

September 6, 2005

Dear Peacemaker,

Our hearts are broken when we see the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the wake of hurricane Katrina. What shall we do? In addition to offering financial aid, professional services and our prayers, what else must we do? According to the faith tradition of some of us, we have the responsibility to each other for loving correction. We must hold those in power accountable for failing to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Some of us believe that if we do not speak out we are as responsible as those who do the wrong.

The same precept applies when we look beyond our national borders. Where are people suffering? Where is redress lacking? Are we speaking out?

We have enclosed information regarding a few ways in which you can express your loving correction to those in power regarding the suffering endured by people in Latin America at the hands of soldiers trained at the US military School of the Americas now called Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

In El Salvador twenty five years ago on December 4th, four American church women were raped and murdered by soldiers trained at the School of the Americas. This legacy of SOA training continues today. **“On February 21-22, 2005 eight members of the San Jose de Apartado Peace Community in Uraba, Colombia were brutally massacred. One of those murdered was Luis Eduardo Guerra, an internationally recognized peace activist and co-founder of the Peace Community. In 2002, Luis joined us at the gates of Ft. Benning to speak out against the School of the Americas and to give first-hand testimony about the brutal impact the SOA training and US foreign policy have on the dire situation in Colombia.”**

Now Luis Eduardo Guerra can no longer speak out. It is up to us. The solemn vigil at the gates of Ft. Benning offers us a way to speak lovingly and clearly to our government officials that the SOA/WHINSEC must be shut down. Its brutal impact must end.

Join us in speaking out.

Peace,

Kate Fontanazza Joyce Ellwanger Mike Heimbach Dianne Henke S. Virgine Lawinger

P.S. Cross Making for the vigil is October 29, 2005 from 1:00-3:00pm, St. Rose Playground or garage (behind Parish Center), 528 N. 31st St., Milwaukee.

2005 INFORMATION SHEET – Keep for future reference

Contact Person: Bus – Joyce Ellwanger (414)933-6157
Plane – Dianne Henke (262)695-9000
Peace Action – (414)964-5158
Cross Church for last minute problems if going by bus (414)344-1746

PLANE: Arrive at Milwaukee Mitchell Airport 90 minutes early for check-in. Need picture ID.
Do not pack questionable objects. If you have a cross, large banner, or lawn chair, etc. it can be put on the bus. Bring it to Cross Lutheran where Kate Fontanazza will be available to accept it between 1:30 & 2:30pm, Thursday, 11-17-05 or have someone taking the bus bring it for you.

LEAVE: THURS, Nov. 17th, Air Tran Airways Flt. #635 4:40pm, Milwaukee –
ARRIVE: Thurs. Nov. 17th, 7:44pm, Atlanta
Travel by bus from Atlanta to Columbus, GA. **ARRIVE:** 10:00pm approx.

RETURN: Sunday Nov 20th, Air Tran Airways Flt. #636
LEAVE: Sunday, Nov. 20th, 5:00pm by bus from Ft. Benning to Atlanta Airport
LEAVE: Sunday, Nov. 20th, 9:00pm Atlanta
ARRIVE: Sunday, Nov. 20th, 10:00pm Milwaukee

BUS: Check in time is 7:00pm, **THURSDAY, Nov. 17th** inside Cross Church. Milwaukee busses will leave from Cross Church Thursday evening at 7:30pm sharp!

HOW TO GET TO CROSS CHURCH, 1821 N. 16th Street, Milwaukee
If you are coming in on I-94 from the west, or from the south, join Hwy 43 going north at the Marquette Interchange near downtown Milwaukee. Exit North Avenue; go west or left on North Ave. to N. 15th St. Take a left on N. 15th St. and cross Fond du lac Ave. Follow N. 15th around the bend to N. 16th St. and take left.

If possible have someone drop you off, but if you are coming from out of town you may park your vehicle on the Cross parking lot over the weekend.

PLANS FOR THE ROAD

We will stop every 3 or 4 hours for stretching and a bathroom break. You may bring snacks, food and beverages, if you like. Water is the most important beverage for the trip and Vigil.

There will be a longer break for breakfast on Friday a.m. This is also a chance to freshen up. If you keep what you need for this in a paper or plastic bag, you can stow it above you on the bus in easy reach. Larger luggage will ride below, along with any posters etc. you may bring.

We will have lunch Friday near Columbus. After lunch we will check in with the Vigil regarding Nonviolence Training and will go to the motel after that.

