors, our Congressional delegation. The dots between U.S. trade policies and the surge in immigration need to be connected.
- ♦ **Solidarity** – We can stand with our immigrant neighbors at rallies, such as the one on May 1st. We can reach out to immigrant communities and bear witness to their struggle. We can identify ways to work with civil society groups and international movements.
- ♦ **Nonviolent Activism** – We can remember that numbers count and show up for rallies, press conferences, public meetings, protests. We can put bumper stickers on our cars, wear t-shirts, display posters. (Some things are pretty simple to do!) We can call, write, and visit members of our Congressional delegation, and keep the pressure on them.



DJPC exists to do this work—but we cannot do it alone. This issue offers a number of opportunities to become involved: deepening your understanding of the issues by attending

Rocky Mountain News: Letters to the Editor, May 18, 2006

The real questions

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said, "We've got to secure our borders . . . Everything else we've done has failed; we've got to face that." We already have 12,000 Border Patrol agents, thousands (millions?) of dollars of surveillance equipment, and miles and miles of walls and wire. These attempts at "securing" our borders have not stemmed the tide of immigrants.

When are we going to face the real questions:

- What factors are forcing people to leave their home countries at great risk?
- What role does the U.S. play in creating those conditions?
- What role can the U.S. play in supporting other countries to develop sound economies that will benefit the majority of their citizens and not just the elite?

When we face and answer these questions, we just may succeed.

Harriet Mullaney
Denver

the salon discussions and Awards Night, or by traveling to Guatemala; gathering at Ft. Benning to demand the closing of the School of the Americas; joining the Advocacy & Nonviolent Activism Committee; signing up for the Action Alert network; and/or adding your voice to the discussion by writing for *The Mustard Seed*. Please consider which of these activities works best for you and commit to do your part. *DJPC's role is a big one.*

Camino Update

By Denise Peine

CAMINOS sponsored a successful exhibition and sale of traditional Mayan textiles July 14-16.

Approximately \$1,300 was raised to fund our human rights accompaniment program, as well as PROMESA, the health care project in the rural Mayan community of Tesorito. David Hamilton of Indigena Imports, Austin, TX, brought his comprehensive collection of hundreds of pieces of antique, ceremonial and collectible hand woven Guatemalan textiles to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for the three-day sale. Hamilton presented a slide show that described the characteristics of traditional Mayan weavings, the different types worn in some 70 communities, and commented on the long history of weaving as a "folk art" tradition.

The CAMINOS accompaniment project celebrates its tenth year by sponsoring our tenth volunteer, Jordan Buckley, who arrived in Guatemala in July to begin his nine month assignment. Jordan is from Austin, Texas, and is a recent graduate of University of Texas with a strong environmental and human rights background. He will live with Ixil and K'iche Mayans in the western highland communities of Xix and Iloom. Accompaniers such as Jordan provide a measure of security and create space for Guatemalan communities and groups to organize to defend their rights.

Accompaniers monitor local conditions and alert the international community to abuses. In the U.S., Sponsoring Communities such as CAMINOS are committed to responding immediately to abuses and providing ongoing support to accompaniers. The families that Jordan will accompany are among a courageous group of war survivors who brought legal cases to a Guatemalan court in 2000 and 2001 against former military dictators Efraín Ríos Montt and Romeo Lucas García on charges of genocide against the indigenous population.

(Continued on page 7)



Customer Misi Ballard and David Hamilton

CAMINOS members Tommy Timm, Denise Peine, Rick Clifford and David Hamilton

Betsy Briley Rebber wears her Guatemalan gorra

CAMINOS 10th Anniversary Delegation to Guatemala: February 1-10, 2007

By Jane Covode

The Denver Justice & Peace Committee and its project, CAMINOS, are sponsoring a delegation to Guatemala to commemorate CAMINOS' 10th anniversary of human rights accompaniment. Over the decade, CAMINOS has provided ten volunteer accompaniers to walk with the indigenous Maya of Guatemala in their struggle. In the first years, accompaniers stood with the people as they built new communities after emerging from hiding or exile to escape the massacres during the civil war. In recent years, CAMINOS has shifted its human rights accompaniment from assisting displaced communities in their relocation to accompanying witnesses testifying in the genocide trials of former military dictators.

