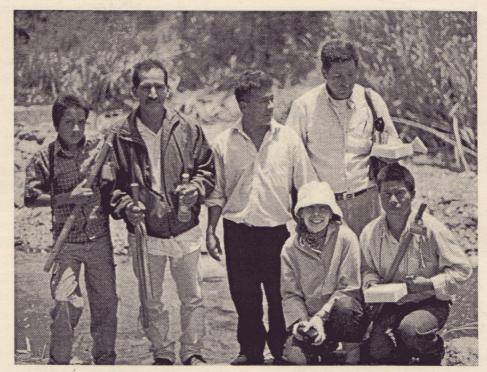
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Patricia with members of the sister community and members of the indigenous guard.

Vetting the Facts from our Past

Facing our Ominous Future

by Patricia Dahl

One thing was clear when we took our delegation to Cauca last summer. The political landscape that beckoned in ingress before us, and the political landscape that dimmed in egress behind, had undergone radical revision.

The realization was manifold during the days we tried to interpret recent experience. It was manifold in New York City, the city I call home, the city where the "drumbeat for war is barely audible "despite its "outdoor memorial to loss and grief." Yet the Pearl Harbor type event of September 11th provided swift passport for the agenda the authors of Project for a New American Century assured us that we needed.

On the global side, this agenda guaranteed our monopoly on world resources at any cost, a monopoly that guarantees our future domination. This agenda used our tax dollars and surplus social security trust to pay for unending wars against children, against the elderly, against those who lack defenses and the instincts for aggression, against those who do not achieve in any sufficient degree the status sociologist Randall Collins describes as "animals maneuvering for advantage." It allowed for the acceleration by which any natural element that could be drilled, excavated, razed, measured and commodified, could then be appropriated, regulated, marketed, or militarized, including human beings for labor, intellectual property, water for drinking, water for exploring fishing,

Vetting the Facts from our Past continued

naval, and exploration rights, and of course, that fathomless container for a fathomless imperialism, space.

On the domestic side, our vestigial commonwealth—and it is worth noting that use of this term to indicate the public good is officially obsolete—was further transferred from working people and the poor to the rich and the extremely rich. It meant the Forbes list of the 400 richest people in the United States now boasts 313 billionaires, up 51 from the year before. To put this fact in perspective, to earn a billion dollars one must earn a million dollars per day for 1,000 days. What's more, the 400s' net worth stretched to a zenith of 13 digits: to one trillion dollars. To put this fact in perspective, if the 400s' worth were divided into sums of \$10,000, there would be 100 million portions, enough to give \$10,000 checks to roughly one in three people living in the United States.

Former U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge wrote in his "Ten Points Progress for Success," Pentagon Papers, 1965: "Saturate the minds of the people with some socially conscious and attractive ideology, which is susceptible of being carried out." War launched for the purpose of finding weapons of mass destruction while bombing with weapons of depleted uranium made good entrepreneurial sense for the Forbes 400. But as the saying goes, if those that have get more, then those that haven't get less.

The share of the national income allotted the middle class in 2004 was nearly the lowest on record since 1967. The share allotted the bottom 5th of the population hit the nadir, the lowest on record ever. In 2003, the number of people living below the poverty line in the U.S. inflated by more than a million people. In fact, that number has been inflating under Bush's tenure much like the deficit. 12.5% of the population lived below the poverty line in 2003. This swelled from 12.1% in 2002, from 11.7% in 2001, and from 11.3% in 2000. Yet

working people are working longer and longer hours, 9 full weeks longer in a year than Europeans.

Unlike the ballooning ranks of the rich, the ballooning ranks of the poor, and the ballooning deficit, corporate taxation deflated as a result of recent legislation. In fiscal year 2002-2003, corporate taxes fell to their lowest share of the economy since World War II. Of the worlds' richest economies, 51 are corporations; 49 are countries. Wal-Mart's economy is now larger than the economies of 100 countries, including Ireland, Portugal, and Israel. The FTAA, and its truncated versions CAFTA and TLC, stand to suck half the globe into a homogenous market where corporations can maneuver for advantage and challenge governments on any law, policy, or procedure not to their fancy.

