

bored. He mouthed platitudes about a peace settlement that mocked the humanitarian crisis he aided and abetted in Gaza, the rapacious land grab by Israel in the West Bank and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The diminished George Bush, increasingly irrelevant at home and abroad, is fading into insignificance. A year from now one half expects to see him stand up at the next president's inauguration and screech "I'm melting! I'm

melting!" as he sinks into a puddle of slime. He will return, I expect, to his ranch, where he will be able to spend the rest of his life doing the only task for which he has shown any aptitude-cutting down brush with a chain saw.

He may yet rise again to torment us with an attack on Iran, condemning more innocents to slaughter. He and his cigar-smoking soul mate Ehud Olmert would like to go out with one more flash of may-

hem and violence . . . (For the full article go to: [www.truthdig.com](http://www.truthdig.com))

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OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS

# FOCUS: Peace

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## FORT BENNING PROTEST COMES TO LOS ANGELES

On January 12, 2008 Father Roy Bourgeois came to Los Angeles to participate in a demonstration which reproduced the annual School of the Americas Watch gathering at Fort Benning, Georgia. The new Los Angeles State Historic Park was chosen for the venue. Office of the Americas Justice and Peace honoree Frank Dorrel took a major role in organizing this very successful event which brought out hundreds of high school and college students, a host of religious personnel and a multitude of peace organizations.

### U.S. Intervention in the Americas

Office of the Americas was asked to present a brief history of United States interventions in the Americas at this historic gathering. Here is a summary of that presentation: Welcome to Fort Benning, Georgia (Los Angeles) and welcome to the School of the Americas Watch. The Iraq War is a continuation of a long standing policy of the United States called Manifest Destiny. This policy includes a religiosity of conquest just as the Conquistadores had a religiosity of conquest in the Americas. The conquistadores were overcome by the Latin American independence movements of the nineteenth century. But nothing has stopped the "Manifest Des-

tiny" of the United States which followed the demise of the Conquistadores.

### Mexico

Just two decades after winning independence from Spain, in 1846, Mexico, indeed the very land on which we are standing, was invaded by President Polk. As is the case in most imperial wars, the claims of Polk that Mexico invaded the United States were a contrivance and a lie. Abe Lincoln, the Congressman from Illinois, said it was a lie, Ulysses S. Grant said it was a lie, and Robert E. Lee said it was a lie. And so we took half of Mexico. Regardless of current borders, I think we have reason to say that Mexico has won the War of 1846.

### Nicaragua; The Philippines

Less than a decade later, William Walker declared himself President of Nicaragua and demanded that Nicaraguans speak English. Friends, I think Nicaragua has won the War of 1855 as it won the Contra War conducted by Ronald Reagan. Once again, empire lost. And what about President McKinley and the Spanish American War? In the

spirit of Manifest Destiny he told us that he prayed through the night and decided he would invade and Christianize the Philippines, not knowing that the Philippines were already Christianized.

### Cuba

And we can recall the history of Cuba, the last colony of Spain in this hemisphere. We assisted in Cuba's separation from Spain and immediately took over that island and put our General Leonard Wood in as Cuba's President in 1902. And we also put the Platt Amendment in the new Cuban Constitution stating that the United States could intervene militarily in that new nation for any reason. And so we made a U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo which is currently used as our torture center and remains as an international disgrace to the United States.

### Wall Street and Oil

General Smedley Butler was ordered to intervene in Mexico in 1914. He also led interventions into Cuba and Haiti. He says, "I helped in the rapping of a half dozen Central American Republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912, I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in

**Be a Peacemaker!**  
The Peace Movement needs you,  
OOA needs you.  
Fill out the response on back and  
become an OOA Volunteer today.

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

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

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Note: FAX and e-mail addresses are assurances that you will receive more notices of special events.

1916. In China I helped see that Standard Oil went its way unmolested." As he reviewed his military career, General Butler raged with dissent saying: "Why don't those damned oil companies fly their own flags on their personal property, maybe a flag with a gas pump on it?" Our current presidential candidates speak of "change" in a nonsensical and unspecific manner. We must demand that they speak of change in two centuries of United States intervention, demonization and torture. I am referring to over one hundred unnecessary military actions by our country. And now our head torturer is a missionary to the Middle East and begging weaker nations to assist him in his desire to massacre the children of Iran as he has massacred the children of Iraq. Jesus had words for President Bush when he said: "Alas for you hypocrites, you travel over land and sea to make a single proselyte, and when you have him, you make him twice as fit for hell as you are." Matt. 23,13

### Peace Now

Contrary to the new slaughter which Bush has in mind, our mission is to carry out the command of peace on earth. We are building a peace system and are committed to ending the war system and its nuclear ovens. We are committed to ending the demonization of other cultures together with the torture, lies and massacres which have

Stay up to date on local Peace and Justice events, sign up for the OOA Peace Calendar today! Visit [www.officeoftheamericas.org](http://www.officeoftheamericas.org) to sign up.

marked our history. Another world is possible.

### OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS CURRENT PLANS

As the Office of the Americas completes twenty-four years in the ongoing struggle for justice and peace, it becomes clear that much of our work has been trying to stop our government from killing people.

The focus of our programs is on the foreign policy of the United States. We have found that policy to be dictatorial and counterproductive. The daily outrages of the current administration have reached a state of intolerability.

