

"If... the machine of government... is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law."

- Henry David Thoreau

Call for Nonviolent Direct Action

Nonviolent Direct Action has been the backbone of the movement to close the SOA. Countless actions have taken place in this country as well as in Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Austria, France, Germany and other countries around the world. Thousands have put their bodies on the line, fasted and vigiled and hundreds have gotten arrested for speaking out against the violence perpetrated by the SOA and US foreign policy.

Every year groups of people decide to take their message onto the base, publicly defying the laws that prevent political speech on military bases and making a bold call for the closure of the "School of Assassins." This year, we encourage people to come as individuals and affinity groups to take nonviolent direct action to help liberate us all from oppressive US foreign policy in Latin America and to close the SOA/WHINSEC.

Some people will chose to take their message onto the Ft. Benning near the main gate and our vigil area, navigating over or around the fence built to keep us out. In past year's people have done this in varied ways, and entered the base with numerous messages. Some entered Ft. Benning to deliver an indictment of the SOA, other carrying petitions for the closure of the school, and others carrying coffins and re-enacting massacres to commemorate those who have died at the hands of SOA/WHINSEC gradates.

Some people will form affinity groups to take action at other locations in Ft. Benning. Creative nonviolent direct actions have occurred at other entrances and at various locations inside the base including the barracks where SOA/WHINSEC soldiers are housed, the chapel, and the SOA/WHINSEC building itself.

Come to Ft. Benning this year and participate in nonviolent direct action to make a bold statement supporting self-determination and justice for all--Shut Down this School of Assassins!

People who have entered Ft. Benning to call for the closure of the SOA/WHINSEC are arrested, prosecuted, and often sentenced to prison. Over 200 SOA Watch activists have spent a combined total of more than 80 years in prison for speaking truth to power within the confines of a military base. While a serious undertaking, we think this is a small price to pay to dramatize and call attention to the enormous horrors that result from the training at the SOA/WHINSEC and the foreign policy that represents. Together we raise a loud cry to shut down this School of the Assassins, whatever name they give it.

Please read the Legal Briefing for People Considering Civil Disobedience at SOA Protest 2006. A spokescouncil meeting to coordinate the direct action scenario is going to take place in Columbus, Georgia on Saturday, November 17, 2007.

PS. If your group wants assistance with discernment and nonviolence training, former Prisoners of Conscience are willing to come and visit your group. Contact Judith Kelly at silverdove@verizon.net to be put in touch with someone.