The evidence of revision was manifest when our troops spilled into Iraq after thousands of protestors spilled into our streets in a last-minute desperation to exercise democratic speech. It was evident on Nov. 10, when in echo of Florida 2000, news programs skittishly about-faced, this time on the outcome of exit polls. As Rosa Luxembourg said of all who count on an evolution guided by intellect and compassion: "We return to that lamentable Rosinante on which the Don Ouixotes of history have galloped toward the great reform of the earth, always to have their

eyes blackened."

Revision was evident, too, in the insidious ways even language was degrading. Who can forget the moment when Bush welcomed his biggest campaign donors, many of whom are on the Forbes 400 list. For these donors, Bush rejects the word "elites," and renames them the more legitimate, the more neutral "my base." This of course, after he spun the timeworn chasm between the "haves" and

the "have-nots" into a new chasm between the "haves" and the "have-mores." Who can forget the moment when many citizens, whose lives the poet Adrienne Rich describes as "moral and ordinary," learned that the Geneva Convention, which prohibits torture on any grounds, including threat of war or internal political instability, was just a piece of paper to our military and intelligence strategists? Newly appointed Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez proclaims that the tenets of the Convention, like the term commonwealth and its vessels for public good, are also obsolete. Now, distinctions can be parsed over what constitutes "severe pain" and "specific intent" to kill. How many of us knew that the International Police Academy, founded in Washington in 1963, whose graduates played prominent roles in

Newly appointed Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez proclaims that the tenets of the Convention, like the term commonwealth and its vessels for public good, are obsolete. Now, distinctions can be parsed over what constitutes "severe pain" and "specific intent" to kill.

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agencies that utilized death squads in Latin America after 1966, had the reputation of teaching, if not outright torture techniques, at least an "ambivalent attitude toward torture?" The attitude was summarily treated in a thesis by one of its graduates:

"The advantages of torture are that it is quick, no talent is needed, and it is very effective. The disadvantages are even an innocent man will confess to a crime . . . [and] the interrogator could find himself in hot water if the victim dies."

The early feminist movement coined the phrase: "the personal is political." This was a useful concept for me during my adolescent years when I hungered for the tools to

Action On Colombia is the official newsletter of the Colombia Support Network, a national peace and justice network of groups and individuals working to promote respect for human rights in Colombia and a just relationship between the United States and Colombia through grassroots activisim.

CSN supports a nonviolent, negotiated resolution to the conflict in Colombia.

CSN is the only current project of Wisconsin Interfaith Committee on Latin America Colombia Support Network P.O Box 1505 Madison, WI 53701-1505 email csn@igc.org www.colombiasupport.net

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understand the world and my relationship to it. No private habit was too small to cast it, adrift and autonomous, from some larger, determining public force. For Colombia's president Uribe, whom new Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice calls our most important friend in the hemisphere, the word "political" morphs into a pejorative, a larger-than-life animal that maneuvers so aggressively for advantage that he sees it as out to swallow him whole. In September 2004, members of the Nasa indigenous group organized a march from Santander de Quilichao to Cali, protesting human rights abuses, Uribe's re-election, and the trade agreement being negotiated with the United States. It was the largest protest in the entire history of Cauca, with a reported 60,000 to 70,000 Nasas and other indigenous groups, afro-colombians, peasant farmers and trade unionists joined in solidarity. Uribe opposed the march and accused the organizers of expressing political positions. "I see no link between the problems that are being brought up and the march," he needled. "I see that the march has a political objective and it should be clearly presented as such, instead of putting forth lies . . . tell the truth, say you have a political party, and that you want to march and protest, but don't invent stories to tell the country."

