

# ACTION ON COLOMBIA

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## Counting Chickens

by Emily Greenleaf

On my first morning in paradise, I am awakened by the sound of a choir. Its voices wander, bringing me to the edge of one melody and then another, almost agreeing on a chord before dissipating. Still in my pajamas, I wander out into the morning, squinting in the sun that glints off of last night's rain, and stepping carefully around the cow pies in the yard. Behind *la mayoria*, the old farmhouse that has spent the night dripping termite dust on my bed, a fenced-in yard houses nearly 300 laying hens; a chicken chorus.

There are a lot of chickens at Paradise Farm, the home of CSN-Seattle's sister community. The chickens in the choir, however, are special; purebred laying hens that are part of a community project whose aim is to provide one egg a day for each of its members.

The purebreds lead exclusive lives. Unlike the rest of the paradise poultry, who by day straggle in and out of houses in search of bugs and grits of grain and at night sleep in trees, the purebreds are housed together in a large pen with cozy roosts. They are sleek and uniform in appearance. Their beaks have been clipped to minimize damage from pecking. They are given special chicken feed, as well as antibiotic pellets to ward off whatever ails them. In exchange for such lives of ease, they are expected to lay one egg a day each. Any eggs over those consumed daily by the community are sold and the money used to buy *cuido*--the fancy chicken feed that fancy chickens like to eat.

Today the problem is this: 298 hens are only producing roughly 100 eggs a day. Selling all of the eggs bring just enough money to buy the *cuido*. Members of the community are living to serve their chickens--and not for dinner. It is the scraggly, bug-eating house chickens that are putting eggs on the table.

An assembly is held to discuss the situation. As the meeting winds its way through the evening hours and

kids fall asleep on their parent's laps and on the desks and floor of the open-air schoolhouse where we are gathered, I start to appreciate the extent of the challenges faced by this community. I have already come to understand the threat of men with guns. In a 1997 displacement, these men showed up at the homes of community families, giving them no more than one or two hours to pack up and leave. By the time I met the community in 2001, they were living in a crowded public shelter, challenged by hunger, disease and despair.

Now sitting in this meeting, I see another challenge. We humans, like chickens, are equipped with sharp beaks, and we love to peck at one another. We have conflicts. We unite for a common purpose--we bring together both our strengths and our flaws. The resulting jealousies and resentments are as familiar to me--even across the barriers of the language and culture--as the vowels and consonants of my native language. (Continued on the next page.)



Counting Chickens, cont. from page 1

Again and again, members of the community tell me: "Living and working together is hard."

Returning from Colombia, I find myself thinking: we need our disagreements. Inevitably, we will be the cause of pain to those around us, but look: the birds with the clipped beaks aren't producing.

We also must learn how to use our beaks responsibly; to stand up for ourselves when we're dissonant with those around us; to manage our inevitable disagreements, the simmering resentments and intense, overwhelming emotions and bad behavior that are part and parcel of being human. But if, in the midst of our pecking, we cannot also find ways to be creative, then we must change. Otherwise, we have no food for the soul--no joy. If we are starved of joy, what can we accomplish?

Listen to members of the Balsita Community of Life and Work as they stand on a hillside for a group portrait. They raise their hands and start to sing a hymn they wrote together in the midst of hunger and despair. With this song they can do what their hours of meetings will never accomplish. They can all speak at once, and unlike the chicken chorus, they sing together. Each person sings with a unique voice. They listen to one another and are heard at the same time. There is always tomorrow for another meeting.

*Emily Greenleaf traveled to Colombia in October 2003 with photojournalist Betty Udesen to work on a documentary project of the Balsita Community of Life and Work. To see Udesen's photographs of the community and learn more about the project, please visit [www.udesen.com](http://www.udesen.com).*



Children from Colombia are all too often the victims of the violence and warfare so common there.  
(Photo by Dick Bancroft).

### **BACK ON TRACK: Central New York/CSN Finds a Sister Community**

by Ann Tiffany

The Central New York chapter of the Colombia Support Network has been struggling to define itself since its inception. In 1998 Doris Sage and I traveled to Colombia with CSN and met with individuals and groups in Yondo, a small community across the river from Berrancabermeja. Two years later another local CSN member, Heather Colonnese, also visited Yondo. After each visit we felt we had made good connections....only to find that folks did not return our e-mails or acknowledge our financial contributions. Paramilitaries dominated the area. PDPMM (Program for Development and Peace in Magdalena Medio) advised us that a sister community relationship with Yondo would probably not be possible until the paramilitary left the area. (Continued on Page 3.)

