

THE MOVEMENT NEEDS YOU - A CALL FOR RESEARCHERS

The SOA Watch Research Working Group is forming now! The revelation of torture of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan, and prisons in the U.S., is nothing new. For at least a decade, the U.S. Army trained Latin American soldiers in torture techniques and how to circumvent laws on due process, arrest and detention at the infamous School of the Americas, renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in 2001.

Inspired by amazing response to new research introduced in early 2004 ([click here to see it](#)), we have decided to expand and formalize our methods of researching the abuses associated with the training provided at Fort Benning. SOA Watch's research has directly confronted the Pentagon's attempts to protect the SOA/WHINSEC--at any cost--by uncovering and reporting on the illegal and immoral activities of the institution and its graduates. SOA Watch has been on the forefront of the growth of a broad U.S.-based movement for human rights and international law, and against impunity; and a catalyst for groups such as Amnesty International to examine and critique the entirety of U.S. foreign military training.

We have a vision of growing into an international network of scholars, students, academics, and researchers working together to add fuel to the legislative, media, and public education fires to close the School and to stop torture.

To maximize the amount of individual participation, we are breaking up the research into smaller projects, each to be researched by a team of people. We'll help you plug into any team that matches your interests, skills, and time. Each team will function essentially autonomously, in conjunction with an experienced team leader, who then liaisons with the research coordinators. This structure is so that we maintain clear lines of communication, remain methodical and coordinated, and ensure each individual feels empowered, productive and appreciated.

Teams are working immediately on topics like:

- o Uncovering leads: finding human rights abusers
- o Cross-checking names of graduates, instructors, and visitors to the school
- o Investigating current news stories
- o Reports summaries: read reports, summarize the content, and identify leads
- o Freedom of Information Act: File and Track FOIA requests

If you'd like to join in the quest for knowledge, understanding and power, email Nico at nico@soaw.org. You can also call the SOA Watch office at 202-234-3440.

We also welcome ideas and leads you have (even if you don't want to help follow up on)