We ask you to help us

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.

bring these bitter years of militarism and nuclearism to an end. We look ahead to a new era of planetary justice and peace.

### Educational Salons

Please join us in this most essential work! Starting in 2008, Office of the Americas is reactivating its educational salons. We ask you to invite us and your friends and colleagues to your home or work places for a discussion of current events and actions for peace. Simply let us know the date you wish and invite your friends. We will work with you regarding the program to be presented. We have been doing house parties/salons since 1983 and we find they are one of the best methods to teach peace and activism.

### Frequent Flyer Miles urgently needed for OOA speakers.

### Bring the Troops Home -- NOW!

In October we joined with ten other cities in demonstrations demanding an end to the war in Iraq and to bring our troops home now. The Los Angeles "Die-In" was particularly successful as a statement in opposition to our Democratic Congress' support for the continued daily death of our troops and Iraqi civilians. The Iraqi government wants us out now.

### Close the School of the Americas

In November tens of thousands gathered at the gates of Fort Benning to protest the torture training center called the School of the Americas. And now we are overjoyed with the huge success in bringing Father Roy Bourgeois here to Los Angeles on January 12th to replicate the School of the Americas Watch demonstration. Office of the Americas was a sponsor of this creative action. Our board member, Frank Dorrel was a key organizer of the event..

### Military Resistance

Office of the Americas supports the call to the Military NOT to serve in Iran. This call is coming from the religious community and a multitude of civic organizations. Never in our history have we had so many Generals opposed to our wars. Seventy percent of our citizens are opposed to our endless war policy. A Pentagon consultant told our 2007 Justice and Peace honoree Seymour

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Hersh, "There is a war about the war going on inside the Pentagon."

Office of the Americas in its work with Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace and Military Families Speak Out, is not asking for a military coup in the United States. On the contrary, we are identifying a Presidential coup and we are asking the military to remember their oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. They did not take an oath to show loyalty to international crime. Women and men in the armed services are discovering the criminality of this administration. General William Odom, former director of the NSA said, "The invasion of Iraq, I believe, will turn out to be the greatest strategic disaster in U.S. history."

### The War's Effect on the United States

We would be blind if we could not see the fact that every bomb that we have dropped on Iraq and Afghanistan has fallen on the United States. Our infrastructure is in shambles, 80% of our bridges are deteriorating. Need we Southern Californians speak of fires?

One large DC-10 fire-fighting aircraft is available to fight the flames on the west coast.

But hundreds of manned and unmanned aircraft are ready for the mass murder of Iranian citizens. We are completely unprepared for disasters here at home while we create endless and unneces-

sary disasters overseas.

### Media Outreach

The media outreach of the Office of the Americas is greater than ever. We produce an hour long weekly program WORLD FOCUS for Pacifica Radio by way of KPFF, Los Angeles. Segments of this program are now being aired on a new Pacifica national program called SPROUTS. And on television we produce WORLD FOCUS by way of TIME/WARNER educational and public access stations. We also have a speaker's bureau, a regular newsletter, FOCUS, a peace calendar, monthly letters to our members, as well as educational salons. Our web site is: [www.officeoftheamericas.org](http://www.officeoftheamericas.org)

### Office of the Americas Needs You!

We at the Office of the Americas, joined with a massive and like-minded international movement for justice and peace, are dedicated to confronting the daily outrages in which we live. You are the people who can make this sacred work possible. We hope to hear from you soon.

Office of the Americas is a 501-c-3 non-profit educational corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. We really need your assistance to continue our programs. Our email address: [ooa@igc.org](mailto:ooa@igc.org)

### Taxes for Imperial Wars?

Many people are involved in tax resistance. These sites help to show the relationship to the Boston Tea Party and the pristine American Revolutionary phrase: **Taxation without Representation is Tyranny** [www.dontbuybushswar.org](http://www.dontbuybushswar.org)

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Commit-

Getting duplicate mailings? Misspelled name or address? Please let us know so we can update our records.

tee: [www.mvtrcc.org](mailto:www.mvtrcc.org)  
[mvtrcc@mvtrcc.org](mailto:mvtrcc@mvtrcc.org)  
 Southern California War Tax Resistance:  
[www.so-cal-war-tax-resist.org](http://www.so-cal-war-tax-resist.org)  
[scwtr@yahoo.com](mailto:scwtr@yahoo.com)

### SAVE THE DATE THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008.

Volunteers are needed with the expertise, time and energy to develop an ebay auction fund raiser.

### GEORGE BUSH, A MISSIONARY FOR MASSACRE IN IRAN

Chris Hedges is a frequent guest on Office of the Americas' program WORLD FOCUS (KPFF 90.7 fm, Los Angeles, 10:00 AM every Sunday). Here are his comments on George Bush's recent trip to the Middle East.

### THE END OF THE ROAD FOR GEORGE W. BUSH

The Gilbert and Sullivan charade of statesmanship played out by George W. Bush and his enabler, Condoleezza Rice, as they wander the Middle East is a fitting end to seven years of misrule. Despots stripped of power are

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transformed from monsters into buffoons. And this is the metamorphosis that is eating away at the Bush presidency.

Bush stood in Jerusalem, uncomfortable and palpably