### **Back on Track cont.**

We continued to meet here in Syracuse. We held educational events with Sanho Tree, with photo-journalist Jim Harney, with Witness for Peace (WFP) delegates returning from Colombia, with other activists who had experienced the realities in Colombia and with our own members who had visited Colombia with CSN. We wrote our legislators, letters to our local newspaper, and op-ed pieces. Such efforts are all-important, but something was missing. Our CSN chapter wasn't growing and interest in the issues was flagging.

In 2001 I coordinated a delegation with the School of the Americas Watch to Putumayo. In 2003 with another CSN member, Nancy Gwin, I coordinated a delegation for the WFP, MidAtlantic region. We went to Cauca where we met with indigenous people, human rights groups, the military, labor organizers, the Governor, and youth organizers. We were frequently asked what we would do to help Colombia after we returned home. We asked ourselves the same question.

Marylen Serna Salina, co-coordinator (with her husband, John Henry Gutierrez) of The Small Farmer Movement of Cajibío, accompanied our delegation in Cauca. Toward the end of our time there Marylen shared her vision for her organization. It began in 1990 and includes small farmers, Afrocolombians, indigenous people, women's groups, coffee cooperatives, groups of catechists, and land rights organizations.

We were all impressed with the Movement's proposal for a "**Plan for life for Cajibío.**" The Plan contains seven work areas: health, education, agro-environment, territory and authority, culture and identity, infrastructure projects and political organizing. Imagine how our CSN members' eyes lit up when Marylen began talking about the importance of sister partnerships to her vision for Cajibío. Her movement's well-thought out proposal for this relationship embodied many of the goals of CSN Sister communities; an alert system to provide a degree of protection through international pressure, education and policy change efforts in the United States, the development of true solidarity between peoples, and participation at a variety of levels in development projects.

We returned to Syracuse and began to develop our own plans for creating a Sister Partnership with Cajibío. E-mail connection with Marylen, one of my criteria for continuing this relationship, was established. We sent Cecilia (Colombia Support Network's program director) descriptions of Cajibío and told her of our plans. Cecilia encouraged us to continue to develop this relationship, particularly after she met Marylen in Colombia and was impressed by her work.

A key facet of our organizing has been recruiting other Central New York communities to be a part of our plans and to participate in the sister partnership. This makes us much stronger in terms of financial resources, number of members, and the possibility that this partnership is viable and will continue. Ithaca (Committee on U.S.-Latin American Relations), Cortland, and Syracuse are now working with Cajibío. Marylen Serna Salinas is coming to Central New York the end of March for two weeks. She will travel with us to the CSN national meeting, speak at a number of community gatherings and educational institutions. She'll become familiar with who we are and what we do. Several of our members plan to visit Cajibío this summer.

I would encourage people to attend the CSN national meeting. Meet this strong, remarkable woman who, for 20 years, has dedicated herself to community work in the municipality of Cajibío. In 1999 Marylen helped mobilize 40,000 campesinos to demand that the Colombian government redirect economic resources to meet the basic needs of their communities. From 2001-2002, along with her family, she was in forced displacement due to threats against her and her husband's lives. In 2002 Marylen, John and their two children returned to Cajibío to continue their work with the Plan of Life.

The Central New York/CSN chapter has made a commitment to Cajibío to walk by their side, to support a women's farming project, and to work to change US policy toward Colombia. We're back on track and very fortunate to have Cajibío at our side in all our efforts.

# Shut Down the School of Assassins!

March 27-30, 2004: Come to Washington to tell Congress-  
**“Not in Our Name, Not With Our Tax Dollars”**

Mobilize to Shut Down the SOA/WHISC

The Pentagon lobbies hard to keep SOA money flowing. At taxpayer expense, the Army operates a huge PR campaign that is directed at Congress.

The School of the Americas Watch counters with grassroots concern and involvement.

