



# The School of Assassins and Neoliberalism maintaining the status quo for the elites

## Stop US Military and Economic Intervention

Throughout the world there is a seamless civil-society critique of how neo-liberalism is reinforced by militarism. Also, key proponents of the corporate-globalization model are frank about it: In a New York Times editorial Thomas Friedman wrote, "*For globalization to work, America can't be afraid to act like the almighty superpower that it is... The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist.*" This reality is playing itself out all too graphically today in occupied Iraq, where the countries resources are being plundered.

The School of the Americas (SOA), in 2001 renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation," is a combat training school, located at Fort Benning, Georgia. The SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques. These graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, "disappeared," massacred, and forced into refugee by those trained at the *School of Assassins*.

**More information: [www.SOAW.org](http://www.SOAW.org)**

### People over Profits

Resistance to expanding militarization and corporate rule that disregards life, is spreading throughout the Americas.

**1998:** The efforts of grassroots activists all over the world stop the implementation of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

**1999:** A massive nonviolent direct action causes the 24h delay of the WTO meeting in Seattle, USA. The "Millennium Round" fails.

**2000:** As the public water system in Cochabamba, Bolivia is being privatized, thousands take to the streets and force an end to the corrupt deal.

**2002:** Argentines resist IMF policies and force the government to default on IMF loans.

**2003:** The U.S. Navy is kicked out of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

**2005:** Hugo Chávez brings a shuffle to the Summit of the Americas to bury the FTAA.

**2006:** Argentina & Uruguay stop sending soldiers to be trained at the SOA.

**2007:** Costa Rica announces it will no longer send police to train at the SOA.

### The U. S. - Andean Free Trade Agreement

The Bush administration wants to expand the failed NAFTA model to the entire hemisphere in a 34-nation **Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)**. But much of South America said "no." To pressure nations like Brazil, which are targets of U.S. oil, pharmaceutical, logging and other corporate giants, the Bush administration has pushed for agreements with smaller nations in the hemisphere. The administration pressures these countries to agree to agreements opposed by their own populations by threatening to cut off these nations' existing tariff-free access to the U.S. market.

It remains unclear if Bush will attempt to push a full Andean Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) this year, but he is definitely trying to rush a terrible deal with Peru through Congress by summer. if we speak up loudly, we can stop it.

**More information: [www.TradeWatch.org](http://www.TradeWatch.org)**

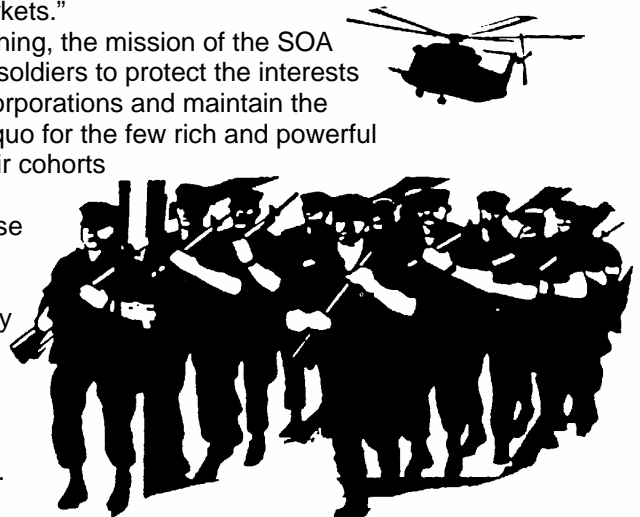
### SOA trains the military muscle to enforce exploitative policies

A recent Pentagon report to Congress states that combat training at the SOA supports US policy towards Latin America which "Seek[s] to develop stable, free market democracies throughout the region."

The mission of the US Southern Command (encompassing the SOA) includes "...protecting the supply of strategic natural resources and access to the markets."

From its beginning, the mission of the SOA has been to train soldiers to protect the interests of multinational corporations and maintain the economic status quo for the few rich and powerful in the US and their cohorts in Latin America.

SOA graduates use their skills consistently against community organizers, unionists and others who are a potential threat to corporate interest.



*Economic oppression and military repression are flip sides of the same coin. The economic terrorism inflicted on the poor that accompanies corporate globalization could not stand without the repressive military apparatus that brutalizes people who rise up to resist. Those who oppose the globalization of greed and those who work to end US training of repressive foreign armies are joined in one effort.*

## SOA-Style Union Busting in Colombia and Throughout Latin America

Over 10,000 Colombian soldiers have been trained at the SOA. Their names consistently top the lists of perpetrators in human rights reports from and about Colombia.

- **Banana workers murdered:** 20 striking banana workers were brutally murdered. Eight of the 11 Colombian military officers cited for the slayings were SOA grads.
- **Workers assassinated:** SOA trained Capt. Tomas Monroy Roncanico was convicted of detaining six workers and slitting their throats.
- **Union members targeted:** Unionists Maria Gomez and Miguel Quintanilla were two of the labor leaders targeted for torture and murder by members of the Colombian Air Force. SOA grad, Juan Raffael Bustillo, commanded the troops cited.
- **Labor leader assassinated:** The assassination of Union leader Manuel Gustavo Chacon Sarmiento in broad daylight incited five days of strikes and confrontations between military and civilians. SOA-trained Capt. Cenen Dario Jimenez Leon was cited in the assassination.

## SOA Used to Beat Down Opposition to NAFTA

The example of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) shows that “free” trade agreements, such as the pending FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) will sharpen social inequalities and provoke resistance.

Hours after NAFTA went into effect, indigenous communities in Mexico rose up to say **“Ya Basta! – Enough is Enough!”**

The Mexican military responded swiftly and forcefully with troops, helicopters and artillery to squash the resistance.

At least 18 high-level Mexican officers involved in the ongoing civilian-targeted warfare campaign in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca were trained at the School of the Americas.

The voices, of and for the poor, represented by the Zapatistas and others threaten the elites.

Corresponding to the growing economic justice movement in Mexico, the numbers of Mexican soldiers being trained at the SOA rapidly escalated.

To learn more about the SOA's role as the enforcer of corporate globalization, order the video

**Guns and Greed** (\$13 incl. s/h)

for more info and to order this and other resources, please call 202-234-3440 or visit [www.SOAW.org](http://www.SOAW.org)

# Vigil and Nonviolent Direct Action

November 16-18, 2007: Join thousands and converge on Fort Benning  
Globalize Liberation not Corporate Greed  
Resist oppressive US foreign policy and work  
towards a culture of justice and peace

This November 16-18, thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia for the Vigil to Close the School of the Americas! Following on the heels of our powerful 2006 gathering and our closest vote in Congress in many years, this year's Vigil is shaping up to be a powerful time for movement building and an effective tool in the campaign to close the SOA.

For information on hotels, transportation, accessibility, interpretation, and groups that are organizing buses from your area, visit SOA Watch on the web.

[www.SOAW.org](http://www.SOAW.org) - November 16-18, 2007, Fort Benning, GA.