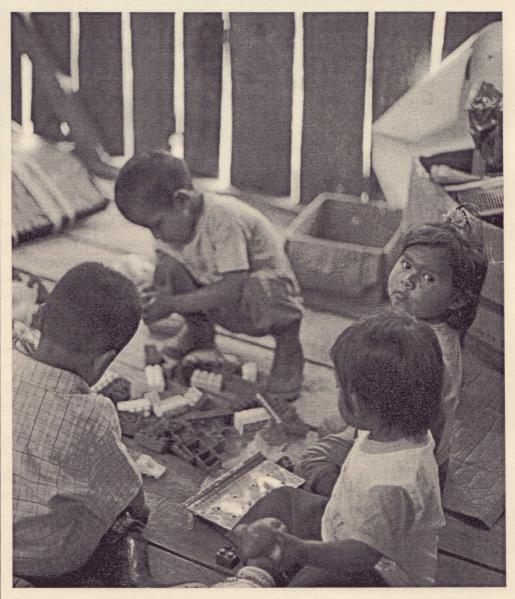
Language, and its marriage to thought and the possibilities of thought, degraded even in the realm of what is considered progressive. To address the fact that nearly 4,000 union leaders have been assassinated in Colombia during approximately the last decade and a half, trade negotiators developed a new strategy. "The idea, say labor activists from the AFL-CIO and senior Congressional aides, is to make the issue of violence and impunity as important a component in trade talks as the struggle over agriculture tariffs and intellectual property rights. Its failure to protect union members, the argument goes, gives Colombia an unfair edge over countries that do, like the United States." Under the radical revision of the project for a new century, the argument for the right to life has been eclipsed by the argument for the right to unimpeded trade. In the project for a new century, assassination as a crime, arguably the most serious crime, becomes obsolete. Instead it becomes something unfair. Assassination offers a status of good, but according to the argument, the problem is that it is imbalanced good.

Evidence of sociopolitical revision was especially manifold on the delegation I took to Colombia, the locus of the more "hidden" war, back in year 2003. I remember entering the dining room of our hotel one morning toward the close of our trip. At one of the tables, Cecilia Zarate Laun engaged in serious conversation with Francisco Ramirez, president of the miners' union Sintraminercol. They motioned for me to join them. As I sat, Francisco turned to Cecilia and asked: "Are you aware how different things are in Colombia now, than from your previous visits? We really are in a crisis."

Judging by all we heard on that delegation, there was no confusion on his question. As memory either functions or malfunctions, I cannot say for certain whether it was the quantity or the quality of the meetings that were especially intense. This I do know: at the close of each, I looked to my campaneros for confirmation that I had not imagined what took place. Speechless, we answered with our eyes.

This crucial delegation of 2003 opened the door to the delegation of 2004, and to our relationship with a sister community. It began on one of our last nights, when our minds, as delegation member Gary Weglarz describes it, were in "return–mode," and ready to implode with the need to process. That night, Cecilia informed us of a final meeting which was to take place in one of our hotel rooms. I, for one,

continued on following page



Children, displaced after the Alto Naya massacre, sharing their single toy.

Vetting the Facts from our Past continued

was no longer confident in my ability to absorb anything more. When I entered the room, two Nasa indigenous leaders, Enrique Fernandez and Enrique Guetio, rose to greet us. What I thought would be a meeting to signify finality and closure, was in fact a harbinger instead.

Enrique Guetio spoke of the Nasas' struggle for life since the days of the Spanish conquest, a point in history he referenced "the first extermination." Many members of the Nasa performed communal suicide rather than face capture by the invaders. They buried themselves alive, giving over to the land that had given abundantly to them. Those who remained scattered higher in the mountains, the area known as Alto Naya. Along with afrocolombians and those that migrated during the years of La Violencia, they lived in harmony,

On the edge of town there was a small café called Patio Bonito. A young boy was tied to a pole in front of it. He was naked and crying. A paramilitary traced the blade of a knife back and forth across the boy's neck, saying, "You will be the first one we kill."