In the summer of 2004 there will be a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the future of this infamous institution. Has your Representative signed onto HR 1258? Will you come to Washington, D.C. to lobby in the final days of March? We need every voice possible to make the slamming of the doors final. Not with a new name but the same intent and history. It is time to put it away. For more information on this issue go to [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)



Twenty-seven “line-crossers” who were sentenced for their actions at the November, 2003 vigil at Fort Benning. A vigil that was marked by the military blasting music into the ears and space of the legitimately gathered SOAW persons. A tactic not unlike that which has been used to force its victims into submission in all of Latin America. Close the School of Violence! Support the imprisoned!

Please take note of your mailing label. If it is coded in color, it is time to renew your membership to CSN. Even if it is not, please consider a contribution to CSN to enable us to continue our work.

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**Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel officially announced to the National Assembly that no more soldiers from that country will be going to the School of the Americas (WHISC) for training. He said the school is a training school for dictators, torturers, and terrorists and a country such as the U.S. which considers itself to be a democracy should not have such a school on its soil. Earlier President Hugo Chavez said: "This school (SOA/WHISC) has deformed the minds of many Latin American soldiers, who from there went on to become dictators.**

#####

Not

In

Our

Name

### THE ULTIMATE IRONY: WAS THE CIA HELPING THE FARC?

Vladimiro Montesinos, the former strongarm of President Fujimori of Peru is accused of being the master mind of the sale of AK 47's to the FARC. More interesting is the fact that his attorney is calling George Tenet, the current director of the CIA, to be a witness in defense of Montesinos. This unusual turn of events corresponds to the fact that two of the protagonists of the arms drop which occurred in the Colombian Amazon jungle (March, July, and August), were CIA members.

10,000 Kalashnikov rifles (AK 47's) for which the FARC paid \$15 billion dollars were bought from Montesinos. According to research done by the Peruvian congress, King Hussein of Jordan was contacted to buy the arms from Bielorusia and he referred the business to a man of his trust, Sarkis Soghanalian. The first shipment arrived in the Amazon jungle on March 17, 1999. Even more unusual is the fact that in order to get to the appointed place the plane carrying the arms had to cross a corridor controlled by four Colombian radars operated by the United States army. The Ilushin 76, a large plane, crossed this radar controlled space four times and was never detected. Soghanalian said the Jordanian intelligence services informed CIA stationed in Amman of the transaction.

( Information taken from the Colombia newspaper, *El Tiempo*, January 24, 2004 and *La Semana* - January 25, 2004





Photo from the Colombian Defensoria

## THE INSECURITY OF DEMOCRATIC SECURITY

BY CECILIA ZARATE-LAUN\*

\*Co-founder and Program Director of CSN

On January 28, 2004, CSN launched an Urgent Action about our Syracuse sister community of Cajibío Cauca state, protesting the arbitrary detention of many peasants, including truck drivers, young people, housewives, school teachers, aldermen, and members of medical missions since December of 2003. All of them were accused of being either collaborators or informants of the guerrilla and were detained as a result of President Alvaro Uribe Velez's policy of Democratic Security.

The Uribe administration does not have a policy of peace but prefers a military solution to the Colombian conflict. Its goal is the defeat of the guerrilla and the creation of conditions that will allow the imposition of a peace agreement without the deep changes in the social, political and economic structures that Colombian urgently needs. Democratic Security does not contemplate stopping violations of human rights or of International Humanitarian Law.

It is obvious that the majority of the Colombian population pleads for security, given the multiple attempts against their lives, the high unemployment, low salaries, impunity for their assailants, and the control of the brutal paramilitaries. The people are fleeing not only because of the paramilitary, but also due to the abuses perpetuated by the guerrillas. Guerrillas also kill

civilian populations selectively and cause displacements when they destroy rural communities with gas cylinder bombs. All of the above factors reflect an enormous lack of protection for the citizens. The same applies to the lack of guarantees for social and political organizations in the opposition, which limit even more the freedoms of the population. The question then is: For whom is President Uribe's security model? Who does this policy of Democratic Security benefit? If we add to this situation the global policy of the United States in its fight against terrorism after September 11, it is clear that insecurity is being used as a political tool to legitimize the defense of a political, cultural and economic model that excludes the majority of the inhabitants of this planet from their minimal rights.

