

who have not yet been tortured or as a source of "entertainment" for psychotics. Some rebel groups in Latin America discovered the wisdom of treating their captives well. In some cases the captives not only spoke the truth but also changed sides.

Our powerful nation might have led the world in restraining the sale of weapons. On the contrary we continue to sell arms to every possible dictatorship on the planet.

What might have been is America as a beacon to the world. On the contrary we have become the disgust of the world by our lawless, mean spirited, violent, small minded, racist and stupid policies.

Amnesty International referred to the atrocious human rights violations of the Bush administration which diminish the moral authority of the United States and sets a global example encouraging abuse by other nations. The list of accusations which introduced Amnesty International's annual report in London mentioned crimes by the United States including: torture of detainees in Iraq, torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, and rendition of prisoners to country known to practice torture. Amnesty further stated that the

United States "thumbs its nose at the rule of law and human rights."

Rather than what might have been a light to the world, this group of war criminals has no legitimate claim to the tax money of our hard working citizens. We don't have to focus on what might have been. But we must focus our attention on what is going to be and that means humane leadership for a humane future.

### Arlington West Need You

Every Sunday at Santa Monica Beach, just north of the pier, veterans set up 1700 and more markers to commemorate our dead in Iraq. Please come to see this magnificent testimony for peace. The work begins at 7:00 AM and people of all kinds come to witness this statement for peace. Please attend and volunteer your help.

**Leave the legacy of your commitment to your heirs: When drafting your will, please consider making a bequest to THE OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS. We are a 501-c-3 non-profit educational corporation. All contributions are tax deductible.**

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OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS

# FOCUS: Peace Now!

OfficeOfTheAmericas.org

## RECRUITING FOR PEACE

Veterans of the war in Iraq have become the vanguard of the movement for justice and peace. In this issue of FOCUS you will be introduced to some leaders among these former troops.

Every possible ruse is being used to get our young people to sign up for military service. Billions of dollars of our tax money have been spent in false advertising to recruit them. Elementary school students can be seen running in our parks under the title of Junior Marines. Some 500,000 students are now enrolled in the Junior ROTC.

And now the Pentagon has hired a commercial marketing firm, BeNow, Inc., to compile detailed information about high school students, college students and registrants in the Selective Service System. This new initiative of the Pentagon is far more extensive than the conditions of the No Child Left Behind Act. The Electronic Privacy Information Center regards this new move as, "An unprecedented foray into direct marketing techniques previously only performed by the private sector."

We agree with the parent-teacher association at Garfield High in Seattle which stated, "Public schools are not a place for military recruiters."

### DISGRACEFUL POLICIES CONTINUE

Torture is a de facto official policy of our administration. The same U.S. personnel who designed the death squads of El Salvador are directing Iraqis in torture and summary execution. Lies are a de facto official policy

of our administration. Fewer than 2,000 U.S. dead have been reported to the media but currently evidence is mounting which indicates a far greater death toll. U.S. military personnel who die en route to German hospitals or after arriving at German hospitals are not counted. Far more bodies are shipped to Dover Air Force Base than the numbers given to the media. The media is not even allowed to report on the arrivals at the Dover Air Force Base mortuary. False information is given regarding the thousands of wounded and the countless numbers of troops returning with serious mental problems. Impeachment and conviction is required. Impunity is not acceptable.

As a result of this disgraceful policy a WORLD TRIBUNAL ON IRAQ has taken place in Istanbul, Turkey. Arundhati Roy will chair a "Jury of Conscience."

### THE TIDE HAS TURNED

We believe the tide has turned against the horrible disaster in Iraq. Currently the vast majority of people in the United States are against this war. Approval ratings for the administration are in a free fall. Congresswoman Maxine Waters has announced the new "Out of Iraq" Caucus.

We are proud of the great work of Congressman John Conyers who was forced to hold the hearing on the Downing Street Memo in a cramped basement room at the Capitol. We have interviewed both of these dedicated members of the House of Representatives on our

radio program WORLD FOCUS.

The memo is a smoking gun which proves that the Bush Administration was determined to go to war in July of 2002 and that they created the "intelligence" necessary to sell their contrivance. Conyers hand delivered 560,000 signatures of American citizens to the White House demanding answers to the questions raised by the Downing Street Memo.

Now is the time for expanding our efforts at counter-recruiting and preparing for the next MASSIVE ANTI-WAR MOBILIZATION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24-25-26 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

As the tide turns we must be bolder than ever, more visible than ever. Pressure must increase on the Congress together with vigils, pickets, marches, rallies and non-violent civil disobedience.

### OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS INITIATES RECRUITERS FOR PEACE

Office of the Americas RECRUITERS FOR PEACE by Manuel Zarate

### Mission Statement

OOA Recruiters for Peace works with CAMS (Coalition Against Militarism in Schools), the National Lawyers Guild and school-based clubs like Santa Monica College's Progressive Alliance to create military free school districts by sharing with them our resources, organizing skills and experience of direct

## Become an Office of the Americas Sustainer or Member

All contributions are tax-deductible

**Members** receive OOA's quarterly newsletter and the satisfaction of being part of an international movement for peace and justice.

Founder \$1,000  Patron \$500  Sponsor \$500  Donor \$200  Friend \$100  
 Family \$35  Individual \$25  Limited income \$10  Other\$\_\_\_\_\_

**Sustainers** receive monthly mailings of OOA issues, activities and special events.

I pledge: \$\_\_\_\_\_ each  month  quarter  year  other\_\_\_\_\_ for OOA's work.

### Recruiters for Peace

Please check here if you would like to work as an OOA Recruiter for Peace Volunteer.

### Response for Peace

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive OOA's weekly email calendar. E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send me information on your volunteer program.  
 Please remove me from your mailing list.

Visit OOA's website  
[www.officeoftheamericas.org](http://www.officeoftheamericas.org)  
 and Blase's Blog  
[blasesblog.blogspot.com](http://blasesblog.blogspot.com)

peaceful protesting and organizing.

Recruiters for Peace is guided by the belief that school be a place for our loved ones to receive an education and learn the value of that education to themselves and their community, and not a place for them to be recruited into military service.

To create a flexible yet efficient organization, we must start sooner rather than later and begin at the local level. Therefore we will work to organize volunteers from our local communities and schools to serve as counter military recruiters and educators.

### Become a Recruiter for Peace!

To organize peace recruiters from our community, we first must hold an organizational meeting to familiarize ourselves with the volunteers. This first meeting will be open to any community member that wishes to work with our organizations to make our schools military free.

At the meeting we will discuss the issues affecting our campaigns and the strategies available to us to see how best we can pool our collective resources and energies to take back our schools in September '05.

Prospective volunteers will be given specific information on the program and an offer of basic training to become a Recruiter for Peace.

### Goals of the Meeting

The greatest hope of OOA Recruiters for Peace and CAMS is that we reach out to members of the community who are interested in making our schools military free. By educating the

uninformed and supporting already active members of our community, we hope to increase our resources and direct actions in removing militarism not only from our schools, but also from our community and lives.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to our first meeting on **Tuesday September 13, 2005 at 7:00 pm. This will be held at the Peace Center 8124 West Third Street Suite #201, Los Angeles, Ca 90048.**

Please see Response Form at the end of the newsletter.

## OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS IN ACTION

OOA participates in the following.

### Speak Out Summit in Cambridge, Massachusetts

OOA was honored to be included along with Board Members Howard Zinn and other progressive leaders at this national speakers summit. OOA's emphasis was to discuss methods of counter-recruitment and education on campuses which are currently the object of highly funded right wing efforts to recruit students.

### Court Marshal of Pablo Paredes

A play written by Petty Officer Pablo Paredes was performed in San Diego just outside of his Court Marshal hearing as his trial was in process. The play was designed to put the Iraq War on trial. As we acted out Pablo's script we were informed that in spite of his refusing to board the ship, which was taking thousands of troops to Iraq, he was given no jail time and can receive an honorable discharge. Lieutenant Commander Robert Klant, the judge in his case, made the following statement: "I think the government has successfully proved that any service member has a reasonable cause

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to believe that the wars in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq were illegal." This from a military judge!

### Aidan Delgado Honored

Serving with the Military Police at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, Aidan witnessed the atrocities committed. After requesting conscientious objector status he received constant harassment from his fellow troops and officers. When his conscientious objector status was approved he returned to the United States and received an honorable discharge. OOA honored Aidan together with famed Vietnam Veteran Ron Kovic.

These two courageous veterans represent a dramatic bridge between two unnecessary wars.

### Recruiters for Peace

OOA intern, Manuel Zarate has developed OOA's Recruiters for Peace, whose mission is outlined in this FOCUS. Under the leadership of Adele and Henry Siegel the Culver City School District has eliminated the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. Some 500,000 JROTC high school students in the United States are being trained to aim, shoot and kill at a time when we are trying to get guns off the campuses.

