

From June 21-26, 2010, grassroots activists from across the Americas will come together in Venezuela.



16 Latin American countries will join an equal number of representatives from North American SOA Watch grassroots groups. [Click here to view the list of participants.](#)

This South-North SOA Watch Encuentro will connect activists from both sides of the Rio Grande to find ways to work together to close the SOA, while opening new doors of relating to one another with dignity.

The SOA Watch Encuentro builds upon the efforts of SOA Watch's Partnership America Latina (PAL), an initiative that seeks to connect the SOA Watch movement in North with those affected by the school in the South.

From 2006 to 2009, PAL organized SOA Watch delegations to 16 Latin American countries that were sending troops to the SOA. These visits led to meetings with 8 Latin American presidents, 13 Defense Ministers and with scores of individuals who had suffered at the hands of SOA graduates. It also led to profound connections with grassroots groups working against militarization in their countries.

The dates of the Encuentro were chosen to coincide with the US Social Forum, which is going to take place in Detroit, Michigan in order to connect the two historic events via a live video link.

SOA Watch Encuentro | SOA Watch: Close the School of the Americas

Written by Hendrik Voss

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The connection is going to take place on Wednesday, June 23 during the Peoples' Movement Assembly of the Latin America Solidarity Coalition (1:00pm - 5:00pm, Cobo Hall: D3-19) and on Thursday, June 24 during the SOA Watch workshops (10am - 12noon, Cobo Hall: D3-16 and 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Cobo Hall: DO-03D). The US Social Forum - Encuentro connection will strengthen the bond between peoples movements in the South and the North.