The School of the Americas (WHINSEC)

SOAWatch – www.soaw.org
The School of the Americas

School of Assassins

The School of the Americas, (SOA), is a military academy of the United States Army, founded in 1946 in Panama, and that gives military training to soldiers and police from Latin America. Currently, it continues to operate in the United States, since 2001, under the name, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC).
1946: Founded in Panama and was initially known as the US Army’s Latin American Center – Ground Division.

1963: Renamed the “School of the Americas” (SOA).

1984: SOA moves to Fort Benning, Georgia, USA.

1996: SOA training manuals become public in the US, they encourage the use of torture against detainees.

2001: The School is renamed as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)
Do these names sound familiar?
They were trained at the School of the Americas

- Efraín Vásquez y Ramírez Poveda (Venezuela)
- Romeo Vásquez y Luis Javier Prince Suazo (Honduras)
- Rafael Videla (Argentina)
- Hugo Banzer (Bolivia)
- Manuel Contreras y Miguel Krassnoff (Chile)
- Efraín Ríos Montt (Guatemala)
- Jaime Lasprilla (Colombia)
- Manuel Noriega (Panamá)
- Roberto d’Aubuisson (El Salvador)
- Vladimiro Montesinos (Perú)
According to Amnesty International:
"Torturers are not born: someone educates them, trains them and supports them"
"Ending torture implies not only ending the trade in materials intended for that purpose, but also ending the trade that contributes to creating "professional torturers.""

Excerpts from the book “AN EXECRABLE TRADE: THE TRADE OF TORTURE” by Amnesty International

In 1996, the U.S. press reported on the Training Manuals, used in the School of the Americas, which covered "torture, blackmail, extortion and reward payment for dead enemies."
The CIA uses Torture Manuals

Remember, "State Terrorism" would not be possible without the complicity of the US and the School of the Americas who have supported the military dictatorships of:

**Hugo Banzer and Augusto Pinochet**

**Augusto Pinochet and Videla**
SO AS TO NOT FORGET STATE CRIMES *

Perú: 1980-2000: 79.000
Argentina: 1976-1983: 30.000
Chile: 1973-1990: 3.197
Panamá: 110
Honduras: 184
El Salvador: 1980-1991: 75.000
Brasil: 1946-1988: 434
Colombia: 262.197
Paraguay: 1954-1989: 400

* This data does not include those who have been killed in recent decades.
The School of the Americas
- Between 1946-2019: 73 years.
- Trains soldiers, police, and the US Border Patrol
- Approximately 83,000 Latin American soldiers / police officers have graduated.
- Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Nicaragua does not send troops to the School of the Americas

PREVIOUSLY FOUGHT COMMUNISM, NOW FIGHTS TERRORISM
THOSE WHO DIE ARE THE SAME ONES: THE PEOPLE

Video of WHINSEC

Major Guillermo Sandoval of Honduras - Fighting Terrorism? - Honduras violates Human Rights
New graduates uploaded on Facebook a photo of a class called "Basic Operations to Clear a Room". In the picture, the board clearly reads, "Eliminate the Enemy."
Continues the mindset of "Enemy" and "Violence"

"The defining characteristic of a warrior is the willingness to close with the enemy".
Countries that stopped sending troops: Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Nicaragua


In 2006, under the Minister of Defense, Nilda Garre, in Argentina. Pictured: Nilda Garre, Roy Bourgeois and Hebe de Bonafini of "Mother of Plaza de Mayo".

## Countries that continue sending troops to the SOA

### 2018 official figures

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<th>COUNTRIES</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1285</strong></td>
<td><strong>122</strong></td>
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The Coup d'états have continued (Soft or Violent)

**Venezuela**
April 11, 2002
SOA Graduates participated
The Coup failed

**Honduras**
June 28, 2009
SOA Graduates participated
The Coup succeeded

**Ecuador**
September 30, 2010
Military Involved
The Coup failed

**Paraguay**
June 22, 2012
Impeachment

**Brazil**
August 31, 2016
Impeachment
The repression in Latin America continues
On November 16, 1989, at the Central American University (UCA) in El Salvador, six priests and two women were murdered. The priests Ilgnacio Ellacuría, Ignacio Martín-Baró, Segundo Montes, Amando López, Juan Ramón Moreno, Joaquín López y López and the Women, Elba Ramos and her 16 year old daughter, Celina.