Delegation dates are February 1-10, 2007. We will visit the community of El Tesorito on Guatemala's southern coast to see our PROMESA health partnership, then travel north to the community of Union Victoria, move on to visit Santiago Atitlán and San Lucas Toliman, meet with human rights organizations in Guatemala City, and culminate the trip in Antigua. The focus of these visits will be transitional justice, to view and learn how Guatemala is moving from a history of violence and genocide toward social and economic justice with particular emphasis on the indigenous Maya. Delegation participants will have the opportunity to:

- Talk with witnesses about the pursuit of justice against the perpetrators of genocide
- Learn about the current political, economic, and social conditions in Guatemala including the impact of free trade agreements
- Visit with representatives from peasant, labor, social, human rights, indigenous, and women's sectors
- Stay with indigenous families and share in their daily struggle for survival
- Explore the issues raised and learning experiences within the group of delegate

Please join us. It will change your world.

Specific details about the delegation will be available later this fall. Interested parties should contact Trip Coordinators, Jane Covode at jcovode@ecentral.com or Kathryn Rodriguez at klrodriguez@comcast.net.



Participants in the 2004 delegation to Guatemala: (from left to right) Miguel Flores, Jane Covode, Denise Peine, Catherine Raveczyk, and Tom Timm.

(CAMINOS update - Continued from page 6)

The witnesses in these cases formed the Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) and requested international accompaniment. The presence of volunteers, like Jordan, contribute to ending government and military impunity and abuse of power common in Guatemala today. Watch for Jordan's reports in the CAMINOS newsletter or at our website: www.denjustpeace.org.

PROMESA UPDATE: PROMESA is a partnership between CAMINOS and St. Michael's Church in Tucson, AZ, aimed at improving health care in the rural Mayan community of Tesorito in Suchitepequez, on the south coast of Guatemala. Ila Abernathy of Tucson recently visited Tesorito and provided the following information: PROMESA's work is not without its challenges. The health promoters serve as community educators to people unfamiliar with western medical treatment. Their delivery of health services is complicated by compliance issues.

On a more positive note, the health promoters have continued to show initiative in improving the clinic facility. More medicines have been made available, in part due to Hurricane Stan contributions, in part from grants from Spain. As a result, there have been fewer demands on PROMESA's funds. PROMESA is also supporting a dental promoter, which is very important to the community. Twenty-four live births were reported from June 2005-2006 with no maternal deaths. The promoters are requesting more training and certifications, such as nursing and pharmacy. Given the additional sources of support, this may become a very real possibility.

Spanish Courts Accuse Former Guatemalan Military Leaders of Genocide and Terrorism

By Susan Cotton

For the past ten years, CAMINOS has sent human rights accompaniers to remote Mayan villages at their request, to document human rights abuses, and to live alongside survivors of the genocide perpetrated against the Mayan people during the 36-year civil war. In the last 4 years, CAMINOS accompaniers have worked exclusively with witnesses testifying against the Guatemalan generals and other military personnel largely believed to have ordered the massacres, which took place mostly in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The cases against these generals have long been stalled in the Guatemalan courts, and the impunity that permeates the Guatemalan justice system has seemed rampant in these cases. However, this July, CAMINOS received wonderful news! The Spanish courts issued arrest warrants, and the freezing of assets, for eight of the Guatemalan military personnel responsible for the worst years of genocide.



Photo © Jonathon Moller

Guatemalan activists around the country mobilized to ask members of Congress to sign on to a letter written by Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva to the U.S. Justice Department, asking the U.S. to support the decision of the Spanish Courts. Twenty Congressional members signed on but, unfortunately, despite calls and letters to her office, Rep. Diana DeGette did not sign, nor did other members of the Colorado delegation.

CAMINOS' tenth accompanier, Jordan Buckley, is currently in Guatemala, gathering first-hand accounts of the impact the Spanish Court's ruling will have on the genocide cases that have been brought by the families in the villages where Jordan is working.

November 17-19, 2006

Converge on Fort Benning, Georgia

Thurs., Nov 16, 2006: Benefit Concert in Atlanta Georgia

OTRA AMÉRICA ESTA EN MARCHA

Close the SOA and Change Oppressive U.S. Foreign Policy

This November, Human Rights Defenders from across the Americas will gather at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia to SPEAK OUT for Justice, Dignity and Reconciliation. Join us.

For info packet, go to the SOA Watch website at www.soaw.org

Members of Congress Urge Department of Justice to Enforce International Arrest Warrants

August 1, 2006 (NISGUA) - Members of the U.S. House of Representatives today called on the Department of Justice to give its "full support and cooperation with the ongoing case against former Guatemalan leaders being investigated through the legal system of the Kingdom of Spain." In a letter to Molly Warlow, Director of the Office of International Affairs at the Department of Justice, they wrote that given "the very serious nature of the crimes, we believe the United States should fully cooperate with the investigation and immediately comply with the arrest warrant" issued last month against eight former Guatemalan military officials.