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but struggles with the descendents of the Spanish Crown over land never ceased.

Around 25 years ago guerillas entered the area. They stayed for 3 or 4 months, then left. The army came in after them and began to harass the people. By 1991, an influx of coca from Bolivia and Peru brought an influx of more people to grow and process it. This swelled the population at the same time it obfuscated it. By this time too, it was evident that the Salvajina Dam, built in 1983 to generate hydro electric power, had forged an irrevocable trajectory in the environment and the economy. According to official records, the dam displaced 10,000, just by virtue of its being built. That "official" count, however, was only the beginning. The buildup of water made the soil too cold to grow healthy crops. Then, with market reforms and the drop in coffee prices, the economy collapsed, and the Nasa turned to growing poppies in the upper mountains. They were unprepared when page 4

airplanes cruised over their fields in 1993, ejecting a white substance onto their crops. Soon after, horses, mules, pigs and chickens fell ill and died. Fish dried even in water. Corn, beans, peas, and potato crops bore no fruit, only stalks and leaves. Then, some children "started coughing as if something were blowing up inside." Twenty-eight of them died.

The children's corpses were taken to a laboratory. Their lungs, which were covered in white mold, were excised and placed in containers. Twenty-eight days after the children died, members of the community sought an investigation and met with authorities. The Secretary of Health forbade journalists to write of the event without his approval. Later, the Secretary's office published its own "official" report. When that report was

challenged by a man from another region, the man was ap-proached by personnel from the Secretary's office who told him "if you have a family, you better keep quiet." The people continued to press for an investigation, but were presented with a series of obstacles. The state required them to have legal autopsy and necropsy reports. They were required to furnish the exact dates the fumigations took place. They

were required to present the legal registries of the children, although it was well-known that it was not the custom for the people of the area to comply with this requirement of the state. Enrique said the process was made too complicated and because there had been so much selective killing in the area, it was difficult to find people unafraid to speak out.

During Holy Week of April 2001, when it was the custom for people to travel between the hamlets to buy goods, paramilitaries dressed as guerillas, entered the area and sealed off the only entrance. On the edge of town there was a small café called Patio Bonito. A young boy was tied to a pole in front of it. He was naked and crying. A paramilitary traced the blade of a knife back and forth across the boy's neck, saying, "You will be the first one we kill."

The boy called out when he saw Enrique approach. "Enrique! You are my friend! Don't let them kill me!"

Enrique called back, "I can't do anything for you now. Please pray to God. I am in the same position as you."

The paramilitary with the knife heard the exchange and ordered Enrique to come towards him. Enrique reasoned with the paramilitary. "That boy is innocent. He is retarded. He has never carried a weapon. He has never even left the town. If he ran from you, it was only because he was afraid of you."

The paramilitary grabbed Enrique and forced him to an interrogation point some distance away, and presented him to his superior.

Enrique defended the boy to the superior. "That boy is innocent. He is retarded. He has never had a weapon. He has never even left the town."

The superior answered, "That boy is a guerilla. He will die. You will die too."

Hours passed. When Enrique finally asked to be let go, the superior released him but warned, "Don't let me see you again."

"At that moment," Enrique said, "I looked at my life in its face." He escaped through a .narrow path but when he reached 50 feet from the interrogation point, another paramilitary came up behind him. Certain the paramilitary was sent to kill him, Enrique risked a final challenge. "Why are you in this? You should think of your own family. Maybe this could happen to them."

"My mother is going hungry. Now I have work. The paramilitary pay me a good salary."

"You should think it over because it could happen to your own family." The paramilitary didn't answer. A second time, Enrique escaped.

Over that Holy Week of 2001, paramilitaries carried out one of the worst massacres in Colombian history. They stole, raped, and slaughtered noncombatants with chainsaws, a fact that was corroborated by the office of the Fiscalia and many international NGOs. One paramilitary carried the head of one of his victims in his backpack for a week. This was the "second extermination." The government death count was 23, but the Naya residents believe that 140 lives were claimed in that operation. 6,000 were displaced.