President Uribe's policy of Democratic Security combines two wars in a very peculiar way: the old counter insurgency war trying to stop the advance of the rural fronts of the FARC and ELN into the cities, and the new counter terrorist war trying to neutralize the urban networks of the same guerrilla. The paramilitaries do not seem to be targeted by this new war. Neither are the drug dealers. In this way the policy of Democratic Security justifies the detention of thousands of citizens accused of being militias, collaborators or informants of the guerrilla movement.

Uribe's Democratic Security is based on the principle that, to obtain this dreamed of security, Colombian civil society must be allied with its state and must become active with its army and its police. In other words, militarize daily life through "voluntary cooperation" which will become obligatory as time passes by. Neighbors must inform when they see people bringing suspicious boxes to nearby homes.

Eventually there might exist networks of bakers, nurses, retired people, and drivers spying on each other. Security has become a commodity to be traded and spying is instituted as a profession to solve unemployment. This is the principle behind the million informants and the 20,000 "peasant soldiers" the policy calls for.

On August 8, 2002, the day after taking his oath as president, Mr. Uribe traveled to the city of Valledupar to inaugurate his first group of citizen

informers. A journalist from the newspaper *El Tiempo* spoke to informant # 1477. He was a young man in his 30's wearing blue jeans and tennis shoes who started work with the informants network set up by the police in his town to report "suspicious persons". When asked what he considered suspicious, he said, "Anyone who is not from this town. I look at his waist to see if he carries a gun, and I look at his eyes. If he avoids to look at me directly, it means he is hiding something". When asked if he has been mistaken, he said, "Yes, I reported a suspicious individual who ended up being a counter-insurgency soldier doing intelligence."

The highly respected Data Bank of CINEP, in its Bulletin #10 from May through June 2003, considers that the government of Alvaro Uribe associated with the political and economic classes and the mass medias are legitimizing the paramilitaries as a component of Democratic Security. Control of the civilian population is the central goal of their military operations. General Gallego, the commander on the police in Medellin during the Orion military operation, guided his units with this words : " everybody has to be detained...then we will see who has no charges...everything that moves has to be detained..." Daily life is militarized : military checkpoints, house searches, detentions, census, military occupation of schools, parks, cultural and recreational centers and so on. Political opposition has no space. People who do not share the official policies is a traitor, a guerrilla and a terrorist. When a territory is recovered by the army, paramilitaries come to take control of it.

Other elements of Uribe's Democratic Security is to increase the number of soldiers, to acquire modern military equipment, the creation of more Mobile Brigades, anti-terrorists groups and 7 high mountain Battalions in areas controlled by the FARC. Because of its policies of austerity and sacrifice, Uribe established a tax on patrimony so the war and the economy became intertwined. From this idea of saving money Uribe decided to create the peasant soldiers. Young peasants will be recruited and trained at their nearby brigades. They will have uniforms, a salary and arms given to them by the army. They will be part of the military in their own communities and will sleep at home at night. They can take their arm home and they can use it in case there is a guerrilla attack. Needless to say, that these soldiers and their families will automatically become military targets of the guerrilla and in this way more members of civilian society will be incorporated to the conflict. Who can stop the soldiers from using their arms for other purposes than defending the country from terrorists? Without doubt, The United States will use its aid to exercise pressure on the Colombian government for advancing its own agenda.

Another worrisome element of this policy, is the assignment of judiciary duties to the army, and the elimination for search warrants when searching homes or human rights organizations such as the case of the Permanent Assembly of Civil Society for Peace. No need for judiciary orders to detain individuals or entire communities. It was the case of Saravena in Arauca state where thousands of persons were concentrated in the Coliseum and branded with ink in a clear reminder of the stadium detentions during the dictatorship in Chile. Uribe's attempts to eliminate the Defensoria del Pueblo (Ombudsman's office) and the Constitutional Court, two of the most celebrated achievements of the 1991 Constitution, do not honor his pledges of respecting such Constitution.