The warrants stem from a legal case originally brought before the Spanish courts by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum in 1991. The accused Guatemalan military officials are former Presidents Efraín Ríos Montt, Oscar Humberto Mejía Victores, and Romeo Lucas García, former Minister of Defense Ángel Aníbal Guevara Rodríguez, former Minister of the Interior Donaldo Álvarez Ruiz, Director of the National Police German Chupina Barahona, Head of the Sixth Command of the National Police Pedro García Arredondo, and Army Chief of Staff Benedicto Lucas García.

The Congressional letter, initiated by Representative Raul Grijalva of Arizona, was sent weeks after a Spanish judge issued an arrest warrant against military officials who were in power in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The judge issued the warrants after an investigative commission sent to Guatemala was blocked by legal appeals from the accused. The warrants included orders to seize all financial assets held by the accused, both in Spain and internationally. The Representatives wrote that, "Given the likelihood that the accused may own financial assets in the United States, the Department of Justice should also actively investigate the potential whereabouts of any such assets and ensure their immediate seizure."

"We applaud the Representatives' commitment to human rights and accountability, and hope that the Department of Justice will show a similar dedication to the rule of law by fully enforcing the warrants," said Andrew de Sousa of the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA). For more information on the arrest warrants see: <http://acoguate.livejournal.com>.



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**Stand up for what you believe in.
Join DJPC and make a donation
towards peace and justice.**

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www.denjustpeace.org
to make a credit card donation via a
secure payment form!**

Get Involved with DJPC!

**We need volunteers to help
with:
SPECIAL EVENTS, WRITING,
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES,
ADMINISTRATIVE WORK,
PUBLICITY, ADVOCACY,
FUNDRAISING, AND
PROGRAMMING!**

2006 DJPC Global Peacemaker Award to be Presented to Dr. Thomas R. Melville and Fr. Ron Hennessey

By Harriet Mullaney

Initially, DJPC planned to bestow this year's Global Peacemaker Award on Dr. Thomas R. Melville in recognition of his own work as a Maryknoll missionary in Central America from 1957-67 and for his telling of the work of another Maryknoller, Fr. Ron Hennessey, in *Through a Glass Darkly: The U.S. Holocaust in Central America*. As we have come to know Tom through e-mails, we have learned of and been touched by his humility. At his request, the Award will also be awarded posthumously to Fr. Ron Hennessey. (See box below.)



Tom Melville in Guatemala

Tom Melville, a Bostonian by birth, experienced a process of radicalization through his work with the Mayan peoples of Guatemala, as he learned their history, listened to their life stories, and came to understand their values, frustrations, and oppression. Working in solidarity with the Maya, he founded cooperatives and worked on economic development and land distribution programs. In 1967, Tom was expelled from Guatemala for associating with and justifying the activities of an incipient antigovernment guerrilla movement. After leaving the order and marrying former Maryknoll sister, Margarita Bradford, he returned to the U.S. to advocate against the U.S. government's and the business sector's practices in Guatemala.

In May 1968, the Melvilles joined a group of Vietnam War protesters and entered the Selective Service offices in Catonsville, Maryland. They removed draft files and burned them. The Melvilles' motivation was to alert their fellow citizens to the U.S.'s undeclared war on the Guatemalan people. They also sought to

(Continued on page 11)

Fr. Ronald William Hennessey, M.M.

An excerpt from *Through a Glass Darkly* by Thomas R. Melville

This story, in a special way, is about a farm boy of Irish-Swiss descent, Ronald William Hennessey, born and bred in the corn and oat fields of eastern Iowa during the Depression. He was drafted into military service some years after high school and sent off to war in Korea, where the reality of war made him feel a call from God to become a missionary. He returned home, farmed a bit more, entered the Roman Catholic seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1964. That same year he was missioned to Guatemala.

Over the next thirty-five years, Hennessey witnessed up close the effects of U.S. foreign policy on the Guatemalan people. That experience turned a rural, conservative American patriot, pacifist by nature if not by ideology, into a severe critic of the ethnocentric, arrogant foreign policy so prevalent in the Reagan and first Bush administrations. He lived through many life-threatening situations only to have death sneak up on him in his sleep on 29 April 1999 in Iowa, where he had gone to celebrate the funeral mass for an older sister.