The moment Enrique told us that he "looked at his life in its face," was a moment I too, looked at mine. The crisis Francisco Ramirez spoke of is a crisis inseparable from ours, because what joins the north and south together is not only our decisions to be sister communities. With the boy of Patio Bonito, we too are vulnerable, bound, and threatened by those who, through their savage maneuvering for advantage, own the means of control. To believe we have more security is a false security. We pay for that security with a price. The evidence of radical revision exists in my own political landscape, which, as my feminist sisters taught, is not to be separated from my personal landscape. The luxuries accorded even a modestly convivial life evaporate by necessity and by choice. Friends and family express concern, but the gain is mine. What I thought would be a gateway to a small community in Colombia, was instead a gateway to the world, because the indigenous are in significant ways leading the resistance to power. They are wresting even language, and all it represents, away from those who steal it as a tool. Maneuvering for advantage does not function in isolation. To maneuver requires a "thing" to maneuver against, to have advantage requires a "someone" with which to have the advantage over.

Like the word "commonwealth," Uribe's word "political" becomes obsolete. Worse, under the revision of the word "patriotic" in both the north and the south, the word and all it represents is criminalized. The indigenous refuse this. They answer Uribe's needling with a public statement: "... our Minga is political with a capital P, because defending indigenous and collective rights is political... Defending indigenous lands and their autonomous government is political... Opposing the free trade agreement is political; rejecting the murders, forced disappearances, forced displacement, violence and war is political."

In an article in the New York Times, Republican Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi is credited with setting the pace for a new generation of Republican governors. The article claims that his actions of fighting trial lawyers over civil liability, taxes, spending, Medicaid cuts, ending job protections for state workers, privatizing services and tying teacher's raises to student performances, have "thrilled business groups and conservatives." His "muscular political style" has made him "unusually

influential" in Washington, and there are rumors of a presidential run in 2008. His statement on the role of public service is: "I didn't run to be a caretaker." In the new revision, the word "commonwealth," the word "political," and now the word "caretaker," is seen as a pejorative. Like the words in the Geneva Convention, it has become obsolete. It offers no recognizable good, not even an imbalanced good, like the word assassination and all that it represents. Again, the indigenous refuse an idea such as Barbour's. In a Nasa communiqué, the action of taking care is the very heartbeat of life.

"Among indigenous people, two of us come together for a tull [traditional planting],
10 of us come together for the harvest,
1,000 when we need to fix a road,
18,000 if we have to make decisions for the future,
and all of us if we have to come out to defend justice,
happiness, freedom, and autonomy."

Against all the crimes waged over the world, against all who engineer a system that renders their brothers and sisters the damned and discarded, the superfluous and the unrequited, the shackled, voiceless, downsized, overworked and underfed, the marginalized and disenfranchised, the learning challenged and the diagnosed insane, the cheap fodder and the insignificant collateral damage, looms the single act of Enrique, who defended a society's discard, the boy of Patio Bonito, with his very life. What I thought would be a gateway to a small community in Colombia, was instead a gateway to the world. Against the global minority who maneuver for advantage over the global majority, his act is the antidote on which I stake a moral focus, and on which I affix a line of political action for myriad struggles ahead.

Sources: New York Times, September 2001, cited in 9-11, Noam Chomsky.

Other Sources: David Griffin, The New Pearl Harbor, Constanza Vieira, Inter Press Service, Holly Sklar, ZNet, Joseph Kay, World Socialist Web Site, Michael McClintock, Instruments of Statecraft, James Dao, New York Times, February 8, 2005, NMASS, Bureau of labor statistics, 1999-2000, Michael Moore, Farenheit 9-11

Patricia Dahl is the coordinator of the CSN New York City, NY chapter.