In the meantime the Data Bank keeps reporting thousands of selective killings, arbitrary detentions, displaced persons and an alarming increase in the use of torture. More worrisome seems the fact that the official statistics offer a panorama of more insecurity. According to the Ministry of Defense in the year 2,000 there were 21,585 insurgents and between 2,000 and 2,003 the number of neutralized insurgents was 18,114 by death, desertion or capture. Subtracting numbers there must be only 3,471 total guerrillas left in Colombia. Using the data from the same Minister of Defense between 2000 and 2,003 the guerrilla has grown by 25%. Are the official statistics reflecting reality ? Would it be possible that what these statistics are showing is extra judiciary executions and arbitrary detentions of the civilian population in areas of conflict? Such as the housewives, truck drivers, teachers and so on of Cajibío? Too much democratic authoritarianism and much less security. to those it is supposedly protecting.



### **ANNUAL FREEZE FOR FOOD- MADISON**

Despite the extremely cold weather, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison, WI co-sponsored with Colombia Support Network the 23rd annual "Freeze for Food" 5k walk/run on January 24, 2004. The proceeds from this very successful event is contributed to the sister community of Dane County, Wi-Apartado.

This year- although the runners/walkers were considerably fewer because of the icy conditions- netted over \$2500 for the food needs of the people of Apartado.

Included are (left to right)- RPCV's Rick Meisenholder, Peter Joyce and CSN President, Jack Laun.

### **Peace Activist from Dane County Sister Community Visits Madison while on US Tour.**

Citizens of Madison were privileged to have the presence of Ella Cecilia Florez Alvarez during the days of March 7 and 8. In a speaking tour which was organized by the Global Exchange. Ella Cecilia offered a spark of hope as she shared the important peace initiatives that continue to build alternatives and work for peaceful solutions to the underlying causes of Colombia's decade-old civil war. She spoke of the first hand experience of working in the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado. San Jose de Apartado declared itself a Peace Community in 1997, proclaiming that while it would struggle against injustice, it would not provide support to any armed group in Colombia's civil war. This courageous stand for non-violence has resulted in the numerous attacks against the community, especially from the right-wing army backed paramilitary groups. During these years since 1997 nearly 100 community members have been killed. Despite this, Ella Cecilia says, the community remains strong in its conviction that the Peace Community will remain a Peace Community.

**Please see the enclosed flyer for full information on the upcoming delegations and the CSN National Congress**



# Colombian Coke Float



## NYC Fact-Finding Delegation on Coca-Cola in Colombia

New York City Council Member Hiram Monserrate, represents the fast growing Colombian community in Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, Queens. In late July, 2003 he met with officials of Coca-Cola to discuss the disturbing allegations of murder and violence which had been leveled against their company. During the meeting the Coca-Cola officials testified that the allegations were false. Monserrate asked the company officials to take three affirmative steps to confirm their support for labor rights in Colombia

-sponsor an independent fact-finding delegation to Colombia to make a fair assessment of the allegations.

-cause the immediate dismissal of the criminal charges against the union members who have filed suit against Coca-Cola in the U.S. and

to publicly denounce anti-union violence.

**The response-** the "Company does not anticipate supporting in any way any form of "independent fact-finding delegation to Colombia," and that allegations would only be reviewed locally.

Council Member Monserrate then organized a ten day fact-finding delegation- a coalition of students, human rights activists, and US. trade unionists and members of the Colombian immigrant community living in New York City-to investigate the alleged abuse of labor and human rights in Colombia and ensure that New York City is not underwriting labor abuses beyond U.S. borders. NYC is one of Coca-Cola's largest markets.

The delegation gathered evidence in Barranquilla, Barrancabermeja, Cali, Bogota, and Bugalagrande. It heard testimony from SINALTRAINAL members and leaders who reported being subjected to violence. They heard from eye witnesses of Coca-Cola worker, Isidro Gil in side the walls of a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Carepa. The manager of the plant had been seen in dialogue with paramilitaries and had allegedly made threats to wipe out the union prior to the assassination. Witnesses to the assassination have fled from the country for fear of their death. No one has been brought to justice for the murder of Senor Gil.

The delegation met with the officials of Coca-Cola only once in Bogota where the CC officials denied all complicity in violence yet admitted that there was a possibility that persons employed by the company could have worked with or had contact with the paramilitaries but without authorization of the company. Legal counsel stated that the charges in the Colombian courts against the union leaders were a result of the ACTA case filed in the U.S. or as a direct reprisal.