Among the Involved: Graduates of the School of the Americas
On March 24, 1980, Monsignor Oscar Romero was assassinated.

The nuns, Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel and the missionary Laywoman Jean Donovan are killed on December 2, 1980.

December 10, 1981 Mozote Massacre. It is estimated between 800 and one thousand people and children killed.

Among the Involved: Graduates of the School of the Americas.
On March 2, 2016, COPINH leader Berta Cáceres is murdered. According to the Guardian newspaper, among those involved in this crime are Major Mariano Díaz Chavez and Lieutenant Douglas Giovanny Bustillo both received anti-terrorism training in 2005 in the US. Bustillo also received training at the School of the Americas.
An investigation into “False Positives” by Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) in Colombia (2000-2010) concluded that a good percentage of the officers who participated in these crimes (around 5000 extrajudicial killings) were trained at the School of the Americas / WHINSEC.

According to the study: "12 of the 25 WHINSEC Colombian instructors and graduates between 2001 and 2003, of whom we have information available, had been charged with a serious crime or commanded units whose members reportedly committed multiple extrajudicial killings."

Army commanders linked to "False Positives"

"In 2019, the Colombian government appointed, to key positions in the Army, at least 9 generals against whom there is credible evidence that involves them in extrajudicial executions and other abuses," according to Human Rights Watch.

Note: Colombia is the country that sends more soldiers to SOA / WHINSEC

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Recently, Guillermo Botero, the Colombian Minister of Defense, had to resign due to his responsibility in the bombing of the Army, on August 31, 2019, in San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá, where seven children died.

Human Rights organizations also request the resignation of the Commander in Chief of the Colombian Army, Nicacio Martínez, a SOA graduate, for his responsibility in these events.
On June 21, 2017, José Pizarro Espinoza was arrested, with 237 kilos of Cocaine. In 2007, Pizarro was the director of the Costa Rican Public Forces. Pizarro received military training at the School of the Americas and from the US anti-drug agency (DEA).
After 37 years, justice arrived for the Molina Theissen family. On May 23, 2018, a Guatemalan Court sentenced 4 former Guatemalan officers, three of them graduates of the School of the Americas (SOA / WHINSEC), for the kidnapping and rape of Emma Guadalupe Molina Theissen, and for the forced disappearance of Marco Antonio Molina Theissen in 1981.

Among those responsible was Benedicto Lucas García, Manuel Callejas y Callejas, and Francisco Gordillo: Graduates of the School of the Americas.
On July 3, 2018, those responsible for the death of singer-songwriter Víctor Jara were sentenced to 15 years and one day, for qualified homicide, and 3 years and one day, for simple kidnapping by Judge Miguel Vázquez. Among those convicted were graduates of the School of the Americas.

Among those found responsible Raúl Jofré and Edwin Dimter, Graduates of the School of the Americas.

Pedro Barrientos, a SOA graduate, is awaiting extraditions from the US where he is living.
2019: In July, an Italian Court of Justice sentenced 24 former officials from Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay to life imprisonment for their role in Operation Condor, which was responsible for the forced disappearance of about twenty citizens of Italian origin in the decades of 1970 and 1980. Among those convicted are five graduates of the School of the Americas.

Among those responsible Luis Arce Gómez from Bolivia, he is already serving a 30-year sentence for genocide, Hernán Ramírez Ramírez from Chile; Luis Alfredo Maurente, Ernesto Avelino Ramas Pereira and Pedro Antonio Mato Narbondo of Uruguay, all Graduates of the School of the Americas.
SOA / WHINSEC, not only trains the military, they also train civilians and police officers from Latin America. US Border Patrol has also trained there.

ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Administration) will build “super realistic” facilities at Fort Benning to train its agents.

The Guardian reported that since 2003 more than 97 people have been killed by Border Patrol agents.

SOAW rejects the murder of people at the border and the persecution of immigrants.

José Antonio Elena Rodríguez PRESENTE
Sergio Adrián Hernández Güereca PRESENTE
"Murderers are not born they are made here"

Photos of activists from Mexico, in the Caravan for Peace, 2012
SOAWatch

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