Ronald W. Hennessey was a hero in my estimation and in that of the thousands of folks he befriended, pleaded for, hid, and protected. He is sorely missed. My acute disappointment is that he did not live to see this story published. He had hoped that it would cast light on the hidden premises of U.S. foreign policies. He had not the slightest desire to be recognized as the moral and courageous giant that he was.

(Continued from page 10)

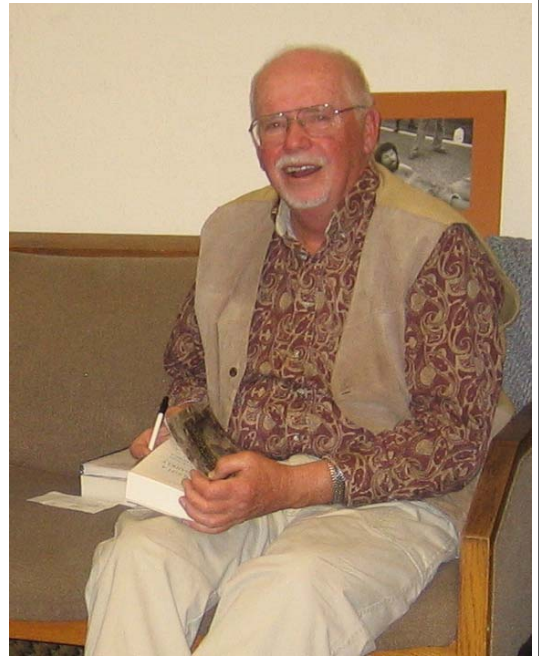
point out that the Vietnam War was not an aberration, but yet another example of the senseless killing our country carries out throughout the world.

The trial of the Catonsville Nine began in October 1968, scarcely six weeks after police and protestors battled in the streets of Chicago during the Democratic National Convention. At its conclusion, Daniel Berrigan, S.J., wrote a play, *The Catonsville Nine*, from the transcript of the court trial. The following prophetic testimony reveals the insight and compassion of Tom Melville:

I hear our President confuse greatness with strength, riches with goodness, fear with respect, hopelessness and passivity with peace. The clichés of our leaders pay tribute to property and indifference to suffering. We long for a hand of friendship and succor and that hand clenches into a fist. I wonder how long we can endure.

After serving time in federal prison, both Melvilles received doctorates in sociocultural anthropology from American University. Tom Melville has devoted his life to scholarship and activism on behalf Guatemala. He is also the author of *Guatemala: Another Vietnam* and *Guatemala: The Politics of Land Ownership*.

DJPC is privileged to be able to honor men such as Tom Melville and Fr. Ron Hennessey through its Global Peacemaker Award. We look forward to what portends to be an engaging and inspiring evening with Tom Melville at Awards Night on October 14.



Tom Melville at a recent book signing

Announcing DJPC's 2006 John Proctor Award winners Susan Cotton and Jane Covode

Please join us on Awards Night as we honor Susan Cotton and Jane Covode, longtime activists whose work has been integral to the formation, survival and expansion of the CAMINOS program and whose continued dedication towards the process of peace and justice in Guatemala serves as an inspiration us all.



Susan Cotton with friends in Guatemala

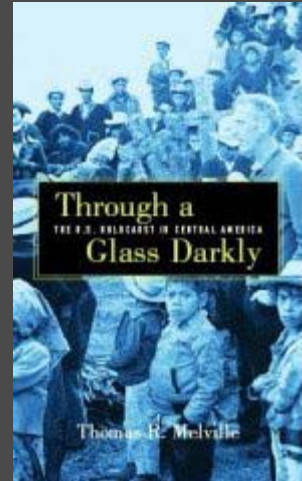


Jane Covode

Saturday, October 14, 2006 DJPC Annual Awards Night

Featuring keynote speaker,
Dr. Thomas Melville

Author of “Through a Glass
Darkly: The U.S. Holocaust
in Central America”



And honoring Susan Cotton & Jane Covode
2006 John Proctor Award Recipients

Join us as we celebrate 10 years of human rights work in
Guatemala through our CAMINOS program!

First Mennonite Church of Denver
430 W. 9th Avenue

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

Tickets \$10 in advance / \$12 at the door / \$5 students & Seniors

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

We need your help!

Consider a donation to the Silent Auction for Awards Night.