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

By Enrique Guetio

6000 people have been displaced in the border area of the two departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca, Colombia, (where our community is located) after the tragedy that took place on April 11, 2001. Even today the Indigenous Communities of the area mourn over the crimes committed by the heartless that used every type of weapon imaginable, including chainsaws, to mutilate and decapitate their victims. Women were raped and the bodies of 23 men were found. It has been difficult to find the remains of many more. There are officially 100 missing persons, though this number isn't very precise due to the amount of new and undocumented people who had entered the area looking for work and who fell in the massacre. Initially the camp of internal refugees was home to 387 people with a total of 75 children who were orphaned because of the tragedy. Since then a committee called the Committee of Internal Refugees was created to organize and collect data and statistics on missing persons in the Alto Naya region of Colombia. In the towns of Buenaventura, Suarez, Timba and Cali groups were established to protect themselves. These groups were divided into sub-groups which were in charge of sanitation, health, logistics, and the use of resources for obtaining our basic necessities. Relations with the Government are difficult until land is granted for internal refugee communities. Some initially took refuge at a farm in Timba. From there, they continued organizing farmer groups, indigenous groups and women's groups into divisions of labor with the men and women working the fields, and the children studying and looking over the elderly. The youth have assigned labor amongst themselves in a very dynamic way. They have already installed a town hall with traditional authority. There is also a group of indigenous guards for the community.

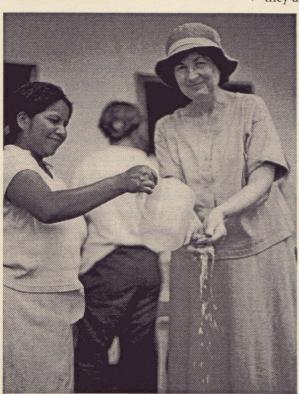
Enrique Guetio is a survivor of the Alto Naya massacre and is governor of the cabildo of Cerro Tijeras, Municipality of Suarez, Cauca.

The Ceremonial Stick

(Baston de Mando) of the Nasa Indigenous People

By Carol R. Sundberg

On Sunday morning the entire Cauca delegation met in a circular meeting room on the grounds of Buenaventura University (Saint Bonaventure U.) in a wealthy neighborhood in the south of Cali. Giovanny Guli, a Nasa Indigenous leader of the north of Cauca Department, spoke to us about the ceremonial stick. He had traveled from Cauca that morning to meet with us and accompany the New York City delegation back to Cauca for our 4-day visit. He spoke at length about how the "baston" is a symbol of authority for the bearer and how his people have taken it to meetings with the FARC, and there it is respected as a symbol of non-violent resistance. The stick is made from the native chonta tree and the handle may be made of metal in the shape of the condor, as his was. Several colored ribbons called "chumas" hang from the handle. The bearer wears an identification tag around his neck as well. Cecilia suggested the comparison of the "baston" to Senator



Carol washing her hands of U.S foriegn policy.

Feingold's letter of introduction that each one of us carried while in Colombia implying that we are backed by an authority apart from ourselves.

In Cauca we were always accompanied by a Nasa leader as well as an appointed guard who carried a "baston". My understanding of the importance of the "baston" increased during the trip to Cauca and has continued since I returned home. On the third day in Cauca we visited the area where the 2001 massacre by the paramilitary occurred in the mountainous Naya region, the ancestral home of the Alto Naya Nasa. The day before we were scheduled to leave for the day trip to the highlands, paramilitaries and FARC were spotted in the area. So 50 Nasa guards were sent into service to accompany us on our ride in the rented "chiva", an open mini-bus of 5 rows across, 6 people per row. We 6 delegation members were placed in the middle of the rows surrounded by guards and Nasa leaders. Quite a few guards rode on the roof and they all held their "baston," spoke very

little and kept their eyes on the surroundings. No one approached us on the bus or when we stopped near a stream to eat our box lunch or when we got out to inspect the controversial dam guarded by a military post.