On January 26, 2004 the Colombian prosecutor involved in the Coca-Cola case against its employees who filed suit in the U.S. dismissed charges of slander and defamation as without merit. This marks the second time that Coca-Cola's charges against its employees have been dismissed by the Colombian courts.

**Conclusion of the delegation-** Both the quantity and nature of Coca-Cola employees' allegations were found to be shocking and compelling. In the face of this testimony, the company's lack of an investigation and the admitted retaliatory intent of subsequent legal actions against their employees are equally disturbing. The company seems to be prioritizing company interest and image rather than lives and safety of the workers.

## The Department of Colonies

Cecilia Zarate-Laun, CSN Program Director

The year 1960 was a very important one for Latin America. This was the year that the Cuban revolution began and the revolutionary winds of change swept the continent. The U. S. reacting angrily to the Cuban challenge, used the Organization of American States (OAS) as their controlling political arm, causing the beloved leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara to rename the OAS the "U.S. Colonies Department."



OTOMACA DEL LIBRO "COLOMBIA INDUSTRIA"  
ELABORADO POR EL MINISTERIO DE GOBIERNO MEMORIA 1991-1999 Tomo II

The historical issue comes to mind when I read the current Colombian news. On January 24th, the leading Colombian newspaper in Bogota, *El Tiempo*, reported that the General Secretary of the OAS, former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria, decided to sign an agreement with the government of Alvaro Uribe Velez. According to the agreement, the OAS commits itself to support the "peace process" of President Uribe. The OAS will supervise the cease-fire, the cessation of hostilities, the disarmament and the return to society of Colombian paramilitary groups. The agreement, signed at night and behind closed doors, lacks the approval of the OAS member countries. In particular, the approval of those who specifically support the Colombian peace process in the hemisphere is absent: Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Canada were not informed of its creation.

This agreement is a very serious one, because it legitimizes a process that no respected international organization, including the European Union and the United Nations, have wanted to support. **Uribe's "peace process" gives total freedom to individuals who have committed horrendous crimes with no regard for the consequences of their actions. The truth of what happened might therefore never be acknowledged, justice is not served and victims remain uncompensated.**

What is worse, the umbrella paramilitary group called Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) was declared "terrorist" by the U.S. Department of State, who requested that the leaders be extradited on drug-trafficking charges. The process in place is one that is dictated by the paramilitary leaders themselves, who set the conditions and constantly make a threat to step out of the negotiations, if these conditions are not met.

Cesar Gaviria, the OAS General Secretary hand picked by the Clinton Administration in a notorious selection that generated a lot of controversy from the member states, has showed no respect for the fragile inter-American organization and has further weakened it. The U.S. meanwhile, has kept a suspicious silence during all of this. could it be possible that Mr. Gaviria is following orders from Washington?

Currently, the AUC keeps busy spreading death and destruction throughout the Colombia countryside. Human Rights NGO's in Colombia report assassinations, disappearances, massacres and criminal abuses from the members of the AUC on a regular basis. All of this in the middle of a "peace process" with the Uribe administration, aided by the blessing of OAS. There is not the slightest sign of shame on the part of the Colombian government toward the international community.

The newspaper "*El Independiente*" from Mexico reports that the Mexican government was not informed about the mentioned agreement. But what does Gaviria have at stake involving Mexico? The precise function of the Department of colonies is to keep its population happy. It would not be surprising if the U.S. was sending this intriguing message to the rest of its colonies in the hemisphere: when it comes to defending its interests, such as the expansion of FTAA, a hemisphere at peace is needed. Small things such as truth, justice and reparations are not important. What is important is to have obedient and cynical secretaries such as Cesar Gaviria. The rest is inconsequential.