EVERYONE:

We will be staying at the Wingate Inn, 1711 Rollins Way, Columbus, GA 31904, telephone # (706)225-1000 and Hampton Inn, 7390 Bear Lane, Columbus, GA 31909, telephone (706)256-1222.

Plane travelers will arrive Thursday, November 17th about 10:00pm.
Bus travelers will arrive Friday afternoon, November 18th.

Everyone will check out on Sunday morning, November 20th before the Vigil. Free continental breakfast is available every morning 6:00am – 9:00am.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS (AND THE WEATHER)

You will be doing a lot of standing. You may want to bring a folding chair if that is a concern. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are a must!!! Old, comfortable, durable clothes will see you through the best. Jeans or a skirt work well. It can be pretty warm if it is sunny, and it can be really cold if it is rainy. So, layer and bring a jacket, something for your head, and rain gear. Pack lightly. A backpack should hold everything you will need. A pillow and a small blanket make sleeping on the bus much more comfortable and you can use the blanket to sit on at the vigil. Books or tapes/CD'S help the time go by. Reading poetry or writings by Central American martyrs or leaders develops focus.

WHILE AT FT. BENNING

Depending on needs for training on Friday or Saturday, we will try to find cars or makes busses available for folks to check in to the national sessions offered. There will be volunteer opportunities available throughout the weekend. Join in as you are able. This is a good way to deepen your commitment to non-violence and to closing the SOA. Anyone planning to do high risk civil disobedience **MUST** attend specific training sessions. As we get more information from the national SOAW we will incorporate this in our planning and participate as fully as we can in all activities planned.

We will have a Reflection Time and sharing for our group on Sunday morning 7:30am – 8:15am in the Presidential Room at the Howard Johnson Express, 1011 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31904, (706)322-6641. For those traveling to Columbus on your own check in with WI group for possible time changes if you would like to join us. This has been a very meaningful part of our time together in past years. Details will be announced to everyone as we journey. We hope you will participate.

GETTING BACK HOME

Plane travelers will need to leave Ft. Benning by 5:00pm on Sunday in order to make Air Tran Airways flight #636 from Atlanta, leaving at 9:15pm and arriving in Milwaukee at 10:20pm Sunday, Nov. 20th.

The busses will leave from where they drop us off at Ft. Benning as soon as possible after the closing of the vigil on Sunday evening. Expected arrival time in Milwaukee is about noon on Monday, November 21st.

If you plan to do high risk civil disobedience you should be prepared to make your own arrangements to get home. Kate Fontanazza (414)935-9261 or Joyce Ellwanger (414)933-6157 would like to talk with you about this.

APPLICATION for SOA/WHISC VIGIL
Bus /Nov. 17-21-2005
Plane/Nov. 17-20-2005

Pd.\$ _____

Return by: 10/10/05 for plane
Questions: Plane – Dianne (262)695-9000

Return by: 10/21/05 for bus
Thereafter, asap (first come first served)
Questions: Bus – Joyce (414)933-6157

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

_____ zip _____ email _____

Phone: home() _____ work() _____

Age* _____ Congress Person/District # _____

Student? _____ Where _____

In case of emergency notify my _____

Name _____ Phone() _____

Do you have any special needs we should be aware of? _____

Please indicate your roommate preferences. _____

*If under 18 have parents sign,

I _____

give my permission for my child _____
to participate in the SOA Vigil Trip and permission for any needed emergency care. I understand that
the trip is supervised but will not hold the sponsors liable in case of injury. Please give insurance
information below:

Company _____ Membership # _____

Phone _____

As Always, ALL OUR TIME TOGETHER IS PLEDGED TO BE NON-VIOLENT, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
FREE. SIGNING UP TO GO COMMITS YOU TO THIS PLEDGE.

Cost: Bus full fare \$175.00 (4 to room/2nights)
Bus full fare \$215.00 (2 to room/2nights)
Subsidized Bus student/low income fare \$135.00 (4 to room/2nights)
Plane full fare \$340.00 (4 to room/3 nights)
Plane full fare \$415.00 (2 to room/3 nights) -- limited # of rooms

Make check/money order payable to: SOAW/PA

Mail to: SOA Watch/Peace Action WI, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

If you can afford to donate \$\$s toward subsidy, bless you. In order to bring more students and others
we will subsidize by \$40.00 the student/low income fare. Thank you for any donations. They really
make a difference.

****ARE YOU CONSIDERING HIGH RISK CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE? YES ___ NO ___ MAYBE ___**