On August 22, the day we returned to the US from Colombia, 2 members of a delegation of 4 Nasa leaders and their driver from the north of Cauca were kidnapped in neighboring Caqueta Department, where they were meeting with local Nasa leaders. The kidnapped leaders were the mayor and former mayor of the municipality of Toribio, where we had visited a Nasa farm on Tuesday. On September 7 the FARC freed the Nasa leaders. According to the

The Profits of Extermination:

How U.S. Corporate Power is Destroying Colombia

by Francisco Ramírez Cuellar

Published to acclaim—and death threats against its author and bombings of his union's offices—in Colombia in 2003, The Profits of Extermination uncovers the role

of multinational mining and energy companies in Colombia's violence. Through legal maneuvers, corruption, and direct use of paramilitary violence, companies like Occidental Petroleum, Harken Energy, and many others, have taken over Colombia's resources, displacing and murdering those who have tried to challenge them.

This book gives the lie to the claim that the "drug wars are the main factor behind Colombia's violence, and explains the role that the U.S. and Canadian governments and their corporations have played in the war against Colombia's peasants, indigenous, & Afro-Colombian populations.

Francisco Ramírez Cuellar is president of Sintraminercol, the Union of Colombian Mining Workers.

\$14.95

publication, Weekly News Update on the Americas, "A day earlier more than 400 indigenous Nasa guard members armed with ceremonial sticks had marched into the zone and demanded the delegation's release."

The "baston" is also used by the Guard to celebrate victories in the struggle to win indigenous rights. On January 20 the Indigenous Guard of Cauca held a ceremony in Bogota's Plaza de Bolivar to honor Colombia's Constitutional Court for its rulings favoring indigenous rights. The same news weekly describes the Guard as "a civilian self-defense group armed only with traditional staffs."

Returning to the Sunday morning meeting in Cali, Giovanny said that President Uribe wants the Guard to be under the Colombian military, but they have declined. Uribe wants the civilian population integrated into the armed conflict with "guns for everybody." It looks like Uribe doesn't "get it," or not yet.

Carol R. Sundberg is a former Vice-president of CSN and is currently organizing a CSN chapter.

Talking to Congress

By Carol R. Sundberg

There is a ray of hope for progressives in the dismal Congressional election results of last November. Democrat Brian Higgens defeated hard-line Bush supporter Nancy Naples in a run-off election recount. Higgenshas replaced Rep. Jack Quinn, a middle of the road Republican who resigned from his Congressional seat in the 27th District of Western New York.

Higgens was a New York State assembly member, and he made progress in Buffalo's shoreline renewal project for public recreation. Many bills are stymied in the NY State Assembly by the governor and the party leaders whomake most of the decisions. The Assembly has been ranked as one of the most dysfunctional in the country.

I spoke with Higgens at a rally during his Congressional campaign, and I asked him about his position on Colombia. He replied that he didn't know much about Colombia but that I should see him after the election. I was part of a 7-person delegation from the Western New York Peace Center who spoke with the Congressman in his Buffalo office in January.

Three of us spoke about the situation in Colombia. Alice Gerard spoke first, relating to U.S. involvement through the School of the Americas.

Higgens knew something about the SOA, so it was a good starting point.

Alice has crossed the line at Fort Benning for the last 2 November rallies and served a 3-month sentence last spring. She was recently given a 6-month sentence for last November's action. Ned Cuddy, a history professor at Daemon College, followed Alice with more background on our involvement in Plan Colombia and the drug war. I followed with recent political developments—the stalled peace negotiations in the civil war, the new leftist POLO party and its successes in local elections, and the continuing abuses against labor organizers.

Higgens gave us 45 minutes of his time, listening attentively and asking relevant questions. He accepted my offer of a copy of the *Plan Colombia* video, and he granted our request to meet with him personally every 6 months.

This looks like a good start for a new opening in the U.S. Congress.

Interested in becoming an active CSN Member? Contact a CSN Representative in your area!