# National Congress • Colombia Support Network

April 2-4, 2004, 2004 • 154 Friedrich Center • 1950 Willow Drive • Madison WI

## Theme—Local Visibility: Global Outreach

### Friday, April 2

- 8:30-9:00 AM Gathering Time
- 9:00 Conference Opening by  
President Jack Laun
- 9:30 Presentation by Father Joakin Mayorga  
**Using Liberation Theology to Establish  
a Community of Resistance.**  
*Father Joakin is from Magangué, Colombia and  
is coordinator of Pastoral Social Program of the  
Diocese of Magangué, Bolívar.*
- 10:00 Marylen Serna Salina Presentation  
**A Plan for Life for Cajibío**  
*Marylen Serna is co-coordinator of the Small  
Farmer Movement of Cajibío, sister Community  
of Syracuse, New York*
- 10:45 Gerardo Cajamarca Presentation  
**The Peoples Movement on the  
Razor's Edge**  
*Gerardo Cajamarca, from Facatativa, Colombia  
is presently touring the U.S. speaking of the reality  
of those who struggle to keep their communities  
free of the paramilitary powers.*
- 11:15 Interaction between Presenters  
and Participants

1:00- 5:00 Reports on the Activities of each  
chapter and small group discussions  
on implementing the challenges from  
the morning's presenters.

### Saturday, April 3

- 9:00 AM Caroline Wadhams—Foreign Aide  
to Senator Russell Feingold  
**Strategies for Working With Congress**
- 9:45-10:30 Discussion about delegations and their  
purpose Semana por la Paz
- 10:30 John Nichols—Editor of *Madison's  
Capital Times* and Correspondent  
of *The Nation Magazine*,  
**Using the Media to Our Advantage**
- 1:00-2:00 Setting Goals and Strategies
- 2:00-5:00 CSN business meeting—fund raising,  
website, selection of board members,  
annual report
- Evening Social

### Sunday, April 4

- 9:00 AM Closure

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### I am interested in attending the CSN National Congress.

I will be present on the following days:  Friday  Saturday  Sunday

I would appreciate having a place to stay with a family if possible

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

(night) \_\_\_\_\_

Cost—\$75.00 for the conference (includes lunch and breaks) or \$25.00 per day.

Please return to: Colombia Support Network • P.O. Box 1505 Madison, WI • 53701 • (608) 257-8753

# Colombia Support Network Delegations 2004

- All delegations will spend some time in one of the sister communities of our U.S. chapters and also some time in Bogota meeting with government, military, and peace and justice personnel.
- Delegations may also include one day of sightseeing. You can count on the airfare to Bogota being in the \$600-\$900 range depending upon your point of departure.
- Costs include all items, including internal airfare and transportation, except personal spending.
- CSN must receive your request to accompany us on a delegation at least two weeks prior to departure time accompanied by a \$100 non-refundable fee (unless the delegation is cancelled).

The following delegations are scheduled:

## **Antioquia**

June 5-13

San Jose de Apartado

Cost: \$1750

Sister community of Dane County, WI CSN Chapter

## **Putumayo**

July 3-11

Including the towns of Puerto Asis and Mocoa

Cost: \$1100 plus airfare to Bogota

Sister Communities to Kansas City/St. Louis CSN Chapter

## **Santander**

August 7-15

Including the towns of Riachuelo and Mogotes

Cost: \$750 plus airfare to Bogota

Sister communities to

Minneapolis and Montana CSN Chapters

## **Cauca**

August 14-22

Including the towns of Naya and Cajibío

Cost: \$750 plus airfare to Bogota

Sister communities to

New York City and Syracuse CSN Chapters

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**I am interested in going on a Colombia Support Network delegation.**

Please send me additional information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

(night) \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Implement Humanitarian Agreement for Release  
of American Hostages in Colombia

On February 20, 2002 Colombian President Andres Pastrana broke off the peace dialogue with the guerrilla organization known as the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) after a FARC unit had kidnapped Senator Jorge Eduardo Gechem Turbay and held him hostage. The peace talks were over and the President gave the FARC 24 hours to vacate the land they had been given as a haven. No decision was made regarding the persons being held hostage.

On February 12, 2003, a Cessna airplane carrying four United States citizens on a contract mission for the United States Government crashed in lands occupied by the FARC. Three of the four, Marc Gonsalves and Keith Stansell, who are systems analysts, and Thomas Howe were taken hostage by a FARC patrol, while the fourth, pilot Thomas Janis, was executed, as was a Colombian guide accompanying them, Luis Alcides Cruz. Over a year later these three Americans remain in captivity. Other FARC hostages have been held for nearly 5 years.

