

Build worker solidarity, close the School of the Americas!

TAKE THE MIDNIGHT BUS TO GEORGIA! LET'S CLOSE THE SOA (SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS)!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At the Autoworker Caravan speakout on Sept. 9th we heard brother Jorge Parra describe his illegal firing from GM in Colombia and the inhuman working conditions where he worked. There is no union there to speak of, except for the company union set up by GM. Colombian governments are notorious for their suppression of unions (fewer than 5% of workers belong), and for assassinations of dissidents like Jorge who try to organize. Just in the past year, 35 labor organizers have been killed – adding to the list of thousands who've been murdered in the past 2-3 decades.

These governments – not only in Colombia but elsewhere in Latin America - have been assisted in carrying out these deadly attacks by none other than our own government. Paid for by our tax dollars, the members of these death squads receive their training in the U.S. Army's School of the Americas (SOA), operating inside Ft. Benning, Georgia. It's been going on for six decades, under Republican and Democratic administrations alike. Because it has such a bad reputation, they changed its name to "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation." In Latin America it is known as the "School of Assassins."

On November 16-18th we can take a very visible stand in solidarity with "dissident" workers all over Latin America by standing up against these gross injustices and the U.S. role. For the first time, we have the opportunity to board a UAW bus leaving from Solidarity House on Friday, November 16th headed for the gates of the base in Columbus, Ga. There we will join with thousands from all over the U.S. in a dramatic vigil and protest organized by the SOA Watch and led by Father (and Navy veteran) Roy Bourgeois. The weekend's activities include workshops, film showings, larger-than-life puppet theater, a concert, a Labor Caucus, and more.

There's a few of us in the Autoworker Caravan who've been down to Ft. Benning, and who've pushed for the UAW to charter the bus, and make it free to union members and retirees. Now that we've succeeded, we have to walk the talk – not only talk solidarity, but to put it into action.

Let's get on the bus!! We have attached a leaflet with hotel information (you'll need to cover the cost of one night's stay) and a form to complete to reserve your seat on the bus. If you are not near Detroit we can help you find transportation from your area.

UPDATE: The response has been so favorable, (from UAW members and others), the UAW will be adding a second bus! Also, there's a good chance that our Brother Jorge Parra will join us on the bus!

Solidarity knows no borders! Close the School of Assassins!

Frank and Martha

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Registration Form, Please Return by November 9th
Labor Delegation to School of the Americas Vigil
November 16-18, 2012
Columbus, Georgia

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

UNION/ORGANIZATION _____

LOCAL UNION # _____ REGION _____

_____ Yes, I plan to take the bus departing from Southeast Michigan: contact me with details.

LODGING

Participants must make their own hotel reservations. It is the responsibility of participants to pay the hotel directly. A credit card is required to check in. The UAW is holding blocks of rooms at the following hotels for Nov. 16 and Nov. 17, 2012:

Quality Inn Hotel

1700 US 280 Bypass

Phenix City, AL 36867

For reservations: 334-298-9321

you must reserve NO LATER THAN Nov. 2nd to receive the UAW group rate of \$67 + 15% tax.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

1702 US 280 Bypass

Phenix City, AL 36867

For reservations: 334-298-9404

, you must reserve NO LATER THAN October 26th to receive the UAW group rate of \$89 + 15% tax

TRANSPORTATION

There will be a UAW bus leaving from Southeast Michigan Friday afternoon and return early Monday morning (leaving Columbus, GA Sun. afternoon.) For information on buses from other cities/state, see: www.soaw.org.

Please return completed forms by November 9 to:

Rick Feldman

UAW, 8000 E. Jefferson Ave.

Detroit, MI 48214

rfeldman@uaw.net,

313-926-5583 or 248-225-8037 (cell)