Chapters in formation not listed here. Please contact the CSN office to learn of Chapters in progress near you!

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Items for Sale

All items with the CSN logo as pictured left, in color (vibrant red and blue).

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If you like Vietnam, You will love Plan Colombia \$3.00

Video

Plan Colombia
Cashing in on the
Drug War Failure
Ungermann/Audrey Brohy

\$22.00

Excellent film showing the reality of the conflict

The Colombia Support Network Action on Colombia

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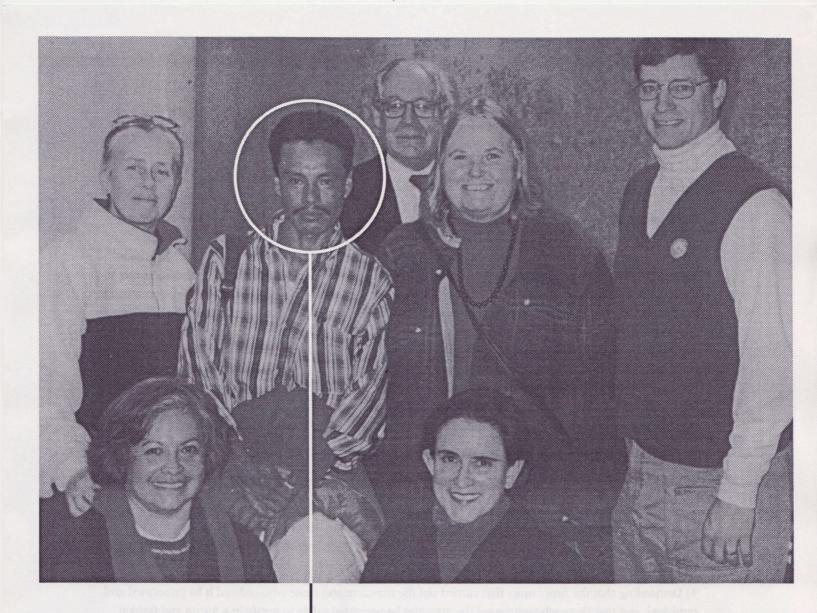
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Luis

Eduardo

Guerra

community leader

peace activist

husband

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father

murdered*



URGENT ACTION DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR SAN JOSE DE APARTADO

The response of President Alvaro Uribe to the horrific massacre of 8 persons, including San Jose Peace Community co-founder and leader *Luis Eduardo Guerra* and 3 children, has been to criticize the Peace Community and its members, as well as those NGO's such as the Colombia Support Network (CSN) which support the Peace Community. His denial of the responsibility of the Colombian Army for the massacre flies in the face of the facts as related by numerous eyewitnesses. The reluctance of witnesses to provide information to the office of the Fiscalia (public prosecutor), which President Uribe has criticized, derives from the fact that the prosecutor's office under Fiscal General Luis Carlos Osorio has failed to investigate Colombian armed forces' collaboration with illegal paramilitaries. This collaboration has been well documented in Uraba, where hundreds of paramilitary killings, assisted by the Armed Forces, have been carried out with impunity. President Uribe has established a policy of paying witnesses for their testimony, promoting the fabrication of false accounts supposedly linking members of the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado to the FARC guerrilla movement, links which the community and its members have specifically and repeatedly denied.

Please join us in expressing your solidarity with the Peace Community in:

- 1) Rejecting President Uribe's plan to eliminate the Peace Community by having the corrupt military forces of the Seventeenth Brigade and the National Police enter San Jose;
- 2) Confirming our continuing support for the Peace Community and the protective measures ordered for it by the Inter American Court and by the Colombian Constitutional Court, which President Uribe has failed to have enforced; and
- 3) Demanding that the Army units that carried out the massacre and those who ordered it be prosecuted and punished, and that those who witnessed the atrocities be permitted safely to testify in a forum and fashion where their lives will not be at risk because they are testifying.

Please write to the following:

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