

Torture: a recurring practice in the US

In December 2014, Intelligence Committee of the US Senate about the interrogation techniques that the CIA applied, and continues to apply against prisoners at Guantanamo and other secret places became public.

Beatings, threats to rape wives, mothers and daughters of the prisoners; hang in bars for hours or days; prohibit sleep; submit to drowning (called the “submarine”), to ice baths and rectal feeding and hydration take part on the list of abuses committed. In one word: torture.

It is not the first time, in 1996 other report revealed that the US promoted the use of torture in the School of the Americas and in 2009 other investigation about the CIA declared the same. It is time for US to return Guantanamo to Cuba and close that military base.

Peace Area

We must remember that, in January of 2014, 33 countries in the region signed the declaration of the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) which brought together all nations of the continent except the United States and Canada.

In the declaration the states reaffirmed that “integration based in law and a culture of peace strengthens the vision of a just international order, which excludes the use of force and non-legitimate means of defense, including weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons”.

In the 8th section of this declaration states commit to “Further nuclear disarmament as a priority and contribute to general and complete disarmament, to promote the strengthening of trust among nations”.

The withdrawal of US military bases in Latin America, the end of US training, the strengthening integration and promoting a culture of peace, are challenges of our nations and demands that organizations must make organizations to Latin America and the Caribbean governments.

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OBSERVADORES

por el Cierre de la Escuela de las Américas - SOAWatch

This year's protests is the 25th against the School of the Americas which is located in the same place. An average of 1,500 military and police of Latin America and the Caribbean continue to be trained under the U.S Army ideology, promoting in practice, the use of all forms of contestation in the name of “national security.”



The protests started in 1990 in El Salvador to remember that the 16th of November of 1989, in El Salvador, members of the battalion Atlacatl violently went into the Central American University (UCA) and murdered six Jesuit priests and two women. Of the 25 soldiers who participated in this massacre, 19 were graduates trained at the School of the Americas. Mostly the intelligence apparatus and death squadrons which systematically violated the human rights across our continent were trained in counterinsurgency by the US military.

Also, graduates of the School of the Americas have been involved in coups attempts in Venezuela in 2002 and in Honduras in 2014 against President Manuel Zelaya. Currently, Colombia, Mexico and Honduras are still living abuses and murders by soldiers who have been trained by the US.

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What countries are still sending troops to the School of the Americas?

Colombia, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Panama, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, among others.

Which countries DO NOT send troops to the US?

Venezuela, Argentina, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Cuba and Ecuador.

Does these names sound familiar?

They were trained at the School of the Americas

Rafael Videla (Argentina) - Hugo Banzer (Bolivia)
Manuel Contreras (Chile) - Efraim Rios Montt (Guatemala)
Romeo Vasquez (Honduras) - Jaime Lasprilla (Colombia)
Manuel Noriega (Panama) - Roberto d'Aubuisson (El Salvador)

How to support?

Send letters to your authorities; organizes forums, do flyers or informative posters to raise awareness among your community or organization; Share this information on social networks.

More info: www.soawlatina.org - correo@soaw.org



No military bases, no empire

The argentinian jorunalist Telma Luzzani in her book “Surveilled territories” (Territorios Vigilados) points out that in Latin America and the Caribbean the US has currently 72 military bases deployed around our continent; different type, size, and different justification.

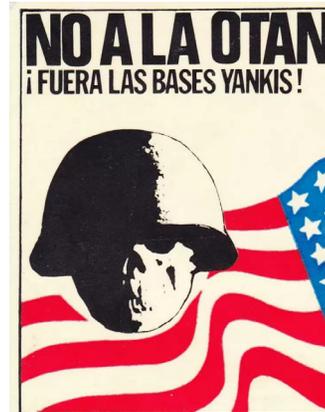
In chapter one “Without military bases, no empire” Luzzani brings to memory the saying of Norman Mailer: “The most serious political disease of the US is being a nation that believes is superior”.



Domination in all planes

Rina Bertaccini, in her paper “Imperialist militarization: New masks for old projects” explains that the US Army document: “Joint Vision 2020” indicates that domination conceived today by US is “Full spectrum”.

“Starkly they are warning us that what we can expect from imperialist wars of the XXI century: global action unfolded in all domains: in specific the militar with its deadly power, but also at the political level, economic, ideological and cultural, without legal or moral restriction whatsoever”.



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