We ask that donated items be clean and in good condition and might include:

- ♦ framed pictures or posters
- ♦ clothing or accessories from Central America
- ♦ jewelry, pottery, or artwork
- ♦ baked goods
- ♦ restaurant gift certificates



Services donated might include:

- ♦ 30 minute massage from a certified massage therapist
- ♦ Hour of free consulting from a lawyer, financial adviser, or other professional
- ♦ A few hours of assistance like gardening, painting, or carpentry
- ♦ If you own a condo or cabin, perhaps you could donate a free weekend stay.

If you would like to donate an item/service or have any questions, please e-mail events@denjustpeace.org or call the DJPC office at: 303.623.1463.

We would appreciate receiving your donations by October 5th. Thank you!

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 for more information.

DJPC circulates frequent ACTION ALERTS requesting a letter or phone call on an issue. If we do not have your e-mail address, please provide it. You may call the DJPC office or send it to djpc@denjustpeace.org. Thank you!

(Focus on Latin America - Continued from page 1)

years. The letter asks the U.S. State Department to use diplomatic weight to bring resolve to the crisis and provide resources to assist in the investigations. DJPC was one of many national organizations to sign in support of this letter.

In May, Álvaro Uribe became the first president of **Colombia** eligible for re-election after having the constitution amended to allow a president to serve a second term. Sworn in on August 7th, while hundreds of troops and armored vehicles patrolled the capital and in the shadow of several bomb attacks, Uribe declared, "We don't share the idea of promoting growth and abandoning the war on poverty to the fate of the free market. We reject the notion of the equitable distribution of poverty. We believe in the growth of social justice." Considering Uribe's first term was characterized by the promotion of free-market policies including a bi-lateral free trade agreement with the U.S., and increased military spending, the onus is on Uribe to prove his words offer something more substantial than political hyperbole.

In less hopeful news about **Colombia**, a bipartisan Congressional letter to Secretary Rice in support of the full renewal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights mandate in Colombia was circulated in July. The letter responded to implications by the Colombian government that it seeks to diminish the role of the UN there. Over the last decade, the UN Human Rights office has been a trustworthy source of independent analysis of the human rights situation. It has played a key role in monitoring human rights violations by all armed participants—guerrilla, paramilitary, and military. Forty-five members of Congress (but no one from Colorado) signed the letter.

Tensions in **El Salvador** are at their highest since Peace Accords ended the internal conflict in 1992. They reached a climax on July 5 when National Civilian Police anti-riot units posted themselves along the route of a march protesting increases in bus fares and proposed increases in electricity rates. Fire was exchanged and two officers were killed. Police entered the campus of the National University (whose access is forbidden to them), arrested 23 students, and searched neighboring homes and offices. A Congressional letter to Secretary Rice, calling on the State Department to denounce these actions, was

signed by 46 members (but no one from Colorado) in July. El Salvador, which sent its seventh battalion to Iraq in August, is one of the few countries still supporting the U.S. war effort there. Consequently, our government could exert considerable influence to deescalate the situation in El Salvador.

Nicaragua will hold its presidential election on November 5. The U.S. opposes the candidacy of Daniel Ortega, former President and perennial Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN) candidate. On April 5, U.S. Ambassador Paul Trivelli sent a letter to the five major non-Sandinista parties offering to fund primaries to choose one candidate to

represent all of them. This was done in spite of the fact that these parties had selected their candidates and had not expressed interest

in forming a coalition. As reported in *The New York Times* in May, Trivelli accused President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela of "direct intervention" in the Nicaraguan elections. However, Trivelli's April actions went unreported by the

mainstream media. The race was further complicated on July 2 by the unexpected death of Herty Lewites, the presidential candidate for the Movimiento de Renovación Sandinista, and former Minister of Tourism and Mayor of Managua. Lewites had been expelled by the FSLN in 2005 in a dispute with Ortega over the selection of a presidential candidate. Despite fallout over a controversial pact with former President Arnoldo Alemán of the Partido Liberal Constitucional, Ortega's candidacy appears to remain strong.

In a decision holding ramifications for international justice against state sponsored terror, the Supreme Court of **Chile** re-opened a case that would allow a trial of former dictator August Pinochet for the murder of two members of the opposition killed during the Caravan of Death that followed the 1973 coup d'état. This ruling overturned a 2002 decision that had accepted Pinochet as being too ill to stand trial. A second important case in the fight against impunity was the conviction and sentencing of a former Argentine police official for the torture and illegal detention of *desaparecidos* during Argentina's Dirty War (1976-1983). "This sentence shows that democratic institutions can eventually overcome all the legal barriers erected to shield perpetrators of crimes against humanity," said José Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch. "Justice was finally done where it needed to be done – in **Argentina** itself."



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