



Nicaragua-United States

Friendship Office of the Americas

How can you stop an avalanche of human beings who have nothing left to lose? Bertha Oliva, COFADEH

December 2018

Dear Friends,

This year began with an *Emergency Religious Leaders Delegation* to Honduras in response to a call for accompaniment following an electoral coup and widespread protests against the United States imposition of another illegitimate regime. The year ends with an unprecedented *Exodus* of thousands of people fleeing a country that has been rendered unlivable.



Emergency Religious Leaders Delegation 2018

Since 2009 when the U.S. shored up a military coup, it has poured millions of dollars in assistance to support corrupt elites to “*Open Honduras for Business.*” The country has been militarized as land and natural resources are concessioned to extractive industries that dispossess people and ravage the earth.

“In the last ten years of U.S. assistance has consolidated a dictatorship in Honduras. This is the most recent chapter in a long history of “assistance” that has formed the current state of subordination, misery, crisis, generalized violence, gangs, narco-State, militarization and repression.”
Natalie Roque Sandoval, Honduran Historian.



The people’s exodus is an indictment of U.S. intervention in Honduras. As U.S. troops and private militias mobilize at the U.S. border, the caravans press on because people have nothing left to lose.

How can you stop an avalanche of human beings who have nothing left to lose? What does the United States expect if it has enthroned an illegitimate government that militarizes public security, deepens poverty and criminalizes social protest? Bertha Oliva

As thousands of Honduras streamed northward, PROAH accompanied an *Internal Caravan for Dignity* organized by those who stay, in solidarity with those who flee. Converging on the

Presidential Palace, the Internal Caravan called for an end to U.S. support for dictatorship, neoliberal policies and impunity that forces migration.

U.S. policy is a root cause of the mass exodus from the three Northern Triangle countries. All are part of the U.S. led “Alliance for Prosperity” which partners in the region denounce as a form of intervention that deepens poverty for the majority and fuels militarization.

However, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton points to a “communist, Triangle of Terror stretching from Havana to Caracas to Managua” as the cause of suffering and instability in the hemisphere.” In a reassertion of the deadly, cold war ideology from an unhinged empire he said the “United States is taking direct action against all three regimes.”

The Friendship Office stands with partners in the region in affirming the need to search for peaceful solutions and in rejecting U.S. threats, sanctions and intervention. For Nicaragua, this includes opposing the Senate version of the Nica Act, Bill 3233, sponsored by the same right wing extremists that supported the coup in Honduras.

Thanks to advocacy efforts, 52 members of the U.S. House and Senate sent a letter to President Trump denouncing mounting threats against human rights defenders, journalists and international human rights observers in Honduras. They called for the State Department to re-assess certification of Honduras and accountability for U.S. assistance.

With new energy coming into the House of Representatives, we will galvanize more support for the Berta Caceres Act in the year ahead.

Your generosity helps to support the work our friends at COFADEH (*Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras*) in their lifesaving work in the midst of terror and chaos.

In these times of emergency and exodus, we are deeply grateful for your support that enables us to accompany human rights leaders who stay, denouncing intervention, seeking accountability, truth, justice and peaceful solutions.



Bertha Oliva/COFADEH march protesting dictatorship

Gratitude, Blessings and Peace,

The Friendship Office

Photo Credits: Lucy Edwards/PROAH

In the long Honduran night, the ultimate constraint on US imperial power is the Honduran people, who rise up again and again to protest the criminals who run their government with a US blessing and pocketbook.” Dr. Dana Frank. [The Long Honduran Night: Resistance, Terror and the Aftermath of the the Coup](#)