### Media

Office of the Americas reported for Democracy Now and for National Public Radio on the significance of Pope John Paul II's death, as related to liberation theology and the Church's impact on issues of peace and justice.

Program Director Armando Gudino of KPFK is preparing a two hour special on Liberation Theology with the assistance of OOA.

Our program WORLD FOCUS with Adelphia TV has resumed. Administrative Assistant Clarissa Romano is the producer of this program which airs on both Adelphia's Educational and Public access channels. Clarissa also produces our Pacifica Radio program WORLD FOCUS (10:00 AM Sundays). Our gratitude to Lisa Smithline, who served as producer of World Focus on TV and Radio until the present. Currently Lisa's time is fully absorbed in producing great documentary films.

### Recent Guests on OOA's WORLD FOCUS:

Reed Brody, Frank Brodhead, Jeff Dietrich, Jonathan Schell, Steven Shafarman, Frances Fox Piven, Melissa Boyle Mahle, Richard Allen White, Naomi Klein, Avi Lewis, Gino Strada, MD, Perry O'Brien, Eugenia Charles, Robert Parry, Thomas Melville, John Perkins, Nawal El Saadawi, Kathy Kelly, Denis Halliday, Robert Ellsberg, Anika Rahman, James Lafferty, Pablo Paredes, Camilo Mejia, Aidan Delgado, Larry Birns, Sarah Schaffer, Helen Caldicott, MD, Alex Sanchez, Sylvia Beltran, Arlene Inouye, Manuel Zarate, Brian Concannon, Huwaida Arraf, Don White. OOA was interviewed by Mike McCormick, Public Affairs Director for KEXP in Seattle.

### Some Recent OOA Speaking Engagements

- UCLA: four engagements;
  - On Nicaragua
  - On Guatemala
  - As speaker for the International Relations Organization
  - As speaker for Rev. James Lawson's class
- West Los Angeles College: On the Iraq War
- As honorees at: St. Joseph's Center and at Homies Unidos

- San Diego Coalition for World Peace in support of protesting veterans.
- Cerritos College on Liberation Theology
- Los Angeles Korean Buddhist Cultural Center on the reunification of Korea.

### Upcoming

OOA has been asked to speak to Doctors for Peace. Each year, Jyoti Puvvula and Gilberto Granados have requested that Blase and Theresa Bonpane speak to their group of medical students, interns, and doctors on methods of including peace and justice issues in their mission as health care providers.

### Publications

#### NEW

*The Central American Solidarity Movement*, Blase Bonpane, (interviewed by Teresa Barnett, 341 pages) Oral History Program of the University of California Los Angeles, The Regents of the University of California, 2005.

#### Other

*Common Sense for the Twenty-first Century*, (Radio commentaries and interviews directed to the formation of an international peace system), Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, 2004.

*Guerrillas of Peace On the Air*, (Radio commentaries, reports and other works which examine and promote the ideology of peace), Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, 2000, second printing, 2002.

*Guerrillas of Peace; Liberation Theology and the Central American Revolution*, Third Edition, toExcel Press, <iUniverse.com> 2000; Second Edition, South End Press, Boston, 1987; First Edition, South End Press.

### Highly Recommended:

*Through a Glass Darkly; the U.S. Holocaust in Central America*, Thomas R.

Melville, Xlibris Corporation, <Orders@Xlibris.com> <Amazon.com> or Office of the Americas, 2005.

*How America Lost Iraq*, Aaron Glantz, Tarcher/Penguin, 2005.

### AWARDS

The Board of Directors of the Office of the Americas is pleased to announce that our directors, Theresa and Blase Bonpane have recently received two awards:

\* Homies Unidos Award. This international program works to prevent young people from entering gangs as well as to rehabilitate those who have left gangs.

\* The Empowerment Award. St. Joseph's Center is dedicated to ending homelessness as it assists people of low income with a variety of social services.

### A PARTING THOUGHT

The saddest words ever spoken were, "It might have been." Our powerful nation might have led the world into abolishing nuclear weapons.

We have all the necessary technology. We simply do not have the will. And don't let anyone say this is not realistic. The realists of the world know that nuclear weapons will either be abolished or used. There is no room for debate on this issue. It is our lack of leadership which is unrealistic. The entire world can see our duplicity in presuming that we can have tens of thousands of nukes as we point the finger at other nations who might possibly have one nuke.

Our powerful nation might have led the world in humanitarian law. With a leadership vacuum we have torture as an official policy. Torture is an international crime and the very definition of terrorism. Torture has never been a source of information, on the contrary it is conducted to obtain false confessions, to terrorize those