Colombia Support Network has received the following e-mail from Jo, the mother of Marc Gonsalves:

February 26, 2003 I first learned about my son's plane crash in Colombia in FARC territory. My worst fear came true. My son Marc had been captured along with two other Americans as hostages of the FARC. Many of you know the feelings that go along with this situation. It's the worst time of my life. My son a hostage? Who could ever believe that! Here in the U.S. for the past year I have been raising public awareness on the hostages. I've been on numerous TV channels and there have been newspaper articles throughout the U.S. The hostages ask for a "diplomatic solution" for that is the only way they will come out alive. That is why I'm asking the Colombian government for a Humanitarian Agreement. Put yourself in our shoes, if you can. Our loved ones mean everything to us. We suffer along with them. I ask, I plead the Colombian government; please think with your hearts. Help release the hostages."

A Humanitarian Agreement is based upon International Law, especially article 3 in the Geneva Conventions. Its object is to provide for the protection of persons who do not take part directly in conducting hostilities, including soldiers who are not in combat. In the Humanitarian Agreement under consideration here, the FARC would release their hostages, while the Colombian government would release the guerrillas it is holding in prison.

Please express your support for this Humanitarian Agreement by writing to the following:

Secretary of State Colin Powell  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

(over)

President Alvaro Uribe Velez  
Palacio de Narino  
Cra. 8, No. 7-26  
Santafe de Bogota  
Colombia  
Fax: (011571) 566-2071  
Email: [auribe@presidencia.gov.co](mailto:auribe@presidencia.gov.co)

Dr. Carlos Franco  
Programa Presidencial de Derechos Humanos y  
Derecho Internacional Humanitario  
Calle 7, No. 5-54  
Santafe de Bogota  
Colombia  
Email: [cefranco@presidencia.gov.co](mailto:cefranco@presidencia.gov.co)

Secretary of State Colin Powell  
Department of State  
2301 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

(over)

## 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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Methow Valley, WA  
(509) 996-3211  
ageorge@methow.com  
All items available from:  
Colombia Support Network  
P.O. Box 1505  
Madison, WI 53701



### Items for Sale!

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

T-Shirts-Sizes S,M,L,XL- \$15

Bandanas - \$5.00

Buttons - \$1.00

Bumper Sticker: "If you liked Vietnam, You will love Plan Colombia!" \$1.00

### -TWO NEW BOOKS-

***Colombia and the United States War, Unrest and Destabilization by Marlo A. Murillo- \$10.95***

First hand experience and research gives us an insightful analysis of the complex and tragic reality of Colombia, the impact of U.S. policies on Colombian internal affairs, the growing military presence in the country.

***Masters of War - Latin America and U.S. Aggression by Clara Nieto- \$24.95***

The author demonstrates that U.S. policy toward Latin America has been a "coherent politics of intervention" set into motion by the Monroe Doctrine, leading to aggression toward Nicaragua, El Salvador and all of Latin America.

Video- "Plan Colombia-Gashing in on the Drug Way Failure"- \$22.00 from CSN  
Excellent film showing the reality of the conflict- Gerard Ungermann and Audrey Brohy producers

See us on the Web at  
[www.colombiasupport.net](http://www.colombiasupport.net)  
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**The Colombia Support Network  
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The Colombia Support Network is 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 activism. CSN supports a nonviolent, negotiated resolution to the conflict in Colombia.  
CSN is the only current project of Wisconsin Interfaith Committee on Latin America,

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## YOU CAN HELP!!

### GET INVOLVED: END THE HORRIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN COLOMBIA

- I would like to become a member of CSN  
WICOLA/CSN membership donation \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 regular, \$15 low income)
- I am sending a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Send items: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$\_\_\_\_\_ each and \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$\_\_\_\_\_ each. Total: \_\_\_\_\_
- Check enclosed    MasterCard    VISA
- Account number \_\_\_\_\_
- Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_      Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(*exactly as it appears on card*)
- I am interested in volunteering:**
- \_\_\_ starting a CSN chapter in my city
  - \_\_\_ going on a delegation to Colombia
  - \_\_\_ translating / interpreting
  - \_\_\_ setting up a talk at my school, group, or church
  - \_\_\_ participating in CSN working groups
- Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_
- Address \_\_\_\_\_
- City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_
- E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable in \$ US to  
WICOLA/Colombia Support Network  
